

## THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL - Recreational Facilities Committee

**Minutes of the meeting of the Recreational Facilities Committee held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 6.00pm in the Community Library, Norton Road.**

In attendance: Cllr. B Rainbow (Chair), B Morris, J West, Vicky Waples (Clerk) and Mrs A King (Deputy Clerk).

1. **Chair's Welcome** - the Chair opened the meeting advising all that the Protocol adopted by the Parish Council for reporting at Parish Council Meetings, 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. **To receive Apologies of Absence** – Apologies received from Cllrs Bond, Hay and Grant and were accepted. AIF.
3. **To receive Declarations of Pecuniary and local Non-Pecuniary Interests** – there were no declarations of pecuniary and/or local non-pecuniary interest for the agenda under discussion.
4. **To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meetings:**
  - a) 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022 – approval of the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting that took place was given by all present, aif. The Chair signed the minutes in accordance with legislation.
5. **To receive comments from the members of the public present:**
  - a) On the agenda under discussion – None received
  - b) On any other matters relating to recreational matters within the village of Thurston – None received.  
Representations were made from Thurston Football Club and the Skate Park Committee. At the Chair's discretion, comments were received from the relevant parties during agenda items 10,11 and 12.
6. **To receive and consider matters relating to the Monthly Risk Assessments Reports:**
  - a) To receive updates on previous works highlighted in the Monthly Risk Assessments for action:  
Heath Road Play Area — Cradle swing: Cllr West confirmed that the cradle had been replaced.  
New Green Play Area – Rotator: Mrs King confirmed that Kompan were expected to install new equipment on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.
  - b) To consider matters on the Monthly Risk Assessment Reports for the following and agree appropriate actions arising:
    - Heath Road Play Area: Cllr West reported a broken fence post and holes in the chicken wire in perimeter fence. Also noted was the bark surface in the play area, it is shallow and needs adding to. Mrs King to investigate costs of additional replacement bark.  
The new bench has been installed, but one of the screws is missing and has been replaced by a large nail. Mrs King is to report it to open space who installed it.

To be signed by the Chair at the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022

An adult bike has been discarded in the hedgerow, Cllr West is to retrieve it and the PC will dispose of it.

- New Green Play Area – no new items to report.
- Recreation Ground Play Area – Cllr Morris reported a broken fence panel blown across the recreation ground, it was agreed that a letter would be sent to the home owner to remove it. If this is not actioned, it was resolved that the PC would have it removed.
- Community Shelter, New Green Open Space – the incidents of graffiti has drastically increased. Both litter bins and the community shelter need to be cleaned. Some of the graffiti on the shelter is crude and offensive.
- Gym Trail, New Green Open Space – no items to report.
- Rotator, New Green Open Space – The new rotator is due to be replaced on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022. Also noted was some matting that was sticking out and a trip hazard. Cllr Rainbow to investigate it further.
- Coco Wave, New Green Open Space – nothing new to report.

#### **7. To receive and consider all Financial Matters Coming Forth**

- a) To receive the accounts to date – the bank balance on March 30<sup>th</sup> 2022 stood at £1509.95 and was noted by all.
- b) To approve items for payment –  
Invoices for SHO Cleaning and Maintenance £276.25 – approved  
British Gas electricity £300.64 – approved  
The committee also noted that the funds received January to March totalled £743.75, with expected funds of £1256.75 still to be settled.  
The deputy clerk made the committee aware of the Business Rates demand for 2022/23, and advised that the discretionary rate relief award had been applied.
- c) To review and approve the annual insurance policy for 01/04/22 – 31/03/23 – reviewed and approved by all.

#### **8. To receive and consider matters relating to the following:**

- a) Update for works to matting area under the play equipment on the Recreation Ground, Church Road. The deputy clerk reported that a playground consultant had visited and raised concerns about the matting's compliance. It was agreed that the ground maintenance team will be advised not to mow over the matting and an impact absorption survey will be carried out on all play areas. The deputy clerk is to action.
- b) To receive a maintenance report on any matters relating to the interior or exterior of the pavilion: Cllr Morris reported a broken spindle in the exterior woodwork, and the Clerk advised of a leaking tap in the changing rooms. Maintenance have been advised.
- c) To receive an update on cleaning of all the play equipment: The deputy clerk advised that the planned jet washing of all the play equipment was to be undertaken as soon as the weather permits.
- d) Update and review of works carried out by Urban Forestry on the trees at the Recreation Ground: Following an inspection of the works by Cllr Morris and West, they reported that they were happy with the work that had been carried out.

#### **9. To receive an update from the Clerk regarding the meeting held with Officers at MSDC to discuss the site assessments for recreational and leisure facilities in Thurston:**

The clerk reported that of the 12 sites that were assessed, 7 were identified as suitable for further investigation. In particular site 12 could be considered as a potential skate park and site 9 could be considered for organised sports, such as football.

Pepper Lane use was discussed as a solution to possible access issues with site 9. It could be made into a quiet lane to allow for user crossings.

It was noted that the former primary school site is currently being used as a SEND school and is under a short-term license for 18 months.

Following the proposal for the Thurston Community College extension, it is expected that the land option will be exercised soon, any surplus land not required by the college will be offered to Persimmon.

**10. To receive and consider the proposal submitted by Thurston Football Club and agree comments to relay back to the club regarding it:** It was agreed and fed back to the club representative present that more detailed information was required, in particular:

- Plans for the land
- How much land
- What facilities were needed
- How many pitches
- Costings for the project
- Carry out a traffic survey of the site
- What other funding pots are available
- Carparking facilities and auxiliary services to cope with the development
- Timescales
- Community User Agreement
- What other sports could use the land
- How would the facility be managed

The representative agreed to come back to the committee at a later date with all the extra information to hand. The committee reaffirmed their commitment to help as much as they could with the project as it would be a much-needed asset to the community.

**11. To carry out a site assessment of the proposed area in the vicinity of the railway line as submitted by the Chair of the Skate Park Committee:** It was confirmed that a plot of land had been offered to the Skate Park Committee as a potential site. Following discussion and using the same criteria as all the other sites in Thurston it was agreed that the site be assessed as neutral.

Whilst there are elements that could prove to be problematic, it was noted that this is the only feasible location currently available. It was agreed that pre-planning advice would be sort from West Suffolk before any final decision on the site would be made. The Skate Park representative agreed that the pre planning application fee would be funded by them.

**12. To consider any suitable sites that have a smooth, flat surface for a mean-while or temporary skatepark project in Thurston and take them forward for recommendation to full council:** Following a meeting between the Skate Suffolk it is hoped an event showcasing skateboarding could be organised in Thurston during the summer holidays. It is hoped that it will raise awareness and alleviate any fears or preconceived opinions of skateboarding. Sites that were put forward were:

- TCC carpark

- Victoria pub carpark
- Old primary school site
- New green carpark
- Recreation ground carpark (Right hand side of cavendish hall)
- New primary school carpark

The size requirement and duration of the event still needs to be ascertained, including the materials used for the ramps -for example metal can be very noisy.

It was agreed that Needham Market would be contacted as they carried out a similar event recently.

- 13. To review the revised recreational and leisure site assessments for sites 4,5,6,7,8,9 and 11, and approve any amendments forthcoming:** Cllr Morris advised that site 9 should be amended: 20 acres of arable field not pasture. All approved this amendment.
- 14. To consider the costs including installation of new, permanent goal posts for the New Green Open Space area and if council is in agreement recommend that the purchase be taken to full council for authorisation:** The deputy clerk advised on the cost to replace the current goals as like for like. It was discussed that the goal posts could be the next size up and should have extra sockets so they could be moved to allow the ground to repair/be maintained, etc.  
The deputy clerk will report back at the next meeting with the costs for these extra requirements.
- 15. To consider the request to erect a bench on the recreation ground in memory of 3 young friends who grew up together in Thurston and sadly passed away within a few years of each other:** It was agreed that the deputy clerk would go back to the resident who requested the bench and suggest that a plaque placed on an existing bench would be a better option.
- 16. To review the terms of reference for the Recreational and Leisure Facilities Committee regarding additional responsibilities coming forward:** The changes to the terms of reference were noted, and the committee were advised that the terms had been agreed at the last full council meeting.
- 17. Date of the next Meeting:** 27th April 2022 commencing at 6pm in the Thurston Community Library.
- 18. To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted - none to be discussed.**
- 19. Close of meeting** – there being no further business to transact the Chair closed the meeting at 18.45.