

**Notes of the Meeting of the Thurston Climate Awareness and Environment Committee Meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 via the Zoom Videoconferencing platform commencing at 7.00pm.**

In Attendance: Cllr Nigel Turner, Cllrs Cornell, Haley, Hay, Morris and Thurlbourn.

1. OPENING – the Chairman 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 –
  - a) There were no applicable apologies for absence.
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 further declarations declared.
  - b) To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda – there were none declared.
  - c) To receive requests for dispensations – none had been received prior to the meeting.
4. To consider and approve the notes of the previous meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 (*all as previously circulated*) and to agree that delegated authority be given to the Chair to sign the minutes outside of the meeting –
  - a) 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 - all were in agreement that the minutes as written were a true and accurate record of the meeting that took place, aif.
  - b) Climate Awareness: to consider the following matters:
    - a) Review of card delivery/feedback – thank you to all who managed to deliver before the end of December. The Youth Council were still to deliver their portion once the current restrictions had been uplifted. Positive feedback was received from Beyton Parish Council who were planning on doing something similar and locally a number of residents had given positive comments with thanks for items being raised/signposted.
    - b) Planning for the recycling centre – the meeting were made aware of the request from New Green Centre for the types of units required along with an indication of size. It was noted that most units were 1mtr square or diameter in size. Ixworth Recycling Centre had been visited by some of the committee and was seen as a good example to be used as a template. It was unknown the space that was to be allocated but the New Green Centre were interested in being given a steer on this by the Parish Council. The meeting was made aware that Thurston Community Centre was a TerraCycle centre for those hard to recycle items. It was agreed that the recycle centre should offer bins to enable the following to be recycled: shoes, clothes, inkjet cartridges, mixed paper and small electrical items. Cllr. Thurlbourn had taken measurements of the area at Ixworth and had passed them to the New Green Centre for consideration. All were in agreement that similar items as to those on the Ixworth site should be explored and that this should be the preferred option going forward, aif. It was further agreed that the Deputy Clerk should approach the New Green Trust for an online meeting to assist with taking this forward, aif. Once the dates were known, an invitation to attend would be circulated to the committee members.

Signed: Chairman.....

25.02.2021

c) Next steps (developing priorities for 2021) –

- Cllr. Turner had attended a virtual meeting recently with the Hive Forum with a couple of positive outcomes that might be of interest to take forward: 1) umbrella organization to bring community groups together to coordinate ideas to be taken forward 2) virtual online session where they would look to explore a number of varying matters from different perspectives. Cllr. Turner was hopeful that this forum and attendance could be embraced by the Parish Council.
- Cleanliness of recycling area – all were in agreement that the area must be kept clean with regular checks and possibly employment of a person to look after the area.
- Planting of common areas – it was agreed that it would be positive to link up with neighbouring parishes as to how they were progressing this matter. The meeting noted that Risby had received recognition of their recent Wildlife Project and that such initiatives should be explored by the Parish Council.
- Funding – Jessica Fleming at MSDC had confirmed that there is funding for climate initiative works.
- Card drop – repeated at a later stage with a different emphasis.
- Surveys – good idea to promote interaction via this format to allow an ongoing dialogue.
- Website – it was noted that there was an aim to have a presence on the website for Green/Environment matters by the end of the month and that this would be something the Deputy Clerk would work upon.
- Climate Awareness Walks – signposting various aspects of the environment / action being undertaken by local persons/farmers.
- Revamp the Footpath Map with positive steps for action that all can take during such walks.
- Council should look at ways it could promote/raise the profile as to what action is being undertaken by the Parish Council in terms of tree planting, rewilding etc.

c) Environment: to consider the following matters:

- a) Report from Cllr. Morris on the on areas of green spaces in Thurston that were most suited for the planting of new trees – having reviewed the paper submitted, it was agreed that the Council's Officers should initiate a conversation with MSDC to ascertain ownership of the land mentioned in the report to allow for permission to be given for the planting. It was also agreed that a conversation should be had to discuss whether some areas could not be mown on a regular regime which in itself would encourage more flowering plants to thrive. This would be returned to the committee with an update once more information was forthcoming.

d) Date of the next meeting: the date for the next meeting was set at Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm via the Zoom videoconferencing platform.

e) There being no further business the meeting closed at 7:43pm.