

Thurston Parish Council Meeting
3rd June 2009
THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd June 2009 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Church Road, Thurston

Present : Chairman Cllr Sprake, Cllrs Campbell, Robinson, Button, Weeks, Sadler, Mrs Service, Mrs Long

In Attendance : C Cllr Mrs Otton, D Cllr Haley

1 member of the public were present

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

1 **Apologies for Absence** - Cllr Mrs Clark Holiday
Cllr Dashper Work commitments
Cllr Monk Holiday

2 **Declarations of Interest** - Cllr Button items 5a and 5b

3 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** - the minutes of the meeting held 6th May had been circulated and on the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded Cllr Weeks, were approved as a true record, all in favour.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -

A member of the public, representing the Thurston under 5's group, presented a formal request for permission for a purpose-built building for the Group to be sited on the Recreation Ground.
Recreation Ground committee to consider and report to next meeting.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR - delivered by Clerk because of impending Local Council elections

- 1 The new CC Highways manager for this area is Matthew Riches who will take up his duties on 13th July 2009.
- 2 Community groups can now apply for grants up to £3,000 for projects from the Suffolk Single Gateway Fund administered by the Suffolk Foundation. There are 6 categories covering health, mental health and arts projects
- 3 A Planning Application had been submitted for a single storey extension to the Library at Beyton. This was to be determined by the CC not the DC.
- 4 Cllr Mrs Otton was hopeful that the recent proposals for heart treatment, which had raised major concerns, will be looked at the Health Scrutiny Committee.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR - Cllr Haley

- 1 MSDC had elected a new Chairman, Cllr Mrs Sara Mitchell, and a new Vice Chairman, Cllr Stuart Gemmill.
- 2 MSDC community Achievement Awards will be held Thursday 17th September, 2pm, Cedars Hotel, Stowmarket. Nominations should be submitted by 17th July 2009.
- 3 The Council had seen a drop in income, as a result of fewer planning applications and land search fees.
- 4 Complaints re noise nuisance, a subject highlighted in the press recently, had in MSDC been the 2nd lowest number of complaints received within the country. However, complaints re bird scarers had increased.
- 5 At the Council's Annual Meeting, an agreement was made to freeze Cllrs expenses
- 6 The Council, concerned about the proposal that services re Heart Attack and Pancreatic Cancer might be withdrawn for the District Hospitals, had asked the NHS East of England to address the Council with reasons for the possible changes.
- 7 The Council had set a target to deliver 120 affordable homes in the year 2008/9, but in fact had delivered 144.

POLICE REPORT - delivered by the Clerk

The report to the last meeting had not been received in time, but was now delivered as follows :-
There had been 4 reported crimes in April - 1 making off without paying a taxi; 1 assault with actual bodily harm; 1 theft of a BT cable from a dwelling and 1 theft from a motor vehicle. There was also a

report of two vehicles being damaged in a lay-by on School Road by unknown offenders, and information was requested. PCSO Myall had attended Field View for a coffee morning.

The report to the June meeting was as follows :-

There had been 6 reported crimes in May - 1 criminal damage to 2 vehicles in School Road; 1 criminal damage to plant pots in Field View; 1 criminal damage to a vehicle in Station Hill; 2 thefts from motor vehicles in New Green Avenue (badges) and 1 criminal damage to a vehicle in Field View area. PCSO Myall reported that his time as the village's dedicated PCSO had got off to a good start. He had held an awareness and information evening for dog owners, with a speaker on Dog Behaviour and one on Dog Training. There had been a good turnout, and more of these events are planned for the summer months. The PCSO had attended the College re parking issues, and reported that the cones on the corner of St Peters Way and School Road have been very effective, and he hoped drivers were beginning to get the message. There had already been several reports filed in the Police Office (parish council office), and a record of all his activities is being kept.

Cllrs reported several incidences of dropped litter, including an unfinished bottle of whisky found at the Youth Shelter. **Clerk to advise the PCSO.**

4 **Statutory Business** - There was none

5 **Business Remaining** -

a) New Green Centre - the Chairman had become concerned since nothing had been heard about the development of the centre for quite some time. Cllr Button, who is a Trustee at New Green, advised that he understood that a letter would be sent out in the near future, and that he believed the plan to extend the building was on hold.

b) Accommodation for Under 5's - photographs of a building similar to the one proposed for this group were circulated. In view of the Group's hope to site the building at the Recreation Ground, the Rec Grd Committee will sit to determine via the Trust Deed whether or not this might be possible, and will report to the next meeting of Full Council.

c) Allotment Land - the Clerk had asked the Land Management team at MSDC if the plot of land behind the garage block in Oakey Field Road could be put to this use, and had been advised that their decision on then matter would take about two months to arrive at.

6 **Chairman's Communications** -

a) MSDC Community Achievement Awards - Information had been received re the Community Achievement Awards, and the Chairman asked for nominations. After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Sadler would nominate an individual on the PC's behalf.

b) Planning Meeting with David Ruffley MP - this was to be attended by Cllr Campbell, and it was agreed to name Cllr Monk in his absence to also attend, in the hope it would prove convenient.

7 **Questions from Councillors** - There were none

8 **Reports from Committees and Groups**

a **PLANNING** -

i Planning Applications received - There were none

ii Planning Decisions received :-

0749/09 Reconfigured window, Noo's Lodge, School Road GRANTED

2367/08 Gge Ext., Cherry Trees, Hollow Lane APPEAL DISMISSED

A complaint regarding the height of the extension being built in Heather Close had been referred to the Planning Enforcement Team, as had one received regarding an extension to a property in Barton Road.

b **RECREATION GROUND** -

i) Quotations for new toddler swing seats, Heath road - after consideration of quotations received, it was agreed to place the order with Sutcliffe Play at a cost of £216 + carriage, proposed Cllr Sadler, seconded Cllr Mrs Long, all in favour

ii) Quotations for replacement flooring, Pavilion changing rooms - after consideration of the two quotations received (three requested), it was agreed to accept the one from Hardwick Resin Flooring, at a cost of £2,779.18 + VAT, proposed Cllr Sadler, seconded Cllr Mrs Service, all in favour. **Clerk to obtain quotations for replacement shower fittings**

iii) Quotations for safety surfacing at swings, Heath Road Playing Field – two quotations had been received, which seemed expensive. **Clerk to ask 1 further company for a quotation.**

Council noted a report of a broken piece of play equipment in Thedwastre Park. **Clerk to enquire re warranty.**

iv) Request for use of Recreation Ground by under 10's football team, September 2009 – April 2010. After consideration, it was agreed to grant this request, proposed Cllr Sadler, seconded Cllr Stuart, all in favour. **Clerk to notify the team.**

c COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS –

i) Cllr Mrs Service, the organiser of the Thurston walk of the recent Walking Festival, reported that it had been a success, and she had received good reports after the event. She indicated that she would be willing to organise any future such event. The Chairman thanked her for her efforts.

d VILLAGE REPORTS –

i) Cllr Robinson reported that a hedge opposite to the Post Office in Barton Road was very overgrown, **Clerk to report to MSDC.** He also reported that the sign in Partridge Close, and the Give Way sign at the bottom of Norton Road, both reported twice before as being defaced, had still not been dealt with. **Clerk to pursue.**

ii) Cllr Weeks reported a tree near the barrier at the bottom of Old Norton Road, had two low-hanging branches, which were becoming a hazard for pedestrians and cyclists. **Clerk to write to homeowner.** He further reported several places in the village where plants/hedges were overhanging the pavements and road. It was agreed to put a notice in the Newsletter to remind residents of this hazard. Several road surfaces which had been reported some time previously, and which had still not received attention in the recent round of surface dressing were also reported. **Clerk to pursue with SCC Highways.**

iii) Cllr Mrs Service reported that the recent surface dressing along Mount Road had resulted in a gap between the two sides of the road. **Clerk to report to SCC Highways**

iv) Cllr Sadler reported several complaints about a vehicle parked inappropriately in Norton Road – **Clerk to report to PCSO;** that the New Green sign board at the bottom of New Green Avenue is overgrown by the trees – **Clerk to report to New Green Centre;** and raised the issue of speeding tractors along Heath Road. **Clerk to report to Police and PCSO and consult with Sustrans for advice.**

e EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT – The Chairman hoped to call a meeting in the near future.

f EMERGENCY RESPONDERS REPORT – Cllr Robinson reported that the Group had received 3 call-outs during the previous month. There had been no further interest from volunteers willing to join, leaving the group with 7 members and 1 in training.

9 Reports from Officers of the Council

a CLERK'S REPORT –

1 Notices had been received from MSDC Planning Enforcement team confirming that they would be looking into issues at Grange View, Barton Road and 10 Heather Close

2 A letter had been received from a resident raising issues at the railway crossing, Heath Road. In foggy weather, the noise of any oncoming trains is severely muffled and several people have found a train almost upon them as they tried to cross. The Clerk had referred the matter to Network Rail, and had written to the resident advising of this.

3 A letter had been received outlining a complaint from a resident whose child had used the new play equipment in Heath Road on the day after its installation, and had sustained immovable staining to her almost new clothing. The parents were claiming recompense from the Council. After consideration, it was agreed that the claim should be in effect forwarded to the manufacturers. **Clerk to arrange and advise residents accordingly.**

4 Details of the upcoming CAB AGM were received.

5 An e-mail from a resident protesting against the traffic cones the PCSO had placed around the corner of St Peter's Way and School Road because of bad parking there had been received. A reply had been sent stating that the Council, along with Police, were addressing parking issues in general in this area.

6 Details of the upcoming AGM of the Suffolk Preservation Society had been received.

7 A complaint from a resident in new Green Avenue, regarding anti-social behaviour at the Youth Shelter, and the theft of a badge from two cars had been referred to the PCSO

8 The New Green Trust's AGM was to take place in the Sun lounge on 22nd July 2009 at 8pm.

9 Details of problems with the Council's computer were received. It was agreed that the Clerk should seek quotations from computer technicians able to attend during office hours. It was further agreed that the Clerk should check with the Council's insurers as to whether the cost of checking all the Cllrs computers would be covered by the Council's insurance policy. **Clerk to arrange**

10 The Clerk had put a suggestion to MSDC Land Management team regarding a piece of land in Oakeyfield Road being made over to the PC for the provision of allotments. MSDC will make their decision within two months.

11 a letter had been received from a resident in Sandpit Lane, experiencing problems of speeding traffic when attempting to use their own drive. **Clerk to pass to SCC Highways**

12 Information had been received from CPRE about the Marsh Awards, which will celebrate examples of outstanding volunteering activity. Nominations were invited.

13 An elderly resident of Field View was reported as regularly being the object of anti-social behaviour of all kinds. One of the things that has happened more than once is that a vent from her kitchen is broken. **Clerk to report to MSDC Environmental Health**

14 Information about Stowmarket's Area Action Plan day had been received.

15 The Council's internal audit had been completed successfully

16 The Clerk had attended a course on the Power of Well-being, and it was agreed to set up a course to be held in the village for Cllrs, hopefully from surrounding parishes too.

17 Letters had been sent to the Fox & Hounds public house and Harvey's Garden Plants congratulating them on their respective successes in the Pub of the Year Awards and the Chelsea Flower show, and to Cllr Mrs J Service thanking her for organising the recent Walking Festival walk through Thurston.

18 Information had been received from SCC's legal team regarding the fence around the Chalk Pit, to the effect that they had advised the owners to apply to then Secretary of State to retain the fence, although it must be kept unlocked as it is at present.

15 Resolutions or Recommendation already received - There were none

16 Finance

a) Accounts Awaiting Payment :-

| COMPANY | AMOUNT | VAT |
|---|----------|-------|
| Mrs K Savage, Clerk's Salary | 693.72 | |
| Mrs K Savage, Clerk's Expenses | 104.13 | |
| Ray Austin, Handyman | 337.53 | |
| R Sadler, Cleaner/Caretaker Salary (Rec Grd a/c) | 104.00 | |
| Secelec, Adj. water heaters & check PIR detectors, Pav (Rec.Grđ a/c) | 12.65 | 1.65 |
| Cllr Monk, Expenses - travel to Ixworth PPG | 14.09 | |
| Cavendish Hall, hire of room for APM | 22.00 | |
| MJ Nunn Surfacing, Bus shelter, School Road 138.70 | 1,063.41 | |
| E-on, Electricity at Pavilion, (Rec a/c) | 222.12 | 10.58 |
| SALC, Internal Audit fee | 218.50 | 28.50 |
| Glasdon UK, Litter bin for Heath Rod Playing Field | 164.17 | 21.41 |
| Neat Ideas, Ink Cartridges | 105.74 | 13.79 |

On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded Cllr Mrs Long 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 |
| BT (Call charges) | 46.42 | 6.06 |

c) Receipts – There were none

d) Approval of Statement of Accounts and Annual Return – copies of these had been circulated, and on the proposal of Cllr Mrs Service, seconded Cllr Weeks, were approved all in favour.

17 Any Other Specified Business –

- a) Village Guide – after discussion it was agreed that this publication should be updated, and that a committee should be formed to oversee the operation comprising of the Chairman, Cllr Mrs J Service and Cllr Weeks.
- b) Village Appraisal – Cllr Campbell studied the Action Plan resulting from this appraisal and reported that there were no issues which had not been addressed.
- c) The Chairman had noted that the monument in the Recreation Ground commemorating the Ground's opening was in need of refurbishment. **Clerk to seek quotations.**

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10.18pm

Date of next meeting, Wednesday 1st July 2009

Signed..... Chairman Date 1st J+uly2009