

Thurston Parish Council Meeting
4th March 2009
THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 4th March 2009 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Office, New Green, Thurston

Present : Chairman Cllr Mrs Service, Cllrs Robinson, Monk. Button, Sadler and Miss Fleet

In Attendance : PC Graham Haygreen, C Cllr Mrs Otton

3 members of the public were present

The meeting opened at 7.35pm

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -

Representatives from Thurston Under 5's Group made application to the Council for assistance in identifying suitable land for a new building for the Group. The matter is minuted at item 13a of these minutes

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

1 Cllr Mrs Otton, concerned about the continuing poor condition of many road surfaces, which in some places now involved the tar itself sticking to vehicles tyres, had been in conversation with members of the County Council Highways team. They have asked the supplier to investigate the problem urgently.

2 A Speedwatch scheme set up in Felsham, Gedding, Beyton and Hessett should start in May.

3 Cllr Mrs Otton would like to hear from any resident who might be interested in becoming a School Governor in the future. **Clerk to place a notice in the Newsletter.**

4 Cllr Mrs Otton is funding the trophy to be presented to the winners of the forthcoming quiz night being organised by PC Haygreen.

5 Thurston ATC was to receive financial help towards the cost of the new trailer needed, from C Cllr Otton's Locality Budget.

6 Local Government Review now has a new deadline of 15th July for receipt of the Boundary Committees proposals by the Secretary of State. There may be a further consultation period instigated in March

7 Complete copies of the County Councils budget papers for the financial year 2009/2010 can be found on the Council's website

8 The County Council Head of Children's and young Peoples Services is leaving to take up similar employment with Kent CC.

POLICE REPORT

PC Haygreen delivered the following report - there had been 8 reported crimes during February 2009. 2 were of criminal damage; 1 was unauthorised access to computer material and 1 burglary of a building in Barton Road. The other 4 crimes relate to several incidents which took place on 28th February, involving gaining entry to 2 premises in School Road; an attempted entry into a vehicle parked in School Lane, and a shed in Birch Road being broken into. Police are still asking for information on these last 4 and residents are asked to contact PC1526 Burton on 01473 613500. PCSO Myall and a colleague had attended the Primary School to give a talk to the children and let them have a look around a Police car.

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| 1 Apologies - | Cllr Campbell | Unwell |
| | Cllr Mrs Clark | Holiday |
| | Cllr Dashper | Work Commitments |
| | Cllr Sprake | Holiday |

2 Declarations of personal/prejudicial interest from Councillors :- Cllr Button declared an interest in item 13a.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting - the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4th February 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 agreed that there will be no special guest speaker this year, and the Evening WI have agreed to oversee the refreshments for the evening, as in previous years.
- b) Council Vacancy - there had been no requests from residents to the District Council calling for an election. The vacancy will now be advertised for co-option. **Clerk to arrange.**
- c) To consider changing the date of the April meeting - In view of the tight deadline for receipt by Government-appointed Auditors of Parish Council's Annual Return and Audit papers this, the Clerk had requested that the April meeting be postponed to April 8th to enable 1st approval of the Accounts to be carried out without delay. Proposed Cllr Miss Fleet, seconded Cllr Robinson, all in favour.

6 Business Remaining -

- a) PCSO match-funding - .the sub-committee had met and now circulated a list of proposed preferred duties for the PCSO, to be sent to Police Inspector Gallant for consideration. The full list is attached to these minutes, and the following issues were approved by Council -
 - i) To provide a car - agreed, proposed Cllr Miss Fleet, seconded Cllr Monk, 5 for, 1 against
 - ii) The list of duties - agreed with the exception of point iii) below, proposed Cllr Sadler, seconded Cllr Monk, all in favour.
 - iii) Formation of new sub-committee to received interim reports from PCSO - deferred.
- b) Bus Shelter, School Road - after consideration, and confirmation of permission to site the shelter on the piece of land behind the bus stop from MSDC, it was agreed to order the shelter right away, proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Miss Fleet, all in favour. **Clerk to arrange**
- c) Using Probation Service personnel - information had been received from the Probation service office in Bury St Edmunds as to what duties could be performed by people on Community Service. After consideration, it was agreed to ask the Service to help with litter picking, and the clearing of footpaths, proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Monk, all in favour. It was further agreed to request a litter picking set of equipment from MSDC street cleaning team. **Clerk to arrange.**
- d) Grit bins - after consideration, it was agreed to order two new grit bins for installation in Howes Avenue and Pepper Lane. Proposed Cllr Miss Fleet, seconded Cllr Sadler, all in favour.
- e) Allotments - despite efforts to identify land available in the village, which the Council could lease to provide allotments, none had been found yet. **Clerk to contact George Hazell again.**
- f) Streetlighting near Post Office - the Clerk had contacted the Streetlighting technician at SCC making suggestions as to how the lighting here could be improved without the £5,000 estimated cost to install a new column across the road. No definitive response had been received as yet.
- g) Grass matting, New Green - having already paid for two attempts to get this area in good shape, Council agreed not to employ a contractor to put the surface right. Mr B Service kindly volunteered to spread soil over the matting and sow grass seed into it. Council registered it's gratefulness to Mr Service.

7 Chairman's Communications -

- a) The Chairman had received an invitation too attend the official opening of a new IT centre at the ATC on Monday 9th March.
- b) The Chairman had received a message from the ATC accepting the Council's offer to make a larger donation this year, and reduce the amount next year, to enable them to afford the new minibus.
- c) The Chairman had received notification that the AGM of Cavendish Hall will take place on 18th March at 7.30pm.

8 Questions from Councillors - There were none

9 Reports from Committees and Groups

a PLANNING -

i Planning Applications received :-

| | | |
|---------|---|---------|
| 3603/08 | Agricultural Building, land at Pepper Lane | OBJECT |
| SCC | Conversion of disused caretaker's garden, Comm College | SUPPORT |
| SCC | Erect canopy for use of Children's centre, Comm College | SUPPORT |

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| ii Planning Decisions received :- | | |
| 2367/08 | Gge extension, Cherry Tree, Hollow Lane | TO APPEAL |
| 4105/08 | Semi-det chalet bungalow, 20 Barleyfields | REFUSED |
| 2430/08 | Thurston Granary | AMENDED |
| | | APPROVAL |
| 3942/08 | Rear exts., Noo's Lodge, School Road | TO APPEAL |
| 0079/09 | Front porch, 25 Victoria Close | APPROVED |

- b RECREATION GROUND – it was reported that the door to the gents toilets was sticking on the new flooring. **Clerk to contact contractors to put right.** It was agreed to enquire as to whether or not the top immersion heaters at the Pavilion could be switched off, or connected to a timer, since at present they are on all the time. Having had a new light fitted to more adequately light the steps from the Pavilion onto Church Road, it was agreed to ask advice about lighting for the area outside the kitchen door. **Clerk to arrange.** It was agreed to ask the contractors to install the new play equipment in Heath Road Playing Field before the Easter holidays. **Clerk to arrange.** It was further agreed to ask the Village handyman if he is able to clear the proposed site of the installation of debris.
- c COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS –
- i) Cllr Monk had attended a meeting of the Ixworth Patients Association, and that he had become a volunteer driver for the surgery. An Open Meeting will be held in May.
- d VILLAGE REPORTS –
- i) Cllr Sadler reported tractors speeding down Heath Road.
- ii) The Chairman had noticed cars parking on the verges in Furze Close.
- e EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT – no report received
- f EMERGENCY RESPONDERS REPORT – Cllr Robinson reported that the Group had received three call-outs during the previous month, and that the group has one new applicant, one more interested party .

10 Reports from Officers of the Council

- a CLERK'S REPORT –
- 1 Information had been received regarding the Suffolk Preservation society's Annual Party, which will be held on 19th March.
 - 2 Cllr Mrs Clark, this Council's SALC representative was to be unable to attend the upcoming area meeting. No stand-in representative was available.
 - 3 Information had been received from the Flagship Housing Group, advising Council that they had been approached by a landowner interested in some of their land becoming an exceptions site for an Affordable Housing Scheme.
 - 4 Information had been received from MSDC regarding their provision of Annual Play Equipment Inspections. After consideration, it was agreed to ask for the Inspection to include Risk Assessment in all three play areas.
 - 5 Notice of Preliminary Inclusion in the Pharmaceutical List had recently been granted to a company from Manchester, naming 9 Barton Road as the preferred premises. The Clerk had determined that before these premises could be used, a planning application for a Change of Use would need to be submitted, and therefore Council would be consulted on the matter.
 - 6 An inspection of the Fire Equipment in the pavilion had been carried out, and shown that all the equipment is in good order.
 - 7 The Police had asked permission of the Council to have a small fridge and microwave in the Parish Office for the use of officers on late shifts. After discussion this was granted.
 - 8 The Council's Financial Risk Assessment form was considered, and found to be adequate in the view of the Council
 - 9 Details had been received of changes in the Streetlighting contract this Council has with Suffolk County Council. **Cllr Sadler to familiarise himself with the details and report anything major to Council.**
 - 10 Notice had been received that the C562 Mill Lane would be temporarily closed from 6th – 17th April for sewer installations works.
 - 11 A letter had been received from the Leader of Suffolk CC outlining the arrangements in place for the new deadline for the Boundary Committee to submit its

preferred options to the Government. Mr Pembroke warned Council that any previous comments submitted would probably not be re-considered meaning that it is important to submit new comments in this new consultation.

12 The renewal document for insurance at the Pavilion had been received, with an option to renew for 1 year, or to commit to three years, paying a lower rate each year. On the proposal of Cllr Sadler, seconded Cllr Robinson, all in favour, it was agreed to accept the option to commit to three years. **Clerk to arrange.**

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 | 87.96 | |
| Ray Austin, Handyman | 332.55 | |
| R Sadler, Cleaner/Caretaker Salary (Rec Grd a/c) | 104.00 | |
| Cllr Monk, travel to Ixworth | 5.87 | |
| Newflame, Fire Equipment Inspection | 91.59 | 11.94 |
| Anglian Water, Pavilion | 122.98 | |
| MJ Nunn, base and path to Youth Shelter | 1450.88 | 189.37 |
| E-on, Electricity, Pavilion | 303.70 | |
| SCC, Streetlighting contract (2 nd 6 months) | 3275.80 | 427.28 |
| R Cook, install new lock at Parish Office | 50.00 | |
| Suffolk ACRE, Pavilion Insurance | 402.00 | |
| Playquest, 30% deposit on play equipment for Heath Rd | 4946.92 | 645.25 |

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

b) Accounts already paid -

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| Tiscali, Broadband and Telephone | 17.60 | 2.30 |
| New Green Centre, Rent for March | 244.95 | 31.95 |

c) Receipts -

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| Thurston Football Club (Rec Grd) | 256.00 | |
|----------------------------------|--------|--|

d) Quotations re grass cutting, Heath Road Playing Field, and maintenance of Recreation Ground. These had been received from M&TJ's, and after consideration, it was agreed to accept the quotations at £50 per cut, Heath Road, and a total of £1,425 for work at the Recreation Ground, both + VAT, both the same figure as the previous year, proposed Cllr Monk, seconded Cllr Miss Fleet, all in favour.

e) Financial Risk Assessment - copies were circulated, and after consideration, this was approved, proposed Cllr Robinson, Seconded Cllr Sadler, all in favour

f) Asset Register - copies were circulated, and after consideration this was approved, proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Miss Fleet, all in favour.

13 Any Other Specified Business -

a) To consider letter from Under 5's Group re accommodation - after consideration of the information received at the beginning of the meeting, it was agreed to ask the Group to submit details of the structure required - **Clerk to arrange**

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10.25pm

Date of next meeting, Wednesday 8th April 2009

Signed..... Chairman Date 8th April 2009