

Thurston Parish Council Meeting
7th May 2008
THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 7th May 2008 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Church Road, Thurston

Present : Chairman Cllr Mrs Service, Cllrs Robinson, Button, Sprake, Campbell, Sadler, Pattle, Dashper, Monk and Mrs Clark

In Attendance : None

1 members of the public was present

The meeting opened at 7.33pm

- 1 **Election of Chairman** – Cllr Mrs J Service was proposed by Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Campbell. No other nominations. Cllr Mrs Service will serve as Chairman for the year 2008/9m, all in favour.
- 2 **Chairman to sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office** – The Chairman duly signed the Declaration, witnessed by the Proper Officer of the Council.
- 3 **Election of Vice Chairman** – Cllr A Sprake was proposed by Cllr Robinson, seconded by Cllr Mrs C Clark, all in favour.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

- 4 **Apologies** – Cllr Miss Fleet Other commitments
- 5 **Declarations of personal/prejudicial interest from Councillors** :- There were none
- 6 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** – the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2nd April 2008 were considered.
- 7 **Approval and Signature of Minutes** –the minutes were approved as a true and accurate record, proposed Cllr Campbell, seconded Cllr Sprake

THE CLERK DELIVERED THE FOLOWING REPORTS ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE, COUNTY CLLR MRS OTTON AND DISTRICT CLLR HALEY

POLICE – There were 13 reported crimes in Thurston during April, as follows :- 2 thefts from cars; 3 burglaries; 2 criminal damage; 1 racially aggravated harassment; 1 racially aggravated assault; 1 common assault; 1 drink driving; 1 domestic incident; 1 possession of firearm with intent to cause fear. Thurston Fun Run went ahead without incident from the Police point of view. There is a marked increase in thefts from vehicles and outbuildings, mostly because the property was not adequately secured, so Police would like to encourage residents to check their personal security arrangements

COUNTY CLLR MRS OTTON –

- a SCC Cabinet have agreed to consult on a national standard school year. There will be three proposals to consider –
 - i approximately 2 blocks of 7 weeks before Christmas and 4 blocks after Christmas
 - ii start the school year as close as possible to 1st September
 - iii a 2 week spring break in early April, regardless of Easter – where the break does not coincide, then a nationally agreed date as far as is practicable.

DISTRICT CLLR HALEY –

- i the SnOasis decision is due during the coming week, as is a draft report by the Audit Commission on MSDC's Strategic Housing Inspection
- ii Officers are continuing to carry out various pieces of work in relation to the Boundary Committee requests
- iii MSDC Environmental Policy Panel has agreed to recommend to Full Council that the N ATS proposals be rejected.

iv MSDC Scrutiny Committee have received an updated presentation from SCC with regard to the Schools Review, in which Thurston is in Group 3, which will be the last phase of any possible changes

8 Statutory Business -

a Clerks pay and conditions of service - (Clerk and Member of Public left the room). After discussion it was agreed to make no changes to the clerk's conditions of service, and to increase her pay in line with SCP 26 of the NALC recommended pay scales (revised April 2007) as from June 2008.

9 **Appointment of Groups and Representatives** - the following table of groups/committees within the Council was agreed :-

Recreation Ground Committee	Cllrs Sadler (Chair), Button and Campbell and Dashper
Finance Group	Cllrs Mrs Service, Sprake, Campbell and the Clerk
Website	The Clerk
Review of Standing Orders & Quality Council	Cllrs Robinson, Service and Campbell
SALC Representative	Cllr Mrs Clark
Cavendish Hall Representative	Cllr Pattle
Emergency Plan Group	Cllrs Sprake, Monk and Robinson, With Cllr Mrs Service in reserve
Footpaths Officer	Cllr Mrs Service
Charities Representative	Cllr Mrs Service
Ixworth Surgery Representative	Cllr Monk
Planning Committee Chairman	Cllr Button
Transport Liaison Officer	Cllr Pattle
Youth Liaison Officer	Cllr Miss Fleet

10 Business Remaining -

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

b Basketball hoop, youth shelter - A member of the public informed Council of residents' concerns re the proposed installation of a basketball hoop/football goalmouth combination at New Green. The suggestion was made that the equipment should be more spread around the Green, rather than all in one place on land near Field View and Ryefields. The Chairman assured the resident that his views would be taken into account in any discussions. It was agreed to apply for grant funding for the youth shelter, and to discuss all proposals with the New Green committee at a meeting scheduled for 12th May.

c Office Accommodation, New Green - Details of the Portakabin which New Green are supplying as temporary accommodation for the Council had been received, and a few queries had been sent for their consideration. It is expected that this will be in place by the end of May 2008. The Clerk had arranged for BT to take back the telephone line, which will happen on 27th May, and after that an application to move the line to the Portakabin will be submitted.

d Streetlight at Woodland Close - The column for this light has been erected, and EDF have been approached to connect the electricity supply. No date for this is yet known.

e Bus Shelter, Heath Road - This had been installed but it had emerged that the Council was not given correct sizes for the construction of the base, which is a little too small. Therefore, the contractors had fitted the shelter a little outside of the base on two sides. The Clerk has instructed the groundwork contractor to make good the base to fit the shelter, and has petitioned the Bus Shelter Company to contribute to this extra expense.

f Boundary Committee - it was agreed not to submit any comments on the review currently under way.

11 Chairman's Communications -

a Letters of complaint had been received from several residents of Wheatfields, whose homes back onto the New Green open space., regarding the bad behaviour of campers attending the recent car event held there. These had been forwarded to the New Green Administration for reply.

b Articles had been written in the local press regarding the increase in the Parish Council's element of Council Tax, and the chief reporter of the EADT had spoken with the Clerk on the subject. Following this conversation, which consisted of a full explanation of the reasons for the seemingly huge rise, the newspaper will not be printing anything further on the subject.

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

13 Reports from Committees and Groups

a PLANNING -

Several letters of objection to the proposed development at 1-3 Old Norton Road were received, and noted

i Planning Applications received :-

1092/08	1 New dwelling, land at Cedars Close	SUPPORT
1288/08	1 transmission dish, Thurston Primary School	SUPPORT
1422/08	Remove 1 Acacia Tree, 21 Blackbird Close	SUPPORT
1588/08	Retention of Extension to Outbuildings, 2 Norton Road	OBJECT

ii Planning Decisions received :-

0481/08	Improvements, Thedwastre White House	GRANTED
0732/08	Rear and side extensions, 37 Barton Rd	GRANTED
0646/08	Gge, Store & home office, Glebe Cottage, Church Rd	REFUSED
0526/08	side extension, Cherry Trees, Hollow Lane	REFUSED
2513/07	Det gge & new access, 49 Genesta Drive	TO APPEAL
1422/08	Remove 1 Acacia Tree, 21 Blackbird Close	GRANTED

b RECREATION GROUND -

i) Pavilion - Council noted that the new surface on the floor in the Meeting Room was very good. Cllr Button will seek quotations for the work needed on the floors of the toilets there.

c COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS -

i The Chairman reported that the liaison meeting with the College was a good one. The College will be closed for the summer to facilitate an overhaul of the alarm system.

ii The Chairman had attended a meeting of the Cluster Group at the College, and reported that Beyton Middle School will be holding some of the usual summer activities held at the College under normal circumstances. It was agreed that this Council will not fund the insurance for these activities. Arrangements for pupils involved with examinations will be the same as last year, with letters being sent to parents.

iii Cllr Monk had attended a meeting of the Ixworth Patients Participation Group where it had been reported that Doctor who had recently been dismissed from the practice is taking the matter to Tribunal.

d VILLAGE REPORTS -

i Cllr Robinson reported that the new Street nameplate in Howes Avenue is now in place. He further commented that many streets in the village are in need of being swept and verges need cutting. **The Clerk will report these matters.**

ii Cllr Monk reported overgrown hedges in Heath Road. **The Clerk will write to the residents concerned.**

iii Cllr Dashper reported that the bus timetable display outside the Parish Office had been painted over. The Clerk advised that the Officer responsible for this at Suffolk CC had recently visited the village and was aware of this problem.

iv Cllr Pattle reported potholes in Stoney Lane. **The Clerk will report his matter.**

v The Chairman reported that the street nameplate outside 52 Heather Close had not been replaced, and that the pothole in Heath Road at the junction of Hawthorn Close had not been repaired. **The Clerk will chase up these reports.**

e EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT - Cllr Sprake reported that the Emergency Plan packs were ready for delivery around the village. The Group recommended to Council that high visibility jackets should be provided for Cllrs to wear for identification in the event of an Emergency situation. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Cllr Robinson reported successfully locating some medical information tubes which contain a form on which residents can list their medical conditions and medications, which can be stored somewhere like the refrigerator for professionals such as paramedics to access in an emergency. The cost is £175 for 500, and on the proposal of Cllr Sadler, seconded Cllr Monk, all in favour, it was agreed to purchase these for distribution to vulnerable people within the village.

- f EMERGENCY RESPONDERS REPORT – Cllr Robinson reported 2 call outs in Thurston since the last meeting. Four new residents had shown an interest in the group, three from Thurston and 1 from Beyton.
- g REPORT ON MEETING RE YOUTH CLUB – Cllr Robinson reported that this group had now folded due to lack of support from residents to help with the running of a Youth Club.

14 Reports from Officers of the Council

- a CLERK’S REPORT –
 - 1 MSDC is holding a Planning Training Session in the Council Chamber at Needham Market on 22nd May from 3pm – 6pm
 - 2 MSDC is seeking to appoint a Parish representative to sit on their Standards Committee.
 - 3 SALC is hosting a series of events re Crime Prevention in the Community
 - 4 Details of training courses hosted by SALC re Management of Meetings, and Code Conduct were received.
 - 5 MSDC – a summary of representations re the Core Strategy:Examination in public of the Local Development Framework was available for Cllrs on the DC’s website.
 - 6 Copies of responses received by Suffolk CC re the recent application for Preliminary Consent for inclusion in the Pharmaceutical List were received.
 - 7 Details of the new National Standard Planning Application Form (1APP) were received.
 - 8 A letter had been received from MSDC Planning Enforcement re a breach of Planning Control at 84 Barton Road
 - 9 The Electricity Account re the Pavilion remains in credit
 - 10 NALC’s Annual Conference will be in the Winter Gardens, Eastbourne on 20-22 May 2008 and is entitled ‘Making Local Connections’
 - 11 A response to Council’s concerns re the request to site a marquee on the Recreation Ground for a wedding in June 2009 had been received and was considered, after which Cllrs voted 1 for, 3 abstentions and 6 against the request. Cllrs will advise the Clerk of their thoughts re a reply.
 - 12 Details of the Suffolk ACRE Community Achievement Awards were received for Council to consider any possible nominees.

15 Resolutions or Recommendation already received – There were none

16 Finance

- a) Accounts Awaiting Payment :-

COMPANY	AMOUNT	VAT
Mrs K Savage, Clerk’s Salary	658.84	
Mrs K Savage, Clerk’s Expenses	182.18	
Ray Austin, Handyman’s Contract	322.87	
Ray Austin, Purchase 1 pot of paint	10.00	
Pavilion Caretaker/Cleaner Salary (Rec Grd)	104.00	
Cllr Monk, travel to Ixworth PPG	11.16	
MSDC, Pest Control, Cavendish Hall	164.50	24.50
Energy Collection Services (overdue elec a/c)	321.49	
SAFEchild, expenses re Youth Club	30.00	
GasPlumb Ltd, (Rec Grd)	58.75	8.75
Drecroft Printers, Emergency Info Leaflet	189.00	
Neat Ideas	132.11	19.68
SALC Membership	713.00	
CPRE Membership	28.00	
Cavendish Hall (Hire for APM)	20.00	
Garrick Outdoor (Bus shelter)	3,838.72	571.72

With the exception of the payment to Garrick Outdoor, these accounts were approved for payment, on the proposal of Cllr Campbell and seconded by Cllr Robinson

- b) Accounts already paid -

Tiscali (DD for Telephone and Broadband)	36.61	5.45
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c) To agree donations – on the proposal of Cllr Sadler, seconded Cllr Dashper, it was agreed to make the following donations :-

Thurston Kids Club	£100
New Green Centre	£3,500
Thurston Methodist Church	£250
St Peter's Church	£1,000
Thurston Newsletter	£200
ATC	£500
Scouts	£500
Ixworth Patients Participation Group	£100
Suffolk Family Carers	£120
W. Suffolk Voluntary Assoc for the Blind	£100

d) Receipts :-

MSDC, Grant for Streetlight, New Green Overflow Car Park 635.00

e) To Approve End-of-year Accounts, previously circulated - on the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded Cllr Robinson, these Accounts were approved, and will now be submitted to the Internal Auditor.

f) To consider annual tender for services, received from Village Handyman - on the proposal of Cllr Sprake, seconded Cllr Sadler, this tender for £332.55 per month was approved, all in favour.

17 Any Other Specified Business –

- a) Allotments – information had been received from Mr Paul Myatt, the landowner, with regard to proposed improvements at the allotment site, allowing there to be space for more allotments. It was noted that all funds received are donated to the St Nicholas Hospice.
- b) BT Proposals to remove telephone kiosk, Barton Road – it was agreed to object to this proposal – there is only 1 other kiosk in the village, in Woodland Close. In the event of the mobile telephone networks going down, the use of the kiosks could save lives. **The Clerk will respond accordingly.**

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

Date of next meeting, Wednesday 4th June 2008

Signed..... Chairman Date 4th June 2008