

Thurston Parish Council Meeting
3rd October 2007
THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd October 2007 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Church Road, Thurston

Present : Chairman Cllr Mrs J Service, Cllrs Robinson, Button, Pattle, Mrs Clark, Dashper, Monk, and Miss Fleet

In Attendance : County Cllr Mrs Otton, PC Green

0 members of the public present

The meeting opened at 7.34pm

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –
REPORT FROM COUNTY CLLR MRS OTTON –

- a Discussions are ongoing in the County Council's Review of Countryside Recreation Sites.
- b SCC has been considering the Core Strategy for mineral extraction. The only local site is at Tostock and this is not new.
- c Several complaints have been received regarding the poor state of roads. A group of County Councillors will now review outside contractors work.
- d Cllr Mrs Otton will meet on site with Highways engineers regarding the proposed traffic calming measures in Ixworth Road. Some Parish Councillors will also attend.
- e County Councillors will be discussing the future procurement of Suffolk's waste disposal services at their next Cabinet meeting.

POLICE REPORT – PC Mark Green reported three burglaries in September, and that CID is investigating three cases of criminal damages. There had also been 1 theft of a bicycle and 1 common assault. PCSO Myall is holding a series of meetings with elderly people in the village to give some reassurance about policing. He is also meeting with several villages' neighbourhood watch teams. He confirmed there will be a Police presence in the village on Hallowe'en.

1. **Apologies –** Cllrs Sprake, Sadler and Campbell, all with other commitments
2. **Declarations of personal/prejudicial interest from Councillors –** There were none
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting –** the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5th September 2007 were considered.
4. **Approval of Signature of Minutes –** The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record, subject to the following amendments proposed Cllr Monk seconded Cllr Robinson. Cllr Sadler's declaration of interest should read *Cllr Sadler declared an interest in item 9b(ii)*
5. **Statutory Business –** There was none
6. **Business Remaining –**
 - a **POLICING AND VANDALISM –** The Chairman enquired of PC Green whether or not Thurston is policed routinely every day. The answer was that this is not possible. PC Green explained that Elmswell Police Station has only three PC's, and three PCSO's. The PC's each patrol several villages. PC Green patrols seven, as does PCSO Myall patrols the same seven. Issues such as CCTV; the need for more policing and rules regarding Village Wardens were discussed. It was agreed to write to the Chief Inspector at Stowmarket Police Station voicing Thurston PC's deep concerns about the amount of vandalism and the lack of policing. **The Clerk will arrange.**
 - b) **CARETAKER/CLEANER, PAVILION –** After considering all applications received, it was agreed to offer a joint appointment to this post to Miss C Hatton and Mr R Sadler, which would be subject to a three-month probationary period. 7 for, 1 abstention. **The Clerk will make the offer.**
 - c) **PAVILION –** It had been determined that it is not necessary to replace the roof at the Pavilion, a source of replacement tiles now having been identified. Other necessary improvements will be discussed by the Recreation Ground Committee.
 - d) **PROVISION OF YOUTH FACILITIES –** Cllr Miss Fleet had been unable to make contact with Liz Bond, but will attempt to do so before the next meeting. It was noted that New Green Centre had

indicated they would be able to host a Youth Club on their premises, if someone to run it could be found.

7. Chairman's Communications – Council was advised that Cllr Sadler had stood down as Chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee. Cllr Dashper agreed to join this Committee. Cllr Sadler will relinquish his duties as Vice Chairman after the November meeting of the Council. On the proposal of Cllr Robinson, seconded by Cllr Mrs Clark, it was agreed to offer the Vice-Chair to Cllr Sprake, duties to begin 1st December.

8. Questions from Councillors – There were none

9. Reports from Committees and Groups

a PLANNING –

i Planning Applications received :-

0309/07	Front entrance porch, 28 Oakey Field Road	SUPPORT
2282/07	Games room above existing gge, 3 Hazelwood Close	SUPPORT
2583/07	1 st Floor addition to existing bungalow, Cherry Trees, Hollow Lane	OBJECT
2548/07	Retention of wrought iron fence, 1 Hunter Drive	SUPPORT (all in favour)
2944/07	Children's Learning Centre, Thurston Library	SUPPORT (all in favour)
2721/07	Removal of restriction for agricultural dwelling only, 1 Orchard Lane	
2722/07	“ “ “ “ “ 2 Orchard Lane	
2723/07	“ “ “ “ “ 3 Orchard Lane	

ii Planning Decisions received :-

2102/07	Roadside Boundary Fence, 28 Ryefields	REFUSED
0935/07	Extension, 2 Norton Road	APPEAL DISMISSED
0580/07	Coachman's Cottage, The Planche (Listed Building Consent)	GRANTED
1435/07	New dwelling, rear 1-3 Old Norton Road	WITHDRAWN
0309/07	Front entrance porch, 28 Oakey Field Road	GRANTED

b RECREATION GROUND – There was no report

c ACTION PLAN – The Group had not met since the previous meeting of the Council

d COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS –

i The Chairman has volunteered to organise a walk in Thurston as part of the South and Heart of Suffolk Walking Festival which will take place during May 2008. Thurston's walk will take place on 16th May starting at 10am. Further details will follow. She further reported that printing of new footpath leaflets for the village will be put on hold pending the outcome of the proposal to divert footpaths 7 and 16. Council will submit a recommendation to retain the footpaths as on the definitive map.

ii Cllr Mrs Clark had attended the SALC Area Meeting on 6th September, where a new Chairman and Vice Chairman had been voted in. The 13th January will be decision day for the SnOasis project –the feeling is it will go ahead. MSDC were criticised for a lack of information on the Local Development Framework, and for allowing too little time for consultation on Land Bids etc. SALC will continue to put pressure on the East of England Regional Assembly with regard to the proposed Railway upgrading. The next meeting will be on 22nd November 2007.

iii Cllr Dashper had attended the AGM of Suffolk ACRE, which had been a very good meeting. A possible rise in membership costs was discussed, and it was agreed that they will rise next year.

iv Cllr Pattle had reported vandalism on the Railway Station platform to One Travel. The shelter has now been replaced. Regarding the provision of a wreath from the Parish Council on Remembrance Sunday, it was unanimously agreed to provide a wreath and for Cllr Pattle to lay the wreath on behalf of the Council, all in favour. **The Clerk will arrange.**

e VILLAGE REPORTS –

i Cllr Robinson reported the overgrowth of the hedge in Station Hill and the break in the fence between Howes Avenue and Station Hill, both of which the Clerk had reported earlier in the week

ii Cllr Monk reported that a tree seemingly on District Council land in Maltings Garth has been cut down by a resident. **The Clerk will look into the matter.**

iii The Chairman reported potholes at Pokeriage Corner and at the junction of Beyton Road/Thurston Road. **The Clerk will report these to Highways.**

f EMERGENCY RESPONDERS & EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT - Cllr Robinson reported there had been no call-outs to the Emergency Responder Group during September. This was possibly due to a fault with the CAD system, and investigations are under way. Information is being sought from the Lions Club re their 'Message in a Bottle' scheme, whereby people can store medical information in a plastic container which can be kept in the freezer etc.

The Emergency Planning Group is updating the Plan document and hopes to arrange for every household in Thurston to be given a small document of advice on what to do in various emergency situations. Local Tradespeople will be contacted to ascertain their agreement to have their details included in this document. On the proposal of Cllr Monk and seconded by Cllr Dashper, it was agreed to raise the limit of unauthorised expenditure this Group can incur to £250, all in favour.

10. Reports from Officers of the Council

a CLERK'S REPORT -

1 An allegation that a resident had 'claimed' land outside his houses boundary and fenced it in. the writer could not be traced so the Council was unable to respond to the allegation. It has, however, been determined that the land is in the ownership of the resident concerned.

2 The second half of this year's Street Cleaning Grant, £1,425.45, has been claimed.

3 The second half of this year's precept, £10,000, was banked on 28th September.

4 SCC Highways had requested numbers of grit bins in Thurston, to facilitate their order for sufficient grit for this winter. There are 25 in Thurston.

5 A meeting to discuss various issues, between the Parish Council and Thurston Community College will take place at the College on Monday 8th October at 6pm, which at least seven Councillors will attend. It was agreed that the Parish Office will open on that Monday instead of Tuesday 9th October to enable the Clerk to attend this meeting.

6 MSDC is taking over Community Waste Collection from Serco. Smaller bins will be supplied but these will be emptied every week, instead of every fortnight

7 Powergen have still not arrived at a solution to the problem of conflicting meter readings at the Pavilion

11. Resolutions or Recommendation already received -

a To determine whether to create a website on the OneSuffolk website, or to have a stand-alone Parish Council website. It was unanimously agreed to upgrade the existing single page on the OneSuffolk website and to add more pages to complete the site. **The Clerk will arrange.**

12. Finance

a) Accounts Awaiting Payment :-

COMPANY	AMOUNT	VAT
Mrs K Savage, Clerks Salary	637.00	
Mrs K Savage, Clerks Expenses	78.01	
Ray Austin	322.87	
R Cook (Rec Grd)	100.00	
SALC, Budget Training fro Clerk	29.38	4.38
Playdri Products (Office Rental)	587.50	87.50
Glasdon UK Ltd (fixings for new litter bins)	27.02	4.02
Secelec (2 lamps, Pavilion) [Rec Grd a/c]	51.25	7.63
M&TJ's Garden Services (grass cutting)	52.88	7.88
Cllr Mrs Clark Expenses	20.82	
Cllr Mrs Service Expenses	82.04	

These accounts were approved for payment, on the proposal of Cllr Robinson and seconded by Cllr Monk

- b) Receipts
Mrs K Savage (repayment 5 of 6) 53.25
- c) Annual Return – on the proposal of Cllr Monk, seconded Cllr Robinson, all in favour, the Annual Return was approved for audit.
- d) Tenders received :-
 - 1 Tree Work, Recreation Ground – it was agreed to accept the quotation for this work supplied by Countryside Conservation and Trees at a total cost of £317.25.
 - 2 Improvement to Recreation Ground Car Park entrance – it was agreed to accept the quotation received from MJ Nunn at a cost of £367.90 + VAT.
- e) Budget arrangements – Councillors and Committees will consider budget requirements for funding, for discussion at the next meeting of the Council
- f) Insurance Quotations – after consideration, it was agreed to accept the quote to provide insurance received from Suffolk ACRE at a cost of £935.86, all in favour.

13. Any Other Specified Business –

- a To consider purchasing a marquee – it was agreed not pursue this idea.
- b To consider listing Railway Cottages - it was agreed to pursue this idea. **The Clerk will continue with investigations for information needed to do so.**
- c To consider seeking more information on the provision of CCTV – this matter was dealt with under item 6a.
- d To approve the application from the 68 Club for permission to hold a bonfire on Heath Road Playing Field – on the proposal of Cllr Dashper, seconded by Cllr Mrs Clark, all in favour, this was agreed.
- e To consider installation of a new streetlight in Woodland close – after discussion, it was agreed to ask SCC to install a new column. **The Clerk will arrange.**

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10.15pm

Date of next meeting, Wednesday 7th November 2007

Signed..... Chairman Date 7th November 2007