

Thurston Parish Council Meeting  
5<sup>th</sup> March 2008  
THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Church Road, Thurston

**Present :** Chairman Cllr Mrs Service, Cllrs Robinson, Campbell, Sadler, Monk, Pattle and Miss Fleet

**In Attendance :** County Cllr Mrs Otton, District Cllr Haley

0 members of the public present

The meeting opened at 7.35pm

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -**

POLICE REPORT - received via email after the meeting :-

There had been 5 crimes and 1 domestic incident recorded in February, as follows - 1 assault, 1 arson, 2 thefts from the College, and 1 case of driving off without paying at Cracknell's Garage PCSO Myall expressed his gratitude for the provision of the cycle. Also reported that the concrete shed at the far end of the Granary site has become a problem area, and the landowner has been approached about this matter.

REPORT FROM COUNTY CLLR MRS OTTON -

- a Cllr Mrs Otton has applied for the locality budget this Council requested to help fund the bus shelter.
- b The next meeting of the Schools Review will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> March, and Cllr Mrs Otton will attend.
- c The SCC Portfolio holder for Waste recently faced 43 questions at an MSDC Scrutiny meeting
- d Cllr Mrs Otton is in conversation with the Manager of Home Start (an organisation supporting families) which recently ran a course for volunteers in Thurston and is seeking to raise its profile here.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT CLLR HALEY -

- a Cllr Haley had left a message for Flagship Housing to contact him re the Affordable Housing project under discussion in Thurston, but had received no reply.
- b It was confirmed that MSDC will not make a financial contribution towards the provision of an extra streetlight in Woodland Close, since they believe the lighting there is adequate. The Parish Council will therefore fund this project themselves.
- c MSDC portion of Council Tax at Band D will mean an increase of £6.14 for the coming financial year 1st April 2008 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009
- d MSDC had identified a serious benefit fraud offender, who had been prosecuted and been sentenced to Community Service.
- e Cllr Haley will try to procure a financial contribution from MSDC towards the cost of the bus shelter.

Cllr Sadler enquired if there was any information on the provision of green recycling bins in MSDC. Cllr Haley said not at the moment.

Cllr Monk asked when a tree would be planted to replace the one felled in Maltings Garth. Cllr did not know.

8pm

- 1. **Apologies -**

Cllr Mrs Clark	Family Commitments
Cllr Sprake	Holiday
Cllr Dashper	Work Commitments-

2. **Declarations of personal/prejudicial interest from Councillors :-**

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Cllr Campbell | Item 9a(i) |
| Cllr Sadler   | Item 5b    |

- 3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** - the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2008 were considered.

4. **Approval and Signature of Minutes** -the minutes were approved as a true and accurate record, proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Monk

5. **Statutory Business** -

a Review of Audit Procedures - Under the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006, Councillors had reviewed Audit Procedures and systems of internal control, and found all to be in order and working well. Proposed Cllr Campbell, seconded Cllr Robinson

b Pavilion Cleaner/Caretaker Contract - Following a satisfactory 3 month term of probationary service, it was agreed to ratify the contract of employment for the joint Caretaker/Cleaner. Proposed Cllr Campbell, seconded Cllr Miss Fleet

6. **Business Remaining** -

a Proposed multi-sports court, New Green - nothing to report

b Skate park/basketball hoop, youth shelter - after debate, on the proposal of Cllr Miss Fleet, seconded Cllr Monk, it was agreed in principle to provide a Youth Shelter on the proposed site at New Green, and a basketball hoop which will incorporate a small football goalmouth at Heath Road Playing Field.. **The Clerk will investigate what grants are available.**

c Office Accommodation - following enquiries from New Green as to the kind of portakabin the PC would prefer, it was agreed that the Council would be happy with either one or two rooms, and would prefer that the windows would have security bars. **The Clerk will advise New Green accordingly.**

d Streetlight at Woodland Close - it had been determined that there would be no support or financial help forthcoming from MSDC for the provision of this extra streetlight. Therefore, Thurston PC will take on full responsibility, since it is in the best interests of the residents concerned. Proposed Cllr Sadler, all in favour.

e Bus Shelter, Heath Road - after consideration of all the options, Council agreed to go for the best value option, which the Clerk will determine by producing a detailed comparison of each proposal, and circulating the list to all Councillors for comments. Proposed Cllr Monk, all in favour.

f Traffic problems, Heath Road - a suggestion that the hedge bordering number 25 Heath Road might be cut down to a height enabling tractor drivers to see oncoming cyclists will be put to the resident concerned by the Clerk. Proposed Cllr Monk, seconded Cllr Campbell, 5 for, 2 against, 1 abstention.

7. **Chairman's Communications** -

a The Chairman reminded Council that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> April in the Cavendish Hall at 8pm. It was agreed to ask PCSO Simon Myall to be the guest speaker for the evening. **The Clerk will write then letters of invitation.**

b The Chairman noted that there is to be a Village Quiz held on 6<sup>th</sup> April. It was agreed that the PC should put forward a team for this event. **The Clerk will advise the organisers.**

8. **Questions from Councillors** - There were none

9. **Reports from Committees and Groups**

a PLANNING -

i Planning Applications received :-

2959/07(Amended)	Rear 1-3 Old Norton Road	OBJECT
3289/07	1 storey rear ext., 52 Barton Road	SUPPORT
0436/08	Garden Room, 1 storey side ext., + detached Gge, Hillside, Beyton Road	SUPPORT
0481/08	renovations to exterior of Thedwastre White House, Thedwastre Road	SUPPORT
0526/08	11/2 storey side ext., Cherry Trees, Hollow Lane	OBJECT
0646/08	Garage with store & home office, Glebe Cottage, Church Road	SUPPORT
0732/08	1 storey rear & side exts, Petersfield, 37 Barton Road	SUPPORT

ii Planning Decisions received :-

2532/07	2 storey rear exts., 2&3 Old Post Office Row	GRANTED
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3103/07	Alterations to existing dwelling & 1 storey exts., incl Garage & Garden Room	GRANTED
0070/08	1 Storey front garage ext, 28 The Hambros	GRANTED
0017/08	Erection of 1 agricultural dwelling, Harvey's Garden Plants	GRANTED
0118/08	Single Garage, 28 School Road	GRANTED

- b RECREATION GROUND - Cllr Button reported that 15 tiles had been replaced on the Pavilion Roof - invoice to follow. Cllr Sadler alerted Council to the possible recurrence of the problem with the waste water trap in the away team showers.
- c COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS -
- i Cllr Monk reported that he had been unable to attend the last meeting of the Ixworth Patients Group.
  - ii The Chairman and Cllrs Monk, Robinson and Sprake had attended a meeting in Mellis regarding the setting up of an Emergency Plan. The Emergency Planning Group will meet to discuss the meeting when Cllr Sprake returns from holiday.
  - iii Cllr Pattle had attended the AGM of the Cavendish Hall.
- d VILLAGE REPORTS -
- i Cllr Robinson reported that the hedge opposite to the Post Office is in need of being cut back, and that the Howes Avenue street nameplates had still not been replaced. **The Clerk will report.**
  - ii Cllr Button remarked on the large truck parked on the Recreation Ground car park. The Clerk reported that this had been reported to Police the previous week.
  - iii Cllr Monk reported that tractors travelling along Heath Road had churned up the verge, and that he had received several complaints about the way residents park in the bus lay-by along Barton Road. **The Clerk will refer this matter to the Police. The Clerk will also contact SCC about the two close-together bus stops along Barton Road, with a view to removing one of them.**
  - iv Cllr Sadler reported that he had replace the 'No Golf Practice' sign at Heath Road Playing Field, and that gaps in the hedge at the Playing Field had been planted by Mrs Barbara Morris.
- e EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT - Nothing to report
- f EMERGENCY RESPONDERS REPORT - Cllr Robinson reported 2 call outs in Thurston since the last meeting, and 4 that couldn't be answered. 1 new volunteer is in the process of being trained. Information on this Group and the Service it provides will be included in the Emergency Plan pack that is to be given to every household in the village.
- g REPORT ON MEETING RE YOUTH CLUB - Cllrs Robinson and Miss Fleet reported no progress on this project. More volunteers are still needed if it is to go ahead, and more Child Protection Training still needs to be done. On the proposal of Cllr Monk, seconded Cllr Sadler, it was agreed that the PC will fund an advertisement to be placed in the Newsletter, asking for more volunteers.

## 10. Reports from Officers of the Council

- a CLERK'S REPORT -
- 1 Council were reminded of the upcoming event held by the Suffolk Preservation Society, where there would be a talk on Affordable Housing.
  - 2 An e-mail had been received from a resident regarding the fact that a resident of Furze Close regularly parking their vehicle on top of a fire hydrant, had in fact broken the hydrant sign, and caused the hydrant itself to be forced beneath ground by some considerable amount. The Clerk had reported this to the Fire Authority who had advised that this is an offence against the law, and that they would take the matter further themselves.
  - 3 The Clerk had reported the lorry parked illegally on the Recreation Ground car park for the second time, but since none of our local Police Officers were on duty it was treated as a new complaint.
  - 4 A rough estimate for repairs necessary to the War Memorial had been received. It was suggested that the 68 Club may be willing to fund these repairs. **The Clerk will write to the Chairman of the Club.**

5 Council were advised about a leaflet which MSDC will be producing entitled Summer Arts Events Leaflet for 2008.

6 A letter of thanks from the PCC for making the Pavilion toilet facilities available to Churchgoers at certain times had been received.

7 Rats in the verge along the Church Road side of the Recreation Ground had been dealt with, and the moles in Heath Road Playing would be dealt with soon.

8 Suffolk Wildlife Trust will be holding a course about helping Suffolk's wildlife in April 8<sup>th</sup> at Foxburrow Farm, Melton.

9 EERA are holding a consultation on Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation in the East of England. **The Clerk will request a full copy of the document.**

10 MSDC - The Chairman and the Clerk will attend a Parish Liaison Meeting at the District Council Offices on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

11 Suffolk Preservation Society had sent details of Planning Training Workshops to take place in November.

12 Details of an application received by Suffolk NHS PCT for preliminary inclusion in the pharmaceutical list for Thurston had been received. On investigation, it had been determined that this was from a company with a less than honourable background, and it was agreed not to support the application on all counts.

**11. Resolutions or Recommendation already received** - There were none

**12. Finance**

a) Accounts Awaiting Payment :-

COMPANY	AMOUNT	VAT
Mrs K Savage, Clerk's Salary	658.84	
Mrs K Savage, Clerk's Expenses	59.91	
Ray Austin	322.87	
Pavilion Caretaker/Cleaner Salary(Rec Grd)	104.00	
Clr Mrs Service, Expenses	4.00	
Ray Austin, work on fence & replacing signpost	85.00	
Anglian Water (Rec Grd)	100.65	
Lubbock Fine, Audit Fees	646.25	96.25
Steve Gage, Norton Security Renewal	35.00	
Suffolk ACRE Membership	25.00	
Suffolk ACRE Pavilion Insurance	397.68	
Robert Cook ( Refurb Village Signs)	110.00	
Clr Robinson (travel Expenses to Mellis)	22.32	

These accounts were approved for payment, on the proposal of Clr Sadler and seconded by Clr Robinson

b) Accounts Already Paid :-

Tiscali (DD telephone/broadband)	37.28	5.55
Cycle King		

c) Receipts :-

Thurston Football Club (Rec Grd)	288.00
Hire of Pavilion (Rec Grd a/c)	60.00

d) Quotations :-

i Ground work on pitches, Recreation Ground - The Clerk had been unable to procure any other quotations to undertake this work, and it was therefore agreed to accept the quotation received from M&TJ's Garden Services at a cost of £1,425 + VAT. Proposed Clr Sadler, seconded Clr Monk

ii A quotation to print the Emergency Plan leaflet had been received from Drecroft Printers at a cost of £189 for 1,500 copies. On the proposal of Clr Sadler, seconded Clr Miss Fleet, it was agreed to accept this quotation.

**13. Any Other Specified Business -**

a Representative on Thurston in Need Charities - on the proposal of Clr Robinson, seconded Clr Sadler it was agreed to propose Clr Mrs Service to continue in this position.

- b College Meeting Dates - after consultation, it was agreed to accept the proposed date of 28<sup>th</sup> April for the next liaison meeting between Thurston Community College and the PC.
- c War Memorial - dealt with in item 10a(4) above.
- d Funding the Village Website - on the proposal of Cllr Robinson seconded by Cllr Button, it was agreed that the PC will continue to fund the Village Website, after the Council's website is in operation.
- e Library funding - on the proposal of Cllr Robinson seconded Cllr M9onk, it was agreed in principle to continue with financial support for Library opening hours, within the constraints of the Council's budget.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10.35pm

**Date of next meeting, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008**

**Signed..... Chairman Date 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008**