

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 1st July 2009 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Church Road, Thurston

Present : Chairman Cllr Sprake, Cllrs Campbell, Robinson, Mrs Clark, Weeks, Sadler, Monk

In Attendance : PCSO Simon Myall

1 member of the public were present

The meeting opened at 7.34pm

1	Apologies for Absence -	Cllr Mrs Long	Unwell
		Cllr Dashper	Other commitments
		Cllr Button	Other commitments
		Cllr Mrs Service	Holiday
		C Cllr Mrs Otton	Other commitments

2 **Declarations of Interest** - There were none

3 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** - the minutes of the meeting held 3rd June had been circulated and on the proposal of Cllr Sadler, seconded Cllr Campbell, were approved as a true record, all in favour. The Chairman duly signed the minutes

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -

POLICE REPORT - PCSO Myall reported 6 recorded crimes for the month of June, as follows :-

1 theft of a mobile telephone at the College; 1 theft of copper piping from a property in Stoney Lane; 1 burglary of a dwelling in Heath Road; 1 attempted burglary of a dwelling in The Hambros; 1 criminal damage to a window at the College; 1 burglary of a dwelling in Heather Close.

PCSO Myall congratulated the PC team on winning the Penny Otton trophy at the recent Quiz Night, and raised the following points :-

- 1 He had begun making approaches to residents in Hollow Lane, New Green Avenue and Heath Road with a view to starting Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in those areas.
- 2 He had noticed that very few bus stops around the village have the exclusion boxes painted onto the road. This he had noticed caused problems for buses in areas near to the schools, with cars parking right beside the bus stops. It also meant that at such times the raised areas installed by SCC for ease of boarding buses was unable to be used. The new proprietor of the Victoria P/H had asked the Police to be involved in a Community Fun Day to be held there on 2nd August from 2-6pm.
- 3 He had been monitoring the situation with speeding tractors along the top part of Heath Road which is currently subject only to the national speed limit, and would continue to do so. He had also brought this problem to the attention of Traffic Police. **Clerk to approach SCC with a view to re-classification of this road**
- 4 Residents in Great Green opposite the junction with Oak Road had expressed concerns about speeding traffic past their properties **clerk to request SCC paint SLOW signs on road approaching this junction**

COUNTY COUNCILLOR - delivered by Clerk

- 1 Cllr Mrs Otton reported her pleasure at being re-elected, and informed Council that she is the Shadow Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People
- 2 She had asked John Boutcher to look at roads in the Maltings Garth area re road surfaces.
- 3 At a meeting of the Schools Review Panel the previous week, it had been stated that there are no plans to close any Primary schools, and that the number for Thurston Primary was mooted at 210 pupils. She had asked for confirmation of the rumours that Beyton Middle School was to be demolished, which had been denied.
- 4 Cllr Mrs Otton congratulated the PC team on their win at the recent Quiz Night, and added that she hopes it becomes an annual event.

4 **Statutory Business** - There was none

5 **Business Remaining –**

a) Thurston under 5's Accommodation – Cllr Sadler reported that the Recreation Ground committee had reviewed the Trust Deed pertaining to the Recreation Ground, and had found no clause that could be seen to preclude the offer of space at the ground for this club to erect a purpose-built building. The Committee had looked at a site behind Cavendish Hall, which seemed to be of a suitable size, and which the under 5's could still then use then paved area behind the Hall, as at present. On the proposal of Cllr Sadler, it was unanimously agreed to offer this proposition to Thurston under 5's. **Clerk to write.**

b) Allotment Land – confirmation had been received from D Cllr Haley that MSDC were looking at the plot of land in Oakey Field Road which the PC had considered, with a view to building social housing there. After consideration, it was agreed to approach the Thurston Relief in Need Charity, requesting that a portion of the filed adjoining the Heath Road Playing Field be made over for the provision of allotments. **Clerk to write**

c) Cleaner for Bus Shelter, School Road – the Council had advertised for a volunteer to take on responsibility of taking care of this bus shelter. Only one reply had been received, from a resident with learning difficulties. After discussion and consideration, it was unanimously agreed to take up this offer. **Clerk to write**

6 **Chairman's Communications –** There were none

7 **Questions from Councillors –**

a) Cllr Monk had raised the matter of the lack of exclusion boxes painted on roads at bus stops, which had been mentioned in the Police Report above. On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Weeks, it was agreed to request that such boxes be painted throughout the village. **Clerk to request SCC paint boxes on roads.**

8 **Reports from Committees and Groups**

a **PLANNING –**

i Planning Applications received – There were none

SCC Ext of Key stage 1 play area incl erection of canopy & DDA compliant parking space. + 1 other canopy to rear, Thurston Primary School

SUPPORT

ii Planning Decisions received :-

1009/09 2 X 2 storey houses, 13 School Road

REFUSED

SE/09/0422 Use of land for temp building re egg production unit, Mere Farm Pakenham Road, Gt Barton

GRANTED

b **RECREATION GROUND –**

i) Quotations for work to showers, Pavilion – 4 sealed quotations were opened and considered. After consideration, and on the proposal of Cllr Robinson, seconded by Cllr Monk, all in favour, it was agreed to accept the one from RG Carter, Builders, at a cost of £5,200 + VAT for both shower bays, as per schedule supplied by PC. **Clerk to notify all applicants, and to determine the time scale for the work with the successful company.**

ii) Following reports of flooding on the Recreation Ground car park, outside the front door to Cavendish Hall, which the Recreation Ground Committee had considered, it was agreed to ask the Cavendish Hall to obtain an up-to-date report by a drainage company. **Clerk to write**

iii) It was agreed to put on hold proposals to refurbish the floors in the changing rooms at the Pavilion. **Clerk to advise**

c **COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS –**

i) Cllr Mrs Service had sent the following report on the recent meeting of the Cavendish Hall Committee :-

The floor in the bottom left-hand corner of the Hall is bubbling up, as had happened before, but with insufficient funds to fully address the problem, the floor was to be cleaned and varnished. The Hall was to be repainted internally. 2 ceiling lights had become dislodged, and were to be secured. The reported income and expenditure figures (interim) would leave insufficient funds to cover the cost of the aforementioned proposed works, and the Committee requested a donation from the PC (item 11e below).

ii) Cllr Monk had attended the Ixworth Patients Association, where the main topic had been disappointment at the poor turn-out for the recent public meeting they had held.

- iii) Cllr Weeks had attended the Arts Festival at the College, which he reported had been of a very high standard. **Clerk to write with congratulations.**
 - iv) Cllr Mrs Clark had attended the SALC Area Meeting. Matters under discussion had included issues raised by Guy McGregor from SCC Highways including Lorry Management; silencing the A14 and potholes. The next meeting will be held on September 3rd.
 - v) Cllr Campbell had attended a meeting at MSDC with David Ruffley MP and Tim Passmore, Leader of the Council re planning matters raised by Parish and Town Councils.
- d VILLAGE REPORTS –
- i) Cllr Sadler reported that the pedestrian gate at the level crossing in Heath Road was stuck open. **Clerk to report to Network Rail.**
 - ii) Cllr Mrs Clark had noticed that notices put up around the village by MSDC regarding planning issues were never taken down. **Clerk to write to MSDC Planning**
 - iii) Cllr Weeks reported plants overgrowing the pavement along Barton Road. **Clerk to write to resident concerned.**
 - iv) Cllr Monk reported overgrown hedges in Maltings Garth. **Clerk to write**
- e EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT – Nothing to report, the Chairman hoped to call a meeting in the near future.
- f EMERGENCY RESPONDERS REPORT – Cllr Robinson reported that the Group had received 5 call-outs during the previous month. The group now had 8 trained members with 1 other in training.

9 Reports from Officers of the Council

a CLERK'S REPORT –

- 1 A report received from parents of a little girl who had used the new play equipment in Heath Road and had got mastic in her hair and clothes, which wouldn't wash out, had been passed to the manufacturers who had offered to pay the requested compensation.
- 2 The issues with Tiscali which had pertained since the PC moved premises still continued. After discussion, it was agreed to seek a different provider of telephone and broadband services.
- 3 A letter had been received from a family in Sandpit Lane, who were experiencing problems with the fact that their drive is very close to the junction with School Road. This matter, and the family's request for the installation of 'Concealed Drive' signs had been passed to SCC.
- 4 A report had been received regarding an accident on Bury Road at the Sow Lane junction, where a cyclist had been knocked off his bike, but was unhurt. He was observed to have earphones in his ears and had ridden straight across the road without looking for oncoming traffic. The Clerk had passed the report to Sustrans who had advised that a system of warning drivers of approaching cyclists at this site had been proposed and was delayed because of technical issues but would go ahead.
- 5 The Clerk had booked the Sun Lounge at New Green for the Power of Well Being Course to be held 30th September. Council agreed for the course to begin at 7pm.
- 6 Budget to Actual figures for the 1st quarter and a Bank Reconciliation to 30th June 2009 were circulated.
- 7 The Clerk would submit insurance claims for the damage to Play Equipment at Thedwastre Park; for the recent computer problems and for the problems with the showers at the Pavilion.
- 8 New Green Trust were to hold their AGM on 22nd July 2009 at 8pm in the Sun Lounge.
- 9 The Council's Annual Return had been successfully submitted

10 Resolutions or Recommendation already received – There were none

11 Finance

a) Accounts Awaiting Payment :-

COMPANY	AMOUNT	VAT
Mrs K Savage, Clerk's Salary	693.72	
Mrs K Savage, Clerk's Expenses	60.00	
Ray Austin, Handyman	337.53	
Ray Austin, fit Litter bin, Heath Road Playing Field	28.96	

R Sadler, Cleaner/Caretaker Salary (Rec Grd a/c)	104.00	
B Monk, Cllr Expenses travel to Ixworth PPA	5.87	
Sutcliffe Play, Cradle swing seats	273.24	35.64
PC Medic, emergency work on computer	215.00	
Fixaleak, emergency plumbing, Pavilion	604.92	78.90
Coastline Graphics, signs for play areas	120.75	15.75
Glasdon UK, fixing for litter bin	27.69	3.61
Mrs C Clark, Travel to SALC Area Meeting	22.89	
Mrs J Service, Telephone etc., March - early May	27.50	
M&TJ's, Grass cutting, Heath Road	373.75	48.75

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

b) Accounts already paid -

Tiscali Broadband	17.61	2.30
New Green Centre (Office Rental)	244.95	31.95
Kent Blaxill, Paint for swings, Heath Road	62.34	8.13
R Cook, Refurbishing swings, Heath Rd	160.00	

c) Receipts - There were none

d) To consider refurbishment of monument, Recreation Ground - a quotation had been received from Suffolk Brick and Stone Cleaning Company Ltd., for £195 + VAT. On the proposal of Cllr Mrs Clark, seconded Cllr Monk, all in favour, it was agreed to accept this quotation. **Clerk to write.**

e) To consider donation to Cavendish Hall re painting - after consideration, and on the proposal of Cllr Monk, seconded Cllr Weeks, all in favour, it was agreed to make a donation to Cavendish Hall of £275 to help with this project.

f) To consider quotation for Computer Maintenance contract - Following emergency attention to the PC's computer, after it had been hijacked, the Clerk had invited the three computer technicians who advertise in the Thurston Newsletter to tender for this work. One was unable to be available during office hours, one had not replied, but a tender had been received from the PC Medic, which was agreeable to the Council. Since this person is related to the Clerk, she was asked to seek the advice of SALC, and to seek more tenders from companies in Bury St Edmunds.

12 Any Other Specified Business -

- a) Hedging, Field View - this matter had been raised by the Police following a resident of Field View experiencing anti social behaviour, which had frightened her. It was agreed that the Clerk would seek advice as to what species might be appropriate from landscapers, and the local tree warden. **Clerk to arrange, and to ask permission from New Green to pursue this matter.**
- b) PCSO duties - this matter had been raised by the villages PCSO to ensure he is covering all areas of concern to Council. Cllrs put several suggestions to the PCSO.
- c) Meeting place for Neighbourhood Watch Schemes - the PCSO had asked for permission to use the Pavilion for these meetings when they get going. This was granted unanimously.
- d) A letter had been received from the ATC regarding the recent donation made by the Council. After consideration, it was agreed that no reply was necessary.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.44pm

Date of next meeting, Wednesday 5th August 2009

Signed..... Chairman Date 5th August 2009