

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Emergency Planning Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12th November 2020 at 9.30am by VIDEOCONFERENCE of Thurston Parish Council.

Present (by video): Cllrs. Rainbow (Chair), Cllrs. Morris, Thurlbourn and West. Also in attendance (by video): Mrs V Waples, Parish Clerk.

1. OPENING – the Vice-Chair of the Parish Council took the role of Chair for the meeting and opened the meeting advising all that the Video Protocol adopted by the Parish Council, would be enacted for this meeting. A copy of the Protocol is available from the Clerk or can be downloaded from the website: <https://thurstonparishcouncil.uk/parish-council/policies-procedures-and-strategy/>
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –
 - a) Apologies for absence were noted from Cllr. Towers due to internet issues.
 - b) The meeting agreed to accept the apologies as submitted.
3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS INCLUDING GIFTS OF HOSPITALITY EXCEEDING £25 –
 - a) To receive declarations of pecuniary, local non-pecuniary interest(s) and personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature including gifts of hospitality exceeding £25 – there were no declarations declared for the agenda under discussion.
 - b) To receive requests for dispensations – none had been received prior to the meeting.
4. PUBLIC FORUM – Members of the public –

to receive questions and matters of concern from those present on the agenda under discussion – there were no members of the public present
5. TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR THURSTON -
 - a) To consider additions to the areas to be added to the map of those prone to flooding over the course of 2019/2020 - the meeting confirmed that there were no new areas to be added although concerns were raised over the extent to which water was collecting in the ditches adjacent to Linden Homes. The Clerk was requested to obtain verification as to the extent of the drainage system being built at this corner of the village. It was agreed that the Clerk would now explore the possibility of uploading the agreed onto a map to allow a visual record to be kept.
 - b) To carry out a review of the status of the grit bins within the village – it was confirmed that the review had been carried out and that the following course of action would be taken:
 - Village Handyman to be asked to clear brambles / debris from those areas identified
 - SCC be asked once more to fill the grit bin at the junction of The Acorns
 - The committee recommend to full Council that two replacement bins be ordered in place of the broken bins at the Library Car Park and the junction of Genesta Drive / Heath Road, aif. It was agreed that, given the damage that seems to be continually sustained to the latter bin, it should be moved 5-6 yards away from the junction.
 - c) To consider whether there is any further information with regards to the continuation of the COVID-19 Emergency Plan to be published - it was considered that currently all necessary information was being distributed to the NACs and that the current system was adequate as the level of activity remained very low. There had not been any increase in requests as a result of the current lockdown. The Clerk confirmed that the PC is registered as a “Message Cascader” and as much information is disseminated as possible via the NACs and on the website.

Signed:..... Chairman

14.01.2021

d) To consider how to disseminate information into the new areas currently being built out and make recommendations to the parish council – it was noted that all of the sites offices were willing to place information from the Parish Council into the sales packs given to those who completed their house purchases. The issue raised was that the PC was not aware as to the properties that had completed. The clerk agreed to contact the Sales Offices direct and see whether a monthly update could be had to allow those who were already in situ to continue to receive necessary publications. The meeting did however agree that the coverage of the new areas in terms of leaflet and postcard drops should be considered further by the Parish Council with perhaps the reinstatement of “Councillor Areas”. It was also considered that once all the housing developments were built out, the Parish Council should seek to increase its numbers in terms of Councillors to ensure even coverage around the village.

6. TO CONSIDER ANY FURTHER AREAS THAT SHOULD BE EXPLORED IN TERMS OF EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR THURSTON – Cllr. Towers had suggested that there was the possibility of the Volunteer Network being extended after the current pandemic has been officially declared as over. All were in agreement that this should be explored at that stage.
7. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT EMERGENCY PLANNING MEETING – post meeting this has been changed to Thursday 14th January at 9.00am at which the full Emergency Plan for Thurston will be added to the agenda.
8. CLOSE OF MEETING - There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.05.am.