

Thurston Parish Council Meeting
8th April 2009
THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th April 2009 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Church Road, Thurston

Present : Chairman Cllr Mrs Service, Cllrs Sprake, Robinson, Dashper, Campbell, Mrs Clark and Monk

In Attendance : PCSO Myall, C Cllr Mrs Otton, D Cllr Haley

0 members of the public were present

The meeting opened at 7.32pm

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- 1 Cllr Mrs Otton was helping the Parish Council find land for the provision of allotments.
- 2 She attended a Schools Organisation Review meeting in Thurston, in March, and advised the meeting that the 'Building Schools for the Future' fund had not delivered as many schools as promised across the country, and that she felt it would be necessary to provide significant new buildings
- 3 Cllr Mrs Otton had allocated £1,000 of her locality budget towards the new bus shelter in School Road, and £500 towards the ATC's new trailer.
- 4 The Local Government Review Deadline had been moved to 15th July 2009.
- 5 Elections for County Council were to go ahead on 4th June 2009.

POLICE REPORT

PCSO Myall reported 7 recorded crimes since the last meeting. This was an unusually high number because three crimes related to one incident. These were - 3 criminal damage; 3 thefts; 1 domestic assault. The SNT had recently carried out a garden security initiative, visiting various garden centres, handing out leaflets and advice on keeping valuables safe. This may be carried out again in the summer.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

- 1 Free swimming will be available for the under 16's and over 60's age groups at Stowmarket Leisure Centre and Stradbroke Pool during public swimming sessions from 1st April 2009.
- 2 There had been a good turn-out at the recent Parish Liaison Meetings. MSDC is one of only a few Councils which hold these meetings.
- 3 Local Government Review - Cllr Haley urged Council to re-submit its comments to the new consultation, by the 14th May 2009.
- 4 Benefit Fraud - MSDC has a good track record of bringing offenders to justice and takes a very tough line.
- 5 Planning - MSDC are now performing well against the Governments targets.
- 6 MSDC now has in place the protocol for 'Councillors Call for Action' which came into force on 1st April 2009, and is a requirement under the 2001 Local Government Act. This enables any Cllr to refer to an Overview or Scrutiny Committee any local government matter or crime and disorder which affects their ward or division. This is a last resort when the mechanism for normal processes fails to resolve a matter.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 Apologies - | Cllr Button | Family Commitment |
| | Cllr Sadler | Illness |
| | Cllr Miss Fleet | Personal Commitment |

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 4th March 2009 had previously been circulated, and were now considered.

4 Approval and Signature of Minutes - after consideration, the minutes were approved as a true record, proposed Cllr Monk, seconded Cllr Robinson, all in favour.

5 Statutory Business -

- a) APM – it was noted that there will be no guest speaker at this meeting this year, and that refreshments would be served half-way through the meeting.
- b) Parish Council Vacancy – the CV of Ian Weeks had been previously circulated amongst Councillors. On the proposal of Cllr Sprake, seconded Cllr Monk, all in favour, Mr Weeks was co-opted onto Council, and after duly signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, joined the meeting.

6 Business Remaining –

- a) PCSO Match funding – the list of tasks submitted to Inspector Gallant had been approved by her. Ch Inspector Atwell had advised Council to wait for three months before deciding to fund a car for the village’s PCSO. On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded Cllr Monk it was agreed, 7 for, 1 against to follow this advice.
- b) Bus Shelter – This was to be installed on 16th April, and Cllr Mrs Service made herself available to be on hand on that day. M J Nunn Surfacing Ltd had quoted £1,063.42 to install the hard surface at the bus shelter, similar to that installed at the shelter in Heath Road in 2008. on the proposal of Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Dashper, it was agreed to accept this quotation.
Clerk to advise.
- c) Help from Probation Service – Richard Hobden from the Probation Service in Bury St Edmunds had arranged for a young man to be assigned to litter pick in Thurston as part of his Community Service. He was to spend 7 hours every Tuesday until his hours have been used up, at which time the Service will assign another person to carry on with this duty.
- d) Play Equipment, Heath Road – this work had been completed on the day of the meeting, but the Chairman had noticed that the woodchip had not been laid particularly well. Cllrs Monk and Weeks were to take a look, and let the Clerk know their opinion. It was agreed that a local contractor should be found to put the matter right.
- e) Allotment Land – all efforts to find land for this purpose had proved unfruitful so far.
- f) Under 5’s Accommodation – this group had submitted a business plan, which Cllr Dashper offered to peruse and report to the next meeting.
- g) Fun Run and Retro Ford Group weekend, New Green – camping had been made available to the Car Group again this year, but the organisers had assured the Clerk that the tents would be in a specified area of the green, and that portaloos were being rented for the duration of the meet.
- h) Police Quiz, 24th June – after discussion, it was agreed that Cllrs Dashper, Robinson. Campbell and Sprake with Cllr Monk as a reserve would form the team for this occasion.

7 Chairman’s Communications –

- a) The Chairman and Vice Chairman had received notice of a Forum meeting to be held at the Community College on 21st April in Room 107 at 4.30pm
- b) The Chairman reminded Council formally that she would be standing down from the Chair at the May meeting, and that they should consider who they might wish to elect as Chairman for the coming year.
- c) The Chairman urged Councillors to submit better reports of any Council Groups or Sub-committees on which they might sit.

8 Questions from Councillors – There were none

9 Reports from Committees and Groups

a PLANNING –

i Planning Applications received :-

0585/09	1 st floor side dormer ext., 4 Maltings Garth	SUPPORT
0564/09	1 storey front ext., 8 Furze Close	OBJECT
0586/09/LBC	1 storey lean-to conservatory, Poplar Farm	SUPPORT
0583/09	“ “ “ “ “	SUPPORT
0749/09	Reconfigure window opening, Noo’s Lodge	TBC

ii Planning Decisions received :-

4140/08	Ext & resurfacing car park, ATC	GRANTED
2419/08	Reserved matters re Granary (OWL application)	TO APPEAL
SCC	Convert disused garden etc., Jigsaw Children’s Centre	GRANTED
SCC	Erect canopy, Jigsaw Children’s Centre	GRANTED
3603/08	Agric. Building, land at Pepper Lane	REFUSED
0585/09	1 st floor side dormer ext., 4 Maltings Garth	GRANTED

b RECREATION GROUND – ref the sticking door in Gents toilets at the Pavilion - following the installation of the new floor, which had left a bump on which the door was sticking, and following the contractors action to resolve the issue, which was to shave the bottom of the door, being found to be unsatisfactory, it was agreed to withhold payment for this work until the matter had been resolved to Council’s satisfaction, Proposed Cllr Mrs Clark, seconded Cllr Monk, all in favour. **Clerk to write to Contractor.**

- ref the timers on the hot water tank immersion heaters at the Pavilion, it was agreed to have them changed to be shut off completely during the week. **Clerk to arrange.**

c COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS –

i) Cllr Monk had attended a meeting of the Ixworth Patients Association, and reported that there was a new Practice Manager, and that the Healthy Evening event was to be held on the 20th May 2009.

ii) The Chairman had attended the AGM at the Cavendish Hall, where it had been reported that new Trustees are needed. A copy of the Hall’s annual accounts is in the Parish Office.

iii) Cllr Sprake reported that he had attended the Parish Liaison Meeting at MSDC, which had proved very informative, and handed a copy of a Powerpoint presentation to each Councillor for information.

iv) Cllr Robinson had attended a meeting at the College which had received information regarding a grant of £1m awarded to the College for extending existing sports facilities, and provide others. These facilities should be open to the public on evenings and weekends and during school holidays, depending upon demand. The College are considering introducing membership to be able to use the sports facilities. Plans should be finalised by Autumn 2009, and the work completed by September 2010. it had been a positive meeting which was not well-attended. The Chairman remarked that the College would need to charge reasonable fees to attract the public.

d VILLAGE REPORTS –

i) Cllr Dashper reported regular sightings of people walking dogs on the New Green open space, which is banned. It was noted that several of the signs stating this are now missing. **Clerk to report to New Green Trust.**

ii) Cllr Weeks reported that paper boys delivering newspapers around the village are increasingly riding their cycles on pavements and not being willing to move over for pedestrians. **Clerk to write to management of the Post Office and Stores, to request assistance.**

iii) Cllr Robinson reported that one of the street nameplates at Partridge Close had been defaced; that one of the street nameplates at Lapwing Close had been removed, and that the Give Way sign at the bottom of Norton Road had also been defaced. **Clerk to report to relevant agencies.**

e EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICER’S REPORT – no report received

f EMERGENCY RESPONDERS REPORT – Cllr Robinson reported that the Group had received 6 call-outs during the previous month, but had missed three of those because of a lack of volunteers. However, there were two new potential recruits, and 1 new recruit was waiting to be trained.

10 Reports from Officers of the Council

a CLERK’S REPORT –

1 Thurston Primary School Gardening Club, ‘Little Diggers’ , were planning to hold a Little Diggers Bog dig day on Mat 2nd , working in the conservation area t the school.

2 £3,135.67p VAT had been reclaimed

3 An invitation had been received for Cllrs to attend Suffolk ACRE’s conference, ‘Vitalising rural Communities for the 21st century’ to be held in the Blackbourne Community Centre on 13th May, 9.30am – 4.30pm.

4 Details of SALC training fo0r the 2nd quarter of the year were received.

5 Council’s opinions had been sought by the owner of the land at 84 Barton Road, pertaining to changing the proposed development to include 4 smaller bungalows instead of the one large detached house. Council agreed that they would need plans before them before any comments could be made. **Clerk to advise owner.**

6 Information of the closure of Mill Lane from 6th to 17th April for sewer installation works had been received.

7 Suffolk CC Legal department were seeking information regarding the Chalk Pit Common Land in Barton Road. **Clerk to advise of previous history, as known to Council.**

8 The Clerk had reported building work, about which Council had not been consulted, going on at a property along Barton Road, to MSDC Planning Dept. Information had been received that the matter had been handed to a Planning Enforcement Officer, who will report back as necessary.

9 MSDC and SCC had arranged a series of meetings for Cllrs to attend regarding the Boundary Review, and information was passed to Council.

10 SCC had advised that it was planning to remove a section of hedge at Pokeriage Corner to improve visibility for road users, and Council's opinion was sought. Council unanimously agreed that this would be a real improvement.

11 Resolutions or Recommendation already received - There were none

12 Finance

a) Accounts Awaiting Payment :-

COMPANY	AMOUNT	VAT
Mrs K Savage, Clerk's Salary	675.22	
Mrs K Savage, Clerk's Expenses	60.00	
Ray Austin, Handyman	332.55	
R Sadler, Cleaner/Caretaker Salary (Rec Grd a/c)	104.00	
Cllr B Monk, Cllr Expenses - Travel to Ixworth P A	5.87	
Glasdon UK, 2 Grit Bins	302.84	39.50
Cllr Robinson, Cllr Expenses - fee - ad for Responders	60.00	
R Austin, Remove concrete etc from heath Rd Playing Field	12.00	
Secelec, Lighting modifications, Pavilion (Rec Grd a/c)	139.15	18.15
SALC, Clerks Networking Day, 3 rd March	17.25	2.25
M&TJ's, Spike and Roll Rec Ground	115.00	15.00
Suffolk ACRE, Pavilion Insurance	402.63	
Cllr Mrs Service, Cllr Expenses	43.30	
Cllr Sprake, Cllr Expenses	19.96	
R Sadler, Caretaker Expenses (Rec Grd)	12.99	
SALC subscription	748.00	

on the proposal of Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Campbell these accounts were approved for payment, all in favour

b) Accounts already paid -

BT, Call charges	33.18	4.33
New Green Comm Trust, Office Rent	244.95	31.95
BT, Call charges	38.98	5.08

c) Receipts -

Thurston Under 10's Football Club (Rec Grd)	40.00
---	-------

d) End of year Accounts - after consideration, these accounts were approved as a true record of the Council's financial dealings for the year ending 31st March 2009, proposed Cllr Monk, seconded Cllr Robinson.

13 Any Other Specified Business -

a) Barrier, Old Norton Road - proposal to replace this barrier with wooden posts had been received from SCC for Council's consideration. After discussion, it was agreed to advise SCC that the poles would create a safety issue, and that council recommends that the current barrier be retained or replaced with something similar.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.56pm

Date of next meeting, Wednesday 6th May 2009

Signed..... Chairman Date 6th May2009