

## THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL – Recreational and Leisure Facilities Committee

**Minutes of the meeting of the Recreational Facilities Committee held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at 6.30pm in the Community Library, Norton Road.**

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

Also in attendance: 12 members of the public

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** – Cllrs Grant, Hay and Morris sent their apologies due to personal commitments, these were accepted by all.
3. **Declarations of Interests** – there were no declarations of disclosable registrable or non-registrable interest for the agenda under discussion.
4. **To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meetings:**
  - a) 20<sup>th</sup> July 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 –**  
The following concerns were raised over the proposed 33 acre site along Heath Road:
    - It should be noted that the bridge over the railway line at Heath Road has been constructed to accommodate horses as well as pedestrians and bicycles.
    - An acoustic survey should be recommended to establish the potential increase in noise generated by the skate park and football facilities to surrounding residents.
    - It should be noted that following the building of the Housing 21 extra care retirement living accommodation vulnerable residents will be in close proximity to the proposed development.
    - If the access point to the site for traffic were to be from Barton Road, steps to prevent traffic trying to access the site from Heath Road should be undertaken. For example, bollards in the road past the residential houses which would still allow for a throughway for pedestrians, cyclists and horses. These would need to be moveable to allow access for bridge maintenance vehicles.
    - To ensure pedestrian safety accessing the site along Heath Road, the footpath provision should be extended to the site.
    - Consideration should be given to the railway bridge safety and railway line beneath. With the increase in youth expected due to the nature of the facilities planned, Network Rail should be consulted for suggestions that would help mitigate any potential ASB related problems.
    - The site is more appropriate for a native heathland (note the road name – Heath Road) rather than woodland.

To be signed by the Chair at the meeting to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022

- Given the targeted age group and associated issues it would be better to spread the facilities through the village rather than concentrated in one area.
  - The charity should be able to demonstrate their ability to manage and finance such a large site in the long term in order to future proof the site from disrepair.
  - Concerns were raised regarding the lack of means of engagement/information distribution being offered to the residents regarding progression of the development. Currently the charity intends to set up a Facebook page. This is not acceptable; many residents do not use the social media platform. A website would reach many more people.
- b) **On any other matters relating to recreational matters within the village of Thurston –** None received.

**6. To consider and review the site assessments of the recreation and leisure facilities to be placed on Heath Road (33 acre site), and following any amendments to recommend that the assessment be taken to full council for further consideration:**

Given the points raised in the public forum It was agreed that these would be incorporated into the current site assessments and they would then be taken forward to full council for discussion and adoption.

**7. 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: the glass fragments have been cleared away.
- Thedwastre Play Park Area: graffiti is still evident, the clerk is to chase maintenance.
- New Green Open Space: The tree branches have been cleared away.

b) **To consider matters on the Monthly Risk Assessment Reports for the following and agree appropriate actions arising:**

- Heath Road Play Area: nothing new to report
- Thedwastre Play Area: A small amount of graffiti is present on the three way springer. The clerk is to make maintenance aware.
- New Green Open Space: The inside roof of the youth shelter has been damaged. The substance is unknown, but the clerk is confident that it will wash off. The matter will be reported to maintenance.

**8. To note the purchase of anti-graffiti paint for the Community Shelter:** Duly noted.

**9. To note the purchase of goal posts and sockets for the New Green Open Space:** Duly noted.

**10. To discuss the findings of the visit by the clerk, Cllr Rainbow, Morris and Bond to Heath Road to inspect the play area and consider suggestions for remedial action:** It was reported that the wood surrounds to the climbing area were rotten and needed replacing, and the wood chippings were uneven in areas of high use.

The clerk reported that spare wood that was left over from the recycling facility build had been used by maintenance to build a new surround, and she had obtained a quote from a local company for more wood chippings. It was agreed that as the annual play inspection report was due to be carried out imminently, and the committee would wait

to receive those findings and recommendations regarding the depth of wood chippings before proceeding further.

- 11. To receive an update regarding quotes for matting areas under the play equipment on the Recreation Ground and Thedwastre Park:** The clerk reported that the site visits by the suppliers had been planned, but as yet had not been carried out.
- 12. To note the findings of the tree survey on New Green open space that was carried out by Urban Forestry:** Duly noted.
- 13. To take nominations and agree which Councillors will represent the Council on the Heath Road working group meetings:** It was agreed that Cllr Rainbow and Cllr West would represent at the working group meetings, Cllr Grant will be asked as a third representative at the next meeting.
- 14. To discuss the possibility of subscribing to High Street Safari and creating an AR Storytrail for Christmas. [The Luminauts AR Trails – High Street Safari](#):** All in favour of taking this idea forward. It was agreed that it would be an opportunity to work in partnership with the primary school and local businesses. The clerk is to initially make contact with the primary school head to discuss it further, with the funding of the project to be sort via a small grant bid to the PC.
- 15. Date of the next Meeting:** 28 September 2022 commencing at 6.30pm in the Thurston Community Library.
- 16. 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 transacted.
- 17. Close of meeting –** there being no further business to transact the Chair closed the meeting at 20.06