

Thurston Parish Council Meeting
3rd February 2010
THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd February 2010 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Office, New Green Centre, Thurston

Present : Chairman Cllr Sprake, Cllrs Weeks, Campbell, Robinson, Monk, Dashper, Sadler, Mrs Clark (7.40pm) and Mrs Service (9.09pm)

In Attendance : C Cllr Mrs Otton, PCSO Myall, Kathryn Savage, Clerk

3 members of the public were present

The meeting opened at 7.35pm

- 1 **Apologies for Absence** - Cllr Button Family Commitments
D Cllr Haley Other Commitments
- 2 **Declarations of Interest** - Cllr Sadler, item 9b
Cllr Sprake, item 9f, 9b
Cllr Robinson, item 9f, 9b
- 3 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** – the minutes of the meeting held 6th January 2010 had been circulated and were approved as a true record on the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded Cllr Weeks, all in favour. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT –

- 1 Following receipt of a complaint from a resident of Thurston re schooling in Suffolk, Cllr Mrs Otton had set up a meeting with the CC Portfolio holder for Education.
- 2 Cllr Mrs Otton had asked that the Schools Organisation Review be out on hold until after the General Election. This had not been agreed.
- 3 Road signs – the A14 sign for Beyton and Thurston and Beyton had now been replaced, and Cllr Otton had requested an explanation as to why the signs to Harvey’s Garden Plants had not yet been installed.
- 4 Beyton Flooding – Cllr Mrs Otton had pledged some funds from her Locality Budget for this project.
- 5 Thurston community College had held one of its School; Council meetings at Endeavour House, in Ipswich, HQ of SCC to which she had welcomed them.
- 6 Boundary Review – the Secretary of State was now in receipt of the Boundary Committee’s recommendations, but there was no fixed date for him to announce his decision.
- 7 SCC had announced that Council Tax bills will rise by 2.4%

POLICE REPORT –

PCSO Myall reported there had been 6 crimes recorded for January – 1 theft of heating oil; 1 damage to a fence; 1 theft of a mobile phone at the College; 1 damage to house; 1 damage to a vehicle in Station Hill; 1 accosting. As per the priority set by the SNT for this month, speeding checks had been carried out on several different dates, in several different roads, by several of the SNT. A total of 2 vehicles speeding had been found in Beyton Road; 21 in Barton Road, and 4 in Station Hill. A report had been received that some vehicles do not stop at the pedestrian crossing in Station hill. **Clerk to investigate the possibility of installing a traffic light-controlled crossing in its place.** The Primary Scholl had registered its concerns re the Under 5’s proposed new building, and the possible lack of parking spaces in the Recreation Ground car park.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR –

Cllr Haley had sent the following :-

MSDC have an arts centre at Wingfield Barns which is now becoming very well known and respected for running not only arts events but holding education events for schools and is also a great place to hold a wedding for which it has a licence.

A new website has been set up at the following web address. www.wingfieldbarns.com

THURSTON UNDER 5'S GROUP - These representatives reported that funding for the new building project had now been granted by SCC, and that formal plans were to be submitted to the CC within the following 2 weeks. Following a meeting with several interested parties in January, it had been realised that the plans needed to be revised, resulting in the entrance now being sited on the wall facing the Primary School. This will mean the loss of fewer car parking spaces. It is also likely that the new building will be a wooden one. The PC was asked what amount of rent they would be charging. This will be debated at the next meeting.

4 Statutory Business – There was none

5 Matters for referral to Police Tasking Meeting –

Cllrs asked for the following issues to be referred as matters for priority attention at the next SNT Tasking Meeting on 17th February in Woolpit :-

- 1) Parking in School Road, Thurston
- 2) Parking outside the Post Office in Barton Road

Cllr Weeks would attend this meeting.

6 Business Remaining –

- a) Parking Issues, School Road – A meeting had been arranged to be attended by county, District and Parish Councillors, along with Police, SCC officials, local business owners, staff from the Primary School and residents in order to try to find a resolution to the varied problems in this part of the village, 3pm 2nd March
- b) Youth Shelter Review – this should have been carried out in December as per the minutes of the October meeting, item 6a. It was now thought better this take place in the summer, when the shelter is used more, and the matter will be considered at the August meeting of this Council
- c) Review of match-funded PCSO Service Level Agreement – after consideration of the many comments received by Cllrs, it was agreed to conduct a survey of residents' opinions on this matter, by way of an on-line survey through the SCC website. **Cllr Dashper to arrange.**
- d) Thurston Under 5's – further to the information received in the Public Participation of this meeting (see above), it was agreed that the Recreation Ground Group would meet to determine the amount of rental to be charged to this Group for the use of the PC's land.
- e) Allotments – Mr Paul Myatt had been able to free up five more allotment plots, and the Clerk had given him the contact details of the first five people left on the waiting list. This had resulted in there being just 5 people still wanting an allotment
- f) Provision of Fencing, bottom car park, New Green Centre – this matter had been raised again by a trustee of the New Green Trust, but after consideration, most especially of the fact that youngsters could get their bikes onto the car park even with the gate being locked, by feeding them through the gap in the gate, Council felt that there seemed no point in spending money on a fence at the other end. It was further noted that the gate is quite often left open.
- g) Grit Bins – after consideration, it was agreed to purchase two new grit bins, one to be placed in Barleyfields, and one at the top of New Green Avenue, proposed Cllr Sadler, seconded Cllr Weeks, all in favour. **Clerk to place the order.**

7 Chairman's Communications –

- a) Villagers support during recent spell of bad weather conditions – the Chairman was keen to publicly recognise the extra efforts put in by some residents during this recent bad weather, and after consideration, it was agreed to write to some of them, and to place an item in the Thurston Newsletter, publicly thanking all of them for their efforts. **Clerk to arrange**

8 Questions from Councillors – There were none

9 Reports from Committees and Groups

a PLANNING –

i Planning Applications received –

0065/10	Replacement Church Room, Church Cottage, Church Road	SUPPORT
3732/09	ATC Drill Hall, Community College	SUPPORT

ii Planning Decisions received :-

3126/09	Removal & replacement of crittal window, Mill Farmhouse, Mill Lane	GRANTED
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2007/09	Development, Land rear of Cracknell's Garage, Beyton Road	GRANTED
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b RECREATION GROUND –

i) Flood damage to Pavilion – The Group had met to discuss requirement re the water damage. They suggested to Council that the meeting room flooring ought not to be replaced with wooden flooring, but some other material more hard-wearing. The firm of Loss Adjusters had asked for two quotations for each of the problems areas, namely, decorating; flooring in the meeting room; replacement loft insulation; replacement kitchen units. When the quotations had all been received, Cllr Dashper would produce a document comparing them to each other for circulation to the Council. Copies were also to be sent to the Loss Adjusters who will decide which contractors win the contracts. **Clerk to arrange.** Council considered the extra work the Caretakers had had to do at the time of the emergency, and after discussion agreed to award them an *ex gratia* payment in appreciation, proposed Cllr Mrs Service, seconded Cllr Monk, all in favour with Cllr Sadler declaring an interest.

ii) Quotation for Groundwork, Recreation Ground & Heath Road for coming year – A quotation had been received from M&TJ's, the current contractors, with charges remaining the same as the previous year. After consideration, it was agreed to accept this quotation, proposed Cllr Campbell, seconded Cllr Dashper, all in favour.

c COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS –

i) Cllr Monk had attended a meeting of the Ixworth Patients Participation Association

ii) Cllr Mrs Service had attended a meeting of the Community College Forum where information had been received in regard to the proposed alterations to the Sports Barn and its funding. Work was due to begin in March 2010. An Open Evening held to enable residents to see the plans had not been well-attended. Full-time staff would be required to run the facility, but as yet no decision had been made as to hire charges. A working party was to be set up, the first meeting of which would take place on 23rd February at 4.15pm. Cllr Robinson was to represent the PC on this group.

iii) Cllr Mrs Service had attended a meeting regarding the proposed resolution to the flooding problems at Beyton, immediately prior to this PC meeting. In attendance had been Beyton and Hessett PC Chairmen; District Cllrs Haley and Scott; Mr Mc Gregor, who holds the portfolio for Transport at SCC, and other officers; Cllr Mrs Otton had gone on to the flooding meeting after she had left this PC meeting. The proposals were to go ahead. The 1st phase, which will be from Beyton Green to nr the Dell Caravan Park, will involve clearing out the ditches and raising the height of the road outside the Council houses and was to be carried out in March 2010. The 2nd phase, involving more ditches being cleared, and the creation of ponds, near the Planche, was to go ahead in Autumn. The expectation is for a 70 – 80% success in solving the problems.

Thurston PC had already agreed not to contribute financially to this scheme at a previous meeting, but Mr McGregor from SCC had stated that the CC would provide the money and claim it back from PC's through next year's precept. This Council were to consider this at its next meeting. A joint letter was proposed to be sent to MP's, C Cllrs, the Environment Agency, amongst others, from Thurston, Beyton and Hessett PC's, detailing all problems associated with the flooding issue, and was agreed, all in favour. **Chairman to arrange.**

iv) Cllr Robinson had attended a meeting of the Youth Forum, where it had been reported that the Film nights were going well, as were the Thursday evenings in Thurst café . Some misunderstandings had occurred about the cost of the offered use of the pool table in the Victoria P/H

v) Cllr Campbell and the Chairman had attended a SALC Quality Lunch, where it had emerged that Thurston PC probably has not too much to put in place before being able to apply for this award. It was agreed to have Quality Council Status as a regular agenda item from now onwards.

d VILLAGE REPORTS –

i) Cllr Monk reported vehicles parking on verges on the corner of Wheatfields, accessing the site from the pedestrian crossing. **Clerk to report to PCSO Myall**

ii) Cllr Sadler reported that the road surface in Heath Road is now quite dangerous with yet more loose chippings. The Clerk advised that the problem has now been passed to SCC works scheduling dept

iii) Cllr Mrs Service reported a large number of signs around the village advertising an open day at a local nursery, some of which were in extremely inappropriate places. **Clerk to write advising of complaints received from residents, and to advise they must be down within 24 hours of the event.**

iv) The Chairman reported that the potholes beneath the Railway bridge, which had received a temporary infill, were once again breaking up. **Clerk to report.**

- e EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT - The Chairman reported that the updated Plan was now ready for printing, and that it would be circulated in March.
- f EMERGENCY RESPONDERS REPORT - Cllr Robinson reported there had been 4 call-outs during December, and that there were now 10 fully-trained responders, with one new interested party in Rougham.

10 Reports from Officers of the Council

- a CLERK'S REPORT -
 - 1 Thurston Community College had requested a representative from the PC to sit on the working party re the Sports Barn project. Cllr Robinson volunteered to do so.
 - 2 Mr R Austin and Cllr B Monk had been added to SCC's insurance for the purpose of spreading grit/salt.
 - 3 SCC - information that the C562 Ixworth Road would be temporarily closed for carriageway repairs between 22nd February and 5th March had been received.
 - 4 SCC - information had been received that the C692/C693 crossroads (Fishwick Corner) would have a temporary 30mph speed limit put in place from 1st - 4th June for safety engineering works.
 - 5 MSDC had advised that Dog Fouling signs must be purchased by the PC and are not available free from MSDC any more.
 - 6 Fire Equipment inspections had been carried out at the Pavilion, and all was found to be in order.
 - 7 Information had been received about a new e-mail service called 'Wired-GOV' where people can register to receive live updates of information from most Government Departments
 - 8 A letter had been received from Rev'd Mathers re PC's request to collaborate on the production of Newsletter to enable the Council to achieve Quality Status. Cllr Mrs Clark was to liaise with him, and report back to the Council.
 - 9 A copy of a letter sent to parents by the Community College had been received re their College Allotment plan.
 - 10 Further information had been received from Suffolk ACRE re Affordable Housing in Thurston, along with a request that Louise Wilby from Suffolk ACRE and Carla Beckett from Flagship Housing attend the March meeting. **Clerk to arrange**
 - 11 A request from the manager of the Pot Black Football Club to hire the Recreation Ground for its Sunday matches, and/or to become the village team had been received. This would be sent on to the Football Club.
 - 12 A survey being conducted by Suffolk Constabulary re Officer's attendance at PC meetings had been completed and submitted by the Clerk.
 - 13 A claim for a refund of £1,310.09 VAT already paid had been submitted to HMRC

11 Resolutions or Recommendation already received - There were none

12 Finance

a) Accounts Awaiting Payment :-

COMPANY	AMOUNT	VAT
Mrs K Savage, Clerk's Salary	700.64	
Mrs K Savage, Clerk's Expenses		
Ray Austin, Handyman contract	337.53	
R Sadler, Caretaker Salary + <i>ex gratia</i> (Rec Grd a/c)	157.25	
PC Medic, Computer Maintenance Contract	20.00	
Express Care, removal of Pavilion loft insulation	146.88	21.88
All Aspects Plumbers, work at Pav re water leak	287.88	42.88
HSS Hire, 2 days hire of de-humidifier unit at Pavilion	444.16	66.16
Cllr Monk, Travel to Ixworth PPA mtg	4.81	

On the proposal of Cllr Sadler, seconded Cllr Dashper, these accounts were approved for payment, all in favour

b) Accounts already paid -

New Green Comm Trust, Office Rent(Dec)	244.95	31.95
“ “ “ “ “ (Jan)	250.28	37.28
Plusnet (Telephone & Broadband)	34.31	5.11

c) Receipts -	
MSDC, Street Cleansing Grant	746.98
Payments for advertisements on Village website	17.50

13 Any Other Specified Business -

a) To consider a village clean-up day - In view of a fairly high volume of litter around the village, the Chairman proposed that all village organisations be asked to participate in a day-long tidy up. It was agreed to go ahead with this on April 10th 2010. **Clerk to contact Village organisations**

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10.17pm

Date of next meeting, Wednesday 3rd March 2010

Signed..... Chairman Date 3^d March 2010