

**THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 7.30pm in the Community Library, Thurston Community College, Thurston.

**In the Chair: Chair Cllr. Dashper**

**Present:** Cllrs. Fawcett, Masters, Mrs Morris, Moss, Mrs O'Connell and Rainbow

**In Attendance:** Mrs V Waples, Clerk, County Cllr. P. Otton, District Cllr. D Haley, 4 members of the public and 1 representative from Pigeon Land Development Ltd.

1. **OPENING** – The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30 pm and thanked all for attending. A statement was read out indicating that, in accordance with the changes in legislation, the public and councillors were permitted to film, record, photograph or use social media to report on the proceedings of the meeting. A full transcript is available from the Clerk.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** –
  - a. Apologies for absence – apologies of absence had been received from Cllr. Hasler for personal commitments. Council noted that Cllr. Thomas had, for personal reasons, requested a further 1-month sabbatical from the Parish Council.
  - b. Approval of apologies for absence – Council agreed to approve the apologies submitted for absence, aif.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS INCLUDING GIFTS OF HOSPITALITY EXCEEDING £25** –
  - a. The following Pecuniary Interests for the Agenda under discussion were declared:  
Cllrs. Dashper and Fawcett as recipients of cheques to be raised for Council incurred expenditure.  
The following local non-pecuniary interests for the Agenda under discussion were declared:  
Cllrs. Fawcett and Mrs O'Connell as Friends of Thurston Library.  
There were no gifts of hospitality exceeding £25 declared.
  - b. There were no declarations of lobbying by those Councillors present.
  - c. There were no requests for dispensations for the Agenda under discussion.
  - d. To note the requirement for all Councillors to monitor their Register of Interests and to notify changes within 28 days of the change occurring – all Councillors were asked to review their own Register of Interest and advise the Clerk of any changes. A time limit of 2 weeks was agreed to carry this out and it was noted that the Clerk was in the process of setting up a link that would allow Councillors the ability to carry out their own amendments on line. This review covered all Cllrs. who have Registers over a year old.
4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and Planning Committee Meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018 were agreed as true and accurate records, aif. The Chairman of the meeting duly signed the minutes as such.

The Parish Council meeting was closed to allow the Public Forum to take place.

5. **PUBLIC FORUM** –
 

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS OTTON'S REPORT** – Cllr. Otton was invited to submit her written report – a summary of which is repeated below (the full version can be seen at Appendix C):

  - Cabinet confirms budget proposals

So signed by the Chairman at a meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018

- On 23 January, the Conservative Cabinet at Suffolk County Council confirmed the final budget proposals for 2018-19. These proposals will be debated at a Council meeting on 8 February, where all councillors will vote on them.
- A number of the cuts proposed as part of the council's savings plan. These are outlined below:  
£12m cuts to Adult Care  
£20,000 cut to Citizens Advice  
£15,000 cut to Greenways Countryside Project  
Rural transport cuts - £15,000 will be cut from the sponsored bus services budget, which will result in a reduced number of rural bus services.
- Increased hourly funding rate for childcare providers - On 11 January, the Schools Forum decided that the base hourly rate for providers should increase to £4.00 (previously £3.87), whilst the amount retained by Suffolk County Council should reduce to 3.8% (6.3%).
- SCC will be borrowing £21m to pay for road resurfacing - Suffolk County Council are planning to borrow an additional £21m over the next three years, to pay for road resurfacing. The plan is to resurface 1,000 miles of roads by March 2021. However, this accounts for only 25% of the road network in Suffolk, and so will only scratch the surface.
- SCC are proposing a cut of £300,000 to the winter maintenance budget by reducing the amount of gritting carried out in the winter months. There is little point in borrowing £21m to resurface Suffolk roads, if the Council are not willing to invest the necessary funding for road maintenance.
- Final few weeks of school transport consultation - the school transport consultation will end on 28 February 2018, and I would urge you all to respond – the consultation can be found here: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel>
- Planning approved for a new heritage centre in Ipswich - on 16 January, the Development Control Committee approved a scheme to build a new heritage centre near the Ipswich Waterfront. This will be known as "The Hold". It will house the bulk of Suffolk's archival collections and will also include teaching spaces for the University of Suffolk. The project is expected to cost £20m. Funding has been received from the county council, the University of Suffolk, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Wolfson Foundation.
- I have asked for the highways department to look at all the road signs that have been removed or fallen because of the past bad weather.
- As part of the district council's economic strategy where it has asked for improvements to Stowmarket station, I have asked that Thurston and Elmswell be included.

When asked she agreed to chase MSDC and SCC for details on the planning conditions relating to the five significant planning applications approved on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017; to chase SCC Highways Dept. for the non-signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for Small Highway Maintenance Project Works.

Cllr. Otton also made the meeting aware that effective 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 there would be works on the A14 overnight between Haughley and Woolpit and that one carriage way will be closed with diversions in place.

When questioned as to who to complain to on the state of the roads vis-à-vis potholes and the dangers they posed to all users she agreed to take up serious issues on behalf of residents.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS** –Cllr. Haley was invited to submit his report in which he commented on the following items:

- Noted email from Cllr. Moss on the history of the Recreational Ground and issue surrounding the school footprint and Glebe Land – he felt it was a good source of history and might be a valid point raised.
- Local Government Finance Settlement – note the extra money for adult social care £150m
- New Homes Bonus – remains in place for next year

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- Rural Service Delivery Grant – extra £36m
  - Local Government Funding Review – consultation out until 12.03.18 – one of the aspects to be covered – should rural communities get a fairer share of the money?
  - Public Sector Meetings – business rate retention – how will this be worked through? These meetings are more transparent than they have been in the past and hopefully will give an insight into the formula being used
  - MSDC – Council Tax – Cabinet have looked at proposals – have agreed an increase to a Band D by 81 p/annum – around 60% of dwellings are Band D or less
  - Wildlife Trust – Homes for People and Wildlife – good source to be looked at when considering planning applications
  - Cabinet Meeting at MSDC – look for forthcoming decisions – more transparent
  - Spring Clean – March 2018 – will the PC take part?
  - Increase in Planning Fees – 50% approx. increase over a period of time
  - School Transport issue – have listened and hear the arguments being made by the local community
  - Locality Budgets - all the money from his and Cllr. Jewson's Locality Budgets has been allocated and all have got more than they requested.
- Cllr. Fawcett on behalf of the Friends of Thurston Library thanked Cllr. Haley for the sum of money awarded to the Library from the District Cllrs. Locality Budgets.
  - When questioned as to whether he could update the meeting on the planning issues relating to the Field of Dreams he confirmed that he understood that a letter had been sent to the residents of the area advising the role of the District in such matters and what MSDC can and is prepared to do. There is a certain amount of enforcement that can be taken but often it does not stop them – they just pay the fine and continue as before. Cllr. Haley agreed to ask the Enforcement Officer to copy the Clerk in on the email giving explanations as to where the District stood and the action to be taken.
  - When questioned as to why the minutes from the Planning Referrals Cttee Meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 were not on the website for consideration at the next Referrals Cttee Meeting of the February 2018 he agreed to investigate and report back.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC** – there were no issues raised by members of the public present

## **6. POLICE MATTERS –**

- a. Council noted that the latest SNT report was via the website as direct link to Stowmarket SNT.
- b. Council received the latest Thurston SNT Report detailing the work undertaken over the past month by PCSO Matt Smith which had been produced following reports submitted to the Clerk from PCSO Matt Smith. It was noted that once the new Inspector and Sergeant were in place at Stowmarket SNT a meeting would be arranged to carry out a review of policing in Thurston.
- c. To receive village reports of concerns from those present – whilst there were no matters of village concern to be referred to PCSO Matt Smith or the Stowmarket SNT from the meeting, the Clerk made the meeting aware of an email received from a resident detailing concerns at the speed of traffic along Station Hill and failure of some cars to actually stop at the zebra crossing on Station Hill. It was agreed that this should be flagged up to Stowmarket SNT for advice on appropriate traffic enforcement measures from Thurston.

## **7. STATUTORY BUSINESS –**

- a. To receive nominations for the posts of Councillor following the casual vacancies as advertised in accordance with section 232 of the 1972 Act – the meeting was informed that one nomination to date had been received and that the applicant was happy for his nomination to be submitted to the Council. Agreement was forthcoming that Mr Peter Robinson be co-opted onto the Parish Council at the earliest opportunity, aif. Mr Robinson duly signed his Declaration

So signed by the Chairman at a meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018

of Acceptance of Office and was invited to join the Council at the table. He was reminded of the requirement to submit his completed Register of Interests to the Clerk within 28 days of taking office. The Clerk advised that she will re-advertise the one vacancy that is left.

- b. To consider the Parish Council's formal response to the public consultation on the future of local government in Babergh and Mid Suffolk: We are listening: A new Council for the Heart of Suffolk – it was noted that at the previous meeting it had been agreed that should a business case for the merger be the outcome of this round of engagement, then that would be the appropriate time for the Council to respond. Agreement was forthcoming that Council still supported this position. still held for the Council.
- c. To consider the Parish Council's formal response to Suffolk County Council's public consultation on proposed changes to school and post-16 travel policies in Suffolk – the meeting noted that the Chair and members of the Council had attended the public session on 1<sup>st</sup> February at Thurston Community College and that both the Chair of Thurston Parish Council and the Chair Beyton Parish had addressed the meeting on the impact that would be had on the residents of both villages should the changes being proposed were to be implemented. to which all were welcome. It was confirmed that the public in attendance at the meeting at TCC did not support either Option 1 or 2 at the meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk and Chair would liaise on the Parish Council's response which would be to support Option 3 and that reference should also be made to the possible consequences for post 16 education; increase impact on extra traffic on current residents; SCC reference to junctions being at capacity with the granting of planning permission for 818 new dwellings in Thurston. – impact to be included.

#### **8. BUSINESS REMAINING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS –**

- a. To consider further information received from Network Rail or partners with regards to the request that further safety measures or improvement works be considered at Thurston Railway Station – the meeting was advised that there had been no further information coming forward from MSDC on the action points that had arisen from the meeting held in December 2017 (a summary of which are repeated below):
  - Network Rail – investigate costs of new Feasibility Study
  - MSDC – options of funding from MSDC for above study
  - MSDC – analyse responses from Developers as to solutions
  - PC – investigate history of closure of tunnel
  - MSDC – timeline for Planning Conditions & Infrastructure talks
  - Further Meeting in January to provide an update as to progress made.

#### **9. FINANCE (for financial details see Appendix A at the end of the minutes)**

- a. The schedule detailing the accounts awaiting payment was presented to Council for approval and agreed by all present, aif.
- b. The schedule detailing the accounts paid since the last meeting was presented to Council and approved. A copy of which can be seen at Appendix A.
- c. It was noted that income in the total sum of £3.56 had been received since the last meeting. A copy of the details of all income received can be seen at Appendix A.
- d. The Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 was presented to Council and approved by all. Council's bank balances stood at £84,277 overall with cleared balances being £80,760.32.
- e. To consider the costs of installing a concrete litter bin at the bottom of the New Green Centre Car Park next to the Youth Shelter & to note the costs involved in the cleaning of the Youth Shelter following the recent graffiti attack – the Clerk reported that current providers of litter bins had been unable to assist in a suitable bin with a lid. Cllr. Fawcett agreed to pass over details of a contact from Devon who had installed similar bins in their Parish.

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- f. To consider further information received with reference to Data Protection and changes to the Data Protection Regime – the meeting noted that information on this matter was ongoing and that NALC were in the process of issuing toolkits which would cover consent forms and audit procedures. It has also been confirmed that the DPO Centre, with whom the Parish Council had registered an interest, had decreased their costs to £1,650 for the first year which would also include them carrying out the role of Data Protection Officer.
- g. To approve the Precept to be levied on the Parish for the year 2018-2019 – the meeting noted that due to changes in the tax base for 2016-2017, when analysed against the previous year's Band D Parish Council Tax set, the actual increase for 2018-19 over 2017-18 agreed equated to an increase of £2.39 (3.91%) or 5 pence per week. A note to this effect would be inserted into the next edition of the Thurston Newsletter.
- h. To consider the purchase of a further Vehicle Activate Sign to be located on Barton Road – The Clerk presented the Council with the latest data collected from the Vehicle Activated Sign which was currently shared between 2 locations in Thurston. Both locations showed a significant increase in the number of vehicles that were travelling above 35mph. Council agreed that if it was going to be making strident comments on speeding issues, then it needed to be seen to consider all aspects of traffic calming and that a further device which actually displayed the speed at which the vehicle was infringing the speed limit might be more effective. Agreement was forthcoming for the purchase of a SID with the words SLOW DOWN and the ability to collect data via bluetooth at a cost of £3150 excluding VAT, aif. It was also agreed that the advice of the Safety Camera Enforcement Team and Stowmarket SNT be sought for other areas in terms of appropriate traffic calming measures.

**10. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED – none had been received.**

**11. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND GROUPS -**

a. Planning

- i. To consider the following Planning Applications: prior to considering the planning applications, the Chair to the Council reminded Councillors present that SCC Highways Dept. had previously made comments on the 5 planning applications that were approved. (S Merry (SCC) to B Elvin (MSDC) letter dated 13th October 2017) which had stated that with the granting of planning permission for 818 dwellings there was no further capacity for further growth unless further mitigation measures came forward. There appeared, at the moment, that there was a general trend for small scale additions which needed to be taken into account in the cumulative impact facing Thurston. Difficult to cope with this extra growth if the infrastructure is at capacity. Agreement had been forthcoming from Cllrs. previously that they were not prepared to approve further developments for Thurston unless serious thought was given to the additional strain on the existing infrastructure and how this would be mitigated. It was agreed by those present that this viewpoint still stood and should be reiterated at all applications concerning new dwellings beyond the BUAB.

The Parish Council considered the following applications:

- DC/17/06279: Hybrid Planning Application. Demolition of existing agricultural buildings and retention of existing traditional barn for conversion to one residential unit. Outline Planning Application. (Access to be considered) Erection of up to eight new dwellings, garages and vehicular access @ Mill Farm, Barton Road  
Recommendation of refusal was agreed by all for the following reasons: outside of BUAB; No safe connectivity with the village along Barton Road; access onto an 60mph road – many vehicles travelling at that speed along the road; reliance on motor vehicle. Agree with Highways' comments.
- DC/18/00363: Prior Approval Application under Part 3, Class M (a) and (b) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 Schedule 2, Part

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3 Class M and for Operational Development- Change of Use of Hair Dressing Salon (A1) to Ground Floor Flat (C3) @ 24 School Road

Agreement was forthcoming that whilst the PC might have been notified there was no requirement for a decision from the PC. The Clerk was asked to enquire the grounds for why this type of conversion would be allowed.

- DC/18/00375 - Notification of works to trees protected under Tree Preservation Order MS84 - Various works as specified in application form @ 4 Cedars Close

It was agreed that there was a significant amount of work being proposed and that some might be merely cosmetic. Concern was also raised as to whether the work to be carried out would be monitored to ensure only that which was approved was actioned. The Clerk was asked to request that MSDC provide a comprehensive report as to whether the work was justified, aif.

- DC/18/00277 - Proposal: Notification for Prior Approval under Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q (a) and (b) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for Proposed Change of Use of agricultural building to 2 no. dwelling houses Class C3 and for associated operational development @ Barn at Moat Farm, Great Green Agreement was forthcoming that this application should not be granted under permitted development rights as the proposal included a new floor. Recommendation as to refusal on these terms along with no definition as to associated operational development; outside of BUAB; reliance on the motor vehicle was approved, aif.

- ii. to note decisions coming forth – details of all applications as determined by Mid Suffolk as the Local Planning Authority can be seen at Appendix A.

b. Neighbourhood Plan:

Update on the Neighbourhood Plan –the meeting heard that the NP was progressing but slightly slower than expected. A meeting had been held with the Team’s Professional Partner who had indicated where additional work might be needed along with matters to bring forward. Hoped that this would only require a few more days work and that this would then finalise the documents that are required to produce the policies for the plan. The group felt that the ground was now cleared for this to be written. Anticipate that by end of next month there will be a document to present to the PC. The timescales involved in getting the NP to referendum stage were explained to all. It was agreed that this final stage should not be rush and that it needed to be a properly designed and produced document. It was noted that the Draft Plan containing the Draft Policies will be delivered to all dwellings with the back-up documents containing background information held in central places and uploaded onto the website. The meeting noted that Cllr. Masters had relinquished his position on the NP Steering Group.

c. Recreation Ground Trust:

- i. The accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 were presented to Council and accepted by all. The schedule of the accounts detailing income received, accounts paid since the last meeting and accounts awaiting payment, was presented to the Council and agreed by all present – see Appendix 11c ii) at the end of the minutes for full details.
- ii. The Council received the bank reconciliation to date and noted that bank balances stood at £1,671.55. The Budget to Actual for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 showed that expenditure was now 8% over budget with income being under at 28%. It was noted that the only invoice outstanding for the period September – December was the one for Norwich City RFP for Summer Hiring of the Field. Council noted that a letter giving a distinct period for settlement had been sent but had elicited no response. Cllr. Rainbow informed the meeting that he had sent an email to the Chairman of Norwich FC who had responded & agreed to get someone to investigate debt.
- iii. To receive any matters coming forth – the meeting was informed of some remedial work that had been undertaken to trees on the ground after the recent storm - and that concerns over the trees overhanging the Pre-School building had been raised by the TUFs Committee. The Clerk,

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- given Health and Safety issues notified the meeting that she had requested quotations for a survey of the condition of the trees in that area which would be brought back to the Council for consideration. In the meantime, the meeting considered the quotation from M&TJ's to trim back the hedge and trees behind the pre-school and pavilion car park at a cost of £390 plus VAT and to level the slabs between the pavilion and pre-school (as alerted by TUFs Committee and the Caretaker) at a cost of £130.00 plus VAT. Both were accepted as necessary works.
- d. Library Account: *Cllr. Robinson declared a Local Non-Pecuniary Interest at this point in the Agenda due to his position as Vice-Chair of the Friends of Thurston Library.*
- i. The accounts for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 were presented to full Council and accepted by all. Bank balances were confirmed as £8530.19 with available funds being the same. It was noted that the Christmas Tree Festival had made around £500 profit which would be shared equally with St Peter's Church and the Friends of Thurston Library.
- ii. The schedule of the accounts paid since the last meeting, monies received and those accounts awaiting payment was presented to the Council and noted by all present – see Appendix 11dii at the end of the minutes for full details.
- iii. To receive any matters coming forth – the Friends had begun to work on adaptation on Children's Area. Aim to broaden offering of the library – Memory Café; A bid for monies for looking at what a library service should provide digitally – no grant funding initially but contact has been made by those working on an East Anglian Collaboratory to ascertain what are the problems of a rural area and how these can be addressed and whether a bid could be submitted to cover such a project. Currently working with Ipswich, Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds Libraries to run an Arts Council initiative designed to support young people in working with professional artists in the production of difference projects e.g. METAL.
- e. Emergency Plan – this would be picked up once Cllr. Thomas returned to the Council.
- f. To receive an update from the Skate Park Steering Group – it was noted that a meeting had been scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> March with attendees or representatives confirmed from the Parish Council; Thurston Neighbourhood Plan Team; the Strategic Leisure Advisor from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils; representatives from the Ben Wragge Skatepark Group; interested parties looking to develop Plum Pudding Field and the Design Out Crimes Officer. It was also confirmed that the Skatepark Group would also be meeting with the Recreation Ground Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> March to discuss the possibility of part of the site being used to house a skatepark.
- g. Councillors' Activities since the last meeting:
- School Travel Consultation Meetings – Cllrs. Mrs O'Connell; Mrs Morris; Masters & Dashper
  - Library – Cllrs. Fawcett & Mrs O'Connell.
  - Christmas Tree Festival – Cllrs. Fawcett and Dashper (decoration of the PC Tree)
  - NP Meeting – Cllrs. Fawcett (including NPWG), Masters, Mrs Morris and Mrs O'Connell
  - Planning – Cllrs. Dashper, Fawcett, Masters, Moss, Mrs O'Connell and Rainbow
  - Community Engagement Surgery – Cllrs. Mrs O'Connell & Masters
  - Movement of VAS – Cllr. Masters
  - MSDC/Infrastructure Meetings – Cllrs. Fawcett & Dashper
  - Cycle Ways – TCC & Sustrans – Cllr. Fawcett
- ii. Councillors' Reports on village issues arising:
- It was noted that a discussion, on social media, had been had regarding the recent siting of the mobile tower in the grounds of the New Green Car Park. The concerns were mainly concerned with health issues; monies that the Council would be getting from the users of this and the lack of consultation on this matter. The Clerk gave the Parish Council's side with regards to its handling on the matter and the Chair reminded the meeting that there were postings on the social media site which contained inaccuracies. He reminded Councillors that the forum was not the right place to respond to these points and asked

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that Councillors did not respond to individuals by this platform. The correct forum for such issues to be raised was at Parish Council Meetings or via the Clerk. It was also noted that there appeared to be no empirical link between health issues and the siting of such towers and that the Parish Council, if contacted would point residents in the direction of the relevant health websites.

- Footpath at the back of Primary School leading down to Cavendish Hall – trees behind the container on the Recreation Ground – overhanging the Recreation Ground – ought to be cut back to boundary. Discussion followed as to whether these were in the grounds of the adjacent house or the recreation ground itself. Once this had been ascertained the Clerk agreed to contact the relevant authorities for further action.
- Noted that the Scots Pine trees in School Grounds are covered by a TPO
- Grit bins – School Road and Church Road – all need refilling
- Hedge along Sandpit Lane

## 12. CLERKS REPORT

- a) Delegated powers – several issues relating to potholes (in particular along School Road, Barton Road, Beyton Road) trees and hedgerows had been reported to other agencies for consideration or action. The Clerk agreed to the Highways Service Centre based at Rougham to discuss a number of issues relating to Thurston and to draw attention to the ditching work that had been carried out along Mount Road and the way it had been left. The Clerk made the meeting aware that the ‘dig’ that was currently underway on the Hopkins Homes site was an archaeological dig undertaken to satisfy one of the conditions imposed by the Planning Inspectorate in the granting of approval for the 175 dwellings.
- b) To receive an update on the deployment of the VAS – further data collected was acknowledged. As previously stated there appeared to be a relaxing of attitudes from motorists with the majority passing through the points on Beyton Road and Barton Road between 35mph and 40mpg although considerably higher, and lower, speeds had been recorded in both areas. For the period 5<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 on Barton Road 17,671 vehicles passed the device with over 9,000 travelling more than 33+ miles per hour.
- c) Village Defibrillator – Lottery Funding – the meeting was made aware of a request from a villager who, along with a group of residents, had been running a football prediction knockout competition (Last Man Standing), from the Fox and Hounds to raise funds for a public defibrillator for the village to be situated near the pub car park. The Community Heartbeat Trust, had recommended they apply for National Lottery funding and was confident that they would match the sum they have raised (£1015 to date). Approximately £2400 will be needed for a top of the range unit. The National Lottery had recommended that they apply for the funding through the Parish Council, otherwise, the group would have to set up a charitable trust, bank account etc. The meeting agreed that, in principal, the Parish Council would be happy to apply for the funding from National Lottery for a village defibrillator to be located at the Fox and Hounds as long as the unit was accessible to the public and that maintenance and electricity costs were covered by other sources.
- d) Changes to External Audit – the Clerk made the meeting aware that, as the Parish Council was opted-in to the central procurement process for external audits arrangements, the external auditor appointed for the Parish Council for the 5-year period commencing with the financial year 2017/18 had held a briefing session at the end of January outlining the changes to external audit. As Council was not an exempt authority very little would change in the actual process of external audit. The Annual Return will now be known as the "Annual Governance and Accountability Return" and will need to be completed in accordance with "proper practices" as set out in 'Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England, a Practitioners' Guide', and then be published in accordance with the applicable Transparency

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Codes – all as per previous years. The new, Annual Governance and Accountability Return forms will be sent out by the appointed auditor electronically at the end of the financial year.

- e) There was no further general correspondence to deal with as all necessary items had been dealt with else-where or had been passed onto Councillors previously and Council was reminded of the upcoming Councillor Surgery later that week.

**13. TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA** – there were no specific items raised.

**14. CLOSE OF MEETING** – There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Noted that the Planning Committee Meeting on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 was cancelled and that the next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 commencing at 7.30pm in Thurston Community Library, Norton Road, Thurston

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## Appendix A

## 9 Financial Matters

## a) Accounts agreed for payment

	CHQ/DD/CC	NETT	VAT	TOTAL
MidSuffolk Croquet Club	3406	500.00	0.00	500.00
R Fawcett – expenses	3407	48.60		48.60

## b) Accounts paid since the last meeting –

Plusnet – Telephone – January	DD	30.63	6.13	36.76
New Green Community Trust – rent January	SO	360.00		360.00
HMRC – PAYE due 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr.	3400	2100.09		2100.09
Salaries – January 2018	3401-3404	2860.48		2860.48
Cheque Void	3405	0.00		0.00

## c) Receipts received since the last meeting –

Lloyds – Interest	Interest	3.56		3.56
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## 11a Planning:

## ii) To note the following decisions coming forth:

Refusal of planning permission for conversion of integral garage to additional living accommodation @ 6 Cedars Close

## 11c Rec Ground Accounts

## i) Monies received since the last meeting:

Football Club – Saturday Team	Chq	136.00		136.00
PC of Thurston – VAT Account	Chq	500.76		500.76
MahJong Club – Hire of Pavilion	Cash	84.00		84.00

## Monies paid out since the last meeting:

British Gas – Electricity	DD	208.85	10.44	219.29
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## ii) Accounts awaiting payment:

R Cook – Caretaker Contract	565	107.25	0.00	107.25
R Cook – Expenses & additional work	566	39.81	3.96	43.77
PC of Thurston – repay of loan	567	800.00	0.00	800.00
Secelec – works to Pavilion	568	58.49	11.70	70.19
M&TJ's – removal of fallen tree	569	75.00	15.00	90.00

## 11d Library Accounts

## i) Monies received since the last meeting:

Xmas Tree Festival Donations	Chqs	195.00		195.00
Misc Donations	Chq	88.00		88.00
Xmas Tree Festival Donations	Cash	50.60		50.60

## Accounts awaiting payment:

Thurston PCC – Xmas Tree Donation	108	250.77		250.77
Secelec – Lights for Library	109	157.98	31.60	189.58
R Fawcett – Sewing Machines for Library	110	276.00		276.00
VOID	111			
A Crowe – Sewing Bee materials	112	18.19	3.64	21.83

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## Appendix B

### Glossary of Common Abbreviations used

aif	All in favour
BACS	Bankers Automated Clearing Services
BUAB	Built Up Area Boundary
CC	Credit Card
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
Chq.	Cheque
Cllr.	Councillor
Cttee.	Committee
DC	District Council
DD	Direct Debit
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
LAIS (from SALC)	Local Association's Information Services
LGBCE	Local Government Boundary Commission for England
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MSDC	Mid Suffolk District Council
NHS	National Health Service
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
PC	Parish Council
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
pdf	Portable Document Format
RFO	Responsible Financial Officer
SALC	Suffolk Association of Local Councils
SCC	Suffolk District Council
SID	Speed Indicator Device
SNT	SaferNeighbourhood Team
SO	Standing Order
SPS	Suffolk Preservation Society
TCC	Thurston Community College
TNPSG	Thurston Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
VAS	Vehicle Activated Sign

So signed by the Chairman at a meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## Appendix C – County Cllr. Otton’s February Report to Full Council

### Cabinet confirms budget proposals

On 23 January, the Conservative Cabinet at Suffolk County Council confirmed the final budget proposals for 2018-19. These proposals will be debated at a Council meeting on 8 February, where all councillors will vote on them.

I am very concerned by a number of the cuts proposed as part of the council’s savings plan. These are outlined below:

### £12m cuts to Adult Care

The adult care budget is already very stretched, predicting a £3.47m overspend on their current 2017-18 budget. Despite this, the council is proposing cuts of £12m to the budget in 2018-19.

This is divided into an £11m cut from the care purchasing budget, and a £1m cut from the Sheltered Housing Grant.

### £20,000 cut to Citizens Advice

Cutting the budget of the valuable Citizens Advice service is a short-sighted decision, that will likely cost the council more in the long term. An analysis of the impact of Citizens Advice services shows that, for every £1 invested in 2016/17, £1.96 in savings to government and public services were generated.

The Council themselves acknowledge how important the Citizens Advice service in Suffolk is, stating “the return on investment for Citizens Advice is high and the service prevents demand reaching the County Council through its recognised contribution to mental health and wellbeing.”

Furthermore, our Citizens Advice services are reporting an increase in the number of people requiring advice and support. Now is clearly not the time to be cutting their funding.

### £15,000 cut to Greenways Countryside Project

The Greenways Countryside Project exists to protect and enhance the countryside in and around Ipswich and relies on volunteers to complete its valuable conservation work.

Greenways currently receives £15,000 funding from the County Council, which accounts for over 10% of the projects total expenditure. However, this funding will be removed entirely in the 2018-19 budget.

### Rural transport cuts

£15,000 will be cut from the sponsored bus services budget, which will result in a reduced number of rural bus services. I am concerned that this will target some of our most vulnerable residents and increase rural isolation. There is currently no more information on which services could be affected by this cut. However, the Council has pledged to work with local councillors on this and I will keep you updated.

### Increased hourly funding rate for childcare providers

On 11 January, the Schools Forum decided that the base hourly rate for providers should increase to £4.00 (previously £3.87), whilst the amount retained by Suffolk County Council should reduce to 3.8% (6.3%).

You may remember that, back in October 2017, my group supported a motion which called on Suffolk County Council to increase the amount of funding that was passed on to providers. We also criticised the lack of transparency over how the council was spending the £2m of funding that it retained centrally.

This change therefore is a complete U-turn by the Council and is a step in the right direction. However, childcare providers across the county have warned us that £4.00 an hour still is not enough to keep their businesses afloat and viable in the future. More will need to be done, by Suffolk County Council and central government, to support providers if the government’s “30-hour free childcare” policy is to be a success.

### SCC will be borrowing £21m to pay for road resurfacing

Suffolk County Council are planning to borrow an additional £21m over the next three years, to pay for road resurfacing. The plan is to resurface 1,000 miles of roads by March 2021. However, this accounts for only 25% of the road network in Suffolk, and so will only scratch the surface.

It is also worrying to see that the Council are planning to cut the highway maintenance budget in 2018-19. In particular, they are proposing a cut of £300,000 to the winter maintenance budget by reducing the amount of gritting carried out in

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the winter months. There is little point in borrowing £21m to resurface Suffolk roads, if the Council are not willing to invest the necessary funding for road maintenance.

#### Final few weeks of school transport consultation

The school transport consultation will end on 28 February 2018, and I would urge you all to respond – the consultation can be found here: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel>. I am strongly against the proposals, and I am very concerned by the lack of financial evidence in the consultation documentation. A change in policy will harm rural families, it will increase congestion and pollution, and it could destroy some of our county's best schools.

There is also an online petition against the changes, which has received over 7500 signatures to date. It is one of the largest petitions received by the council, and it will be presented at a Council meeting on 8 February. If you have signed this petition, please also respond to the official consultation, as these are the only responses that Suffolk County Council will be analysing.

I attended the extremely well supported meeting at Thurston on 1<sup>st</sup> February and was overwhelmed by the presentations given by parents, pupils, governors and parish councillor chairs. Helen Wilson showed a very convincing alternative to the proposed reduction in financial support.

#### Planning approved for a new heritage centre in Ipswich

On 16 January, the Development Control Committee approved a scheme to build a new heritage centre near the Ipswich Waterfront. This will be known as "The Hold". It will house the bulk of Suffolk's archival collections and will also include teaching spaces for the University of Suffolk.

The project is expected to cost £20m. Funding has been received from the county council, the University of Suffolk, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Wolfson Foundation.

However, it is not yet clear what impact this will have on the Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds Records Offices. There is concern that all records could be moved to Ipswich, preventing easy access to archives for residents in other parts of the county.

I have asked for the highways department to look at all the road signs that have been removed or fallen because of the past bad weather.

As part of the district council's economic strategy where it has asked for improvements to Stowmarket station, I have asked that Thurston and Elmswell be included.

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