

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th April 2018 at 7.30pm in the Community Library, Thurston Community College, Thurston.

In the Chair: Chair Cllr. Dashper

Present: Cllrs. Fawcett, Hasler, Masters, Mrs Morris, Mrs O'Connell, Rainbow and Robinson.

In Attendance: Mrs V Waples, Clerk, County Cllr. P. Otton, District Cllr. D. Haley, 5 members of the public and 2 representatives 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. Moss for personal commitments.
 - b. Approval of apologies for absence – Council agreed to approve the apologies submitted for absence, aif.
 - c. Apologies of absence were also noted from District Cllr. Jewson.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS INCLUDING GIFTS OF HOSPITALITY EXCEEDING £25** –
 - a. There were no Pecuniary Interests for the Agenda under discussion.
The following local non-pecuniary interests for the Agenda under discussion were declared:
Cllrs. Fawcett, Mrs O'Connell and Robinson 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.
4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th March 2018 were agreed as true and accurate records, aif. The Chairman of the meeting duly signed the minutes as such. The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of 28th March 2018 were agreed as true and accurate records and signed by the Chairman of the meeting 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 - the full version can be seen at Appendix C.
The following issues were noted:

 - She had received phone calls regarding the replacement post-box on Barton Road.
 - She had also asked for the replacement of the signs for Heather Close
 - She would try and ascertain who monitored the quality of work undertaken on potholes.

The meeting thanked Cllr. Otton for meeting with P Isbell in an attempt to delay the decision for outline planning permission for Pigeon until further discussions had been had on the Thurston Barrow Crossing at the station.

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DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS – Cllr. Haley was invited to submit his report and the following items were brought to the meetings attention:

- Following the meeting with P Isbell (which he had been unable to attend) – he has called NR for them to meet with him and others to discuss the existing safety issue at the railway station. The PC will be involved once dates are set for meetings. He confirmed that there were a group of District Cllrs. who were pushing for a resolution on this matter.
- Exhibition in Needham Market regarding the future of the site of MSDC's offices – next date for public to view the proposals will be 10th April 2018
- Locality Funds distributed as follows:
 - New Green Community Trust- heating system improvements - £2500;
 - MidSuffolk Croquet Club – improved croquet pavilion - £2000;
 - Thurston Village Hall Management Cttee – light fittings - £1000;
 - Friends of Thurston Library – ipads and printer - £2000;
 - Beyton PC – grit bins - £319.50;
 - 863 Squadron ATC – camping equipment - £2500;
 - Thurston Rugby Club – watering system - £1680.50
- Meeting with Overview and Scrutiny Meeting re 5-year land supply – papers available to view online as to where they are with it and how they will be measuring this in the future.
- Independent survey regarding the proposal for one council - 54% in Babergh and 69% in Mid Suffolk were in favour. 4,003 residents over 18 were canvassed - details are on the website. Next steps – watch press statements over the next few days.
- 26th April – update from the portfolio holders – reports will be published on a regular basis and will form part of the agenda.

Questions – when will the Parish Council letters re MLM report on the Thurston Station Crossing be published? Cllr. Haley explained the errors that had occurred with the early publication of planning permission for the Pigeon site.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – the following issues were raised by members of the public present

- A member of the West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning G Engagement Group and Chairman of Ixworth Patients Association addressed the meeting and explained that he was one of a group tasked with setting up / engaging with PCs to link up with local surgeries. They were interested in expanding a range of educational free Health and Wellbeing Education Sessions on various topics for patients in the villages that the surgery served. Would the PC be interested in engaging with such a programme and if so could the PC look at appointing someone who might be the liaison person for the community and GP practices especially with the growth forecasted for the village. Cllr. Masters agreed to be the initial point of contact and the Clerk would forward relevant contact details.

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. The date for the meeting with the new Inspector and Sergeant was fixed for later that month and the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk would be in attendance.
- c. To receive village reports of concerns from those present – it was noted that of those who had returned the Street Surveys for Barton Road the common complaints had concerned speeding and parking. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had passed onto PCSO Matt Smith the data from the VAS located on Barton Road which had shown a significant number of vehicles travelling more than 35mph.

He in turn had passed this information onto the Norfolk and Suffolk Safety Camera Enforcement Team who had responded to PCSO Matt Smith stating that the site is already classified as a Red

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Site and that speed enforcement is undertaken on a weekly basis. The person tasked with this carries out the assessments on foot with a tripod and speed is collected and the speeds are monitored. The meeting expressed some incredulity at this as no-one present had seen such assessments taking place. It was also confirmed that as there was a check at this site on 21st July 2016 they would not be gathering any fresh data as it was under 2 years since they have last collected data. The Clerk confirmed that she had asked PCSO Smith to ascertain whether this information was accurate and based upon that it was agreed that this matter would be flagged up to the Police and Crime Commissioner. It was also agreed that the Clerk would submit a request under the FOI for data that Suffolk Constabulary Safety Camera Team have collected at this point since 21st July 2016. The meeting was concerned that procedural matters are being used to screen safety decisions being taken on behalf of the residents. The Clerk was asked to contact Police and Crime Commissioner and express the PC's concerns at this course of events.

7. STATUTORY BUSINESS –

- a. To receive nominations for the posts of Councillor following the remaining casual vacancy as advertised in accordance with section 232 of the 1972 Act – it was noted that none as of yet had come forward. A postcard drop would be arranged and Cllrs. were informed that the areas allocated to each Councillor will be reviewed and restructured at the Annual (Parish) Council Meeting May 2018.
- b. To consider and formulate a response on the new draft recommendations for ward boundaries in Mid Suffolk – a response would be submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England - deadline being 30th April 2018 once the areas to be included in the Thurston Ward were clarified. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the relevant information via email and would collate and provide a response based on the comments received.
- c. To consider and formulate a response to the consultation on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework – deadline being 10th May 2018 – it was agreed that the Clerk would send out an electronic copy of the NPPF via email, as opposed to a link to a website, for Councillors to review prior to the next meeting.
- d. To note the legal order to be made by Suffolk County Council (Parish of Rougham) (Mount Road and Side Roads) (40mph Speed Limit) – Order 201 – Council noted information relating to the Draft Order to be made along with SCC's reasons for proposing to make the Order. A 40mph per hour speed limit will be imposed at the following locations: East Barton Road from its junction with Mount Road in a northerly direction for a distance of 50 metres; on Mount Road from its junction with The Battlies (C769) in a westerly direction for a distance of 1236 metres; on The Battlies from its junction with Mount Road in a southerly direction for a distance of 70 metres and on Thurston Road from its junction with The Battlies in an easterly direction for a distance of 340 metres.

8. BUSINESS REMAINING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS –

To receive an update on safety measures or improvement works at Thurston Railway Station with reference to the Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) Referrals Committee Meeting on 1st November 2017 – and to note the Parish Council's concerns with the report submitted by MLM Consulting Engineers Ltd in relation to Thurston Station Crossing as prepared for Pigeon Investment Management Ltd; Persimmon Homes Ltd; Laurence Homes (Eastern) Ltd; Bovis Homes Ltd and MSDC –

The representatives from Pigeon were asked to comment / receive questions on the report produced by MLM as stated above. Following is a resume of the comments made:

MLM process – expectations realised? Representatives from Pigeon stated that in their understanding what has been achieved going forward is that the principal of making CIL funds available to address matters concerning the station are in place. MSDC have now structured how to

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ring fence CIL contributions going forward. £6m out of £8m could possibly be used for the station but this will be down to MSDC.

Possible solutions - early warning system or monitoring system or travel plan co-ordinator.

Typical roles of a travel plan co-ordinator have been extended to take on the Thurston Railway situation. Issue going forward – will the travel plan coordinator be one person for all of the developments or individuals related to each of the sites as they come forward?

Resource could work with the Parish Council and NR – by pushing as the PC have this is now in place and therefore the likelihood of MSDC and NR of getting together to provide a solution are greater.

It was stated that NR have mentioned that if there is no solution then they will consider closing the crossing if more development comes forward – there appears to be no solution.

Who recommended MLM? Recommended on basis that they have rail expertise and had been used elsewhere in the District. Matter was discussed at one of the Developer Forums post November 1st. Issue for the Parish Council was that MLM had used selective assumptions and out of date data. Paper has been produced for a defined end.

What was asked for from P Isbell following the Mid Suffolk Planning Referrals Committee Meeting was to deal with safety and risk management and the check and balance for this (travel plan co-ordinator) has been achieved.

What has been achieved? Travel pack and a travel co-ordinator related to the new developments only. Existing residents and PC have not gained anything. The option of CIL to be used to mitigate harm caused is problematic given that it is a biddable fund. Risk management has been considered by Pigeon in addressing safety matters and that the part they have played in ensuring that this harm is mitigated has been satisfied. Pigeon happy with the outcome as part of the measures that have come forward and that will be part of the mechanism to allow the harm to be mitigated.

Noted that NR has a standard approach on level crossings. NR have also not been proactive in coming to the table to discuss this matter. No system can legislate for all eventualities and for the minority.

Generally, the PC believes that the report is not based on current data and is one which is flawed and selective on the assumptions that are used for the data. It favours the case. Whilst there are possible solutions - automated monitoring systems - the travel plan co-ordinator will need to look at all aspects of the risk situation at Thurston Railway Station to enable the process and annual monitoring to be implemented.

Cllr. Haley agreed to look at the following issues and discover how this might proceed – ring-fencing of CIL; meeting with NR; meeting with the Officers at MSDC dealing with CIL and an update from Infrastructure Officers at MSDC as to their discussions with NR. He agreed that there was already an issue of safety for existing residents and had long campaigned for a solution to the existing crossing and current metal barrier.

The representatives from Pigeon were thanked for their attendance and answering the queries raised.

The meeting was reminded that the Parish Council had written direct to the Corporate Manager for Growth and Sustainable Planning at MSDC with its concerns over the information contained within the MLM Rail – Thurston Station Crossing – and the assumptions used and those not used. A response had been MSDC dated 27th March 2018 with a further one dated 29th March 2018 in response to answers received from MLM Rail on the PC's concerns. In the latter letter it was stated that there had been a delegation to the Corporate Manager to draft a condition to safeguard risk management for future occupiers in relation to railway station safety. In his opinion there was a suitable and reasonable wording available for such a condition as it was not his instruction to undertake an exhaustive investigation of railway station safety issues. It was noted that Outline Planning Permission for development at land at Norton Road had been granted on 29th March 2018.

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The meeting was informed that based on the letters received the Clerk as instructed had also written to all Members of the MSDC Planning Referrals Cttee Group; the CEO of MSDC; the Leader of MSDC; the Monitoring Officer of MSDC outlining the PC's concerns.

- 9. FINANCE** (for financial details see Appendix A at the end of the minutes)
- a. To approve the accounts awaiting payment (see Appendix A) including those coming forth - aif
 - b. To note the accounts paid since the last meeting (see Appendix A) - noted
 - c. To note receipts allocated since the last meeting (see Appendix A) – Council noted the receipt of £3.04 as interest and £1232.45 as Cleansing Grant since the last meeting.
 - d. To consider and receive the Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31.03.18 (Paper B) – 62057.27 cleared funds once cheques have cleared the accounts.
 - e. To consider further information received concerning compliance with the GDPR – compliance – undertake audit – in conjunction with DPO – councillor email addresses
 - f. To consider the Draft Accounts for the year ending 31.03.2018 (to follow) – these would be produced at the May meeting along with the Governance Statements and the Annual Internal Audit Report.
 - g. To consider movement to/from the Council's Reserves for the year ending 31.03.2018 (to follow) – Council reviewed the paper submitted by the Clerk and agreed the movement to date from earmarked and general reserves It was agreed that this would be revisited once the Accounting Statements for the year ending 31st March 2018 were presented and considered.
 - h. To consider and approve the quotations for grounds maintenance for Thurston Church; Heath Road & Thedwastre Play Area – *Cllr. Robinson declared a LNPI as a member of Thurston PCC* – the 3 quotes from M&TJ's for the continuance of the grass cutting at Thedwastre Play Area, New Green; Play Area at Heath Road and the Graveyard at St Peter's Church along with hedgerow maintenance at the Play Area on Heath Road were presented to Council. It was noted that the prices quoted were the same as the previous year and the meeting agreed that it was happy to renew the contracts, aif.

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: there were none received.
 - ii. to note decisions coming forth – (see Appendix A) – Cllr. Masters raised the issue of Planning Permission for Pigeon with a granted date of 12th March being posted in quadruple onto MSDC's website on Thursday 29th March. This process was questioned as the Planning Permission, as posted, contained the exact wording from the MLM Rail report regarding the recommendation for a mitigating condition and yet the Corporate Manager only met with the PC on 22nd March to discuss this report. As such it was doubtful as to whether the PC's concerns were considered as he had already written the condition regarding safety issues at the station. It was noted that the decisions dated 12th March had since been removed from MSDC's website and one dated 29th March has now been posted.
 - iii. To consider the letter from Pakenham Parish Council to Anglian Water on the impact the growth of Thurston will have on the Sewage Plant at Pakenham – it was noted that one of the Co-Chairs of the TNP had taken this issue up originally with AWA and that they had indicated that there was / would be sufficient capacity. The meeting was surprised that Anglian Water had not been consulted as surely, they were a statutory consultee? The meeting noted that Pakenham PC had been amenable to the request for Thurston PC to be kept apprised of any further information on this matter and had agreed that an invitation to attend further meetings would be extended to the PC.

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- b. Neighbourhood Plan - to receive an update from the NP Steering Group on the production of the Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr. Fawcett as Co-Chair of the NPT confirmed that the group had received a 1st Draft of the Plan from their Professional Partner and that the Co-Chairs and Clerk were in the process of responding to it. Generally, it was a well written document with some minor issues to address. Comments back to the Professional Partner would be submitted by the end of the week. It was noted that there was a need to use appropriate wording with regards to growth beyond the current raft of planning applications. The main draft would be submitted to the PC in May 2018.
- c. Recreation Ground Trust:
- i. The accounts for the period 31st March 2018 showing total income of £7,910.44 and total expenditure of £7,827.93 were presented to Council and approved by all. Adding in the brought forward figure from 1st April 2017 this produced a balance moving forward of £1,1913.36. The meeting agreed that the Payments and Receipts schedule produced by the Clerk reflected the Recreational Ground's financial transactions for the year ending 31st March 2018 and were duly signed by the Chair of the Recreational Ground Committee and the Clerk to the PC as such.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. The Council received the bank reconciliation to date and noted that bank balances stood at £1,191.36 with cleared balances being £1,191.36. It was noted that the rent for the 1st Quarter for the TUFs for 2018-19 had been received early and was showing in the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018. The Clerk had made an adjustment to the budget to take this into account. The Budget to Actual for the year ending 31st March 2018 showed that expenditure was 14% over budget with income also being over at 13%.
 - iv. To receive any matters coming forth – it was mentioned that when the U3A Mah-Jong Group had used the Pavilion during the winter months there were water puddles on the floor. With the heating on this produced a very damp room – could the caretaker dry the floor after cleaning? It was confirmed that the reports to be produced on the Oak Trees on Church Road will be produced by companies specialising in such work.
- d. Library Account:
- i. The accounts for the period ending 31st March 2018 were presented to full Council and accepted by all. Bank balances were confirmed as £9,712.11 with cleared available funds being the same. The Locality Fund payment of £2,000 from District Cllrs. Haley and Jewson was also confirmed as having been received. The accounts for the period ending 31st March 2018 showing total income of £4,938.64 and total expenditure of £2,789.25 were presented to the meeting. Adding in the brought forward figure from 1st April 2017 this produced a balance moving forward of £9,712.11. The meeting agreed that the Payments and Receipts schedule produced by the Clerk reflected the Library's financial transactions for the year ending 31st March 2018.
 - 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 – there had been some positive meetings with good work in terms of ideas being discussed for the children's area in the library. There was a wish to reflect the fact that Thurston is going to grow considerably and to create an exemplary children's area. The majority of the brought forward funds might be allocated for this project. It was noted that the Library serves a very wide area and that there was a concert on 28th April in Cavendish Hall – VOCA.
- e. Emergency Plan – Cllrs. Hasler and Masters had been working on the current version which needed updating. They had split the work required and were working actively to be able to will report back in a month. There was a need to updating portions of the plan that referenced specific individuals and it was agreed that the protocol was for the Clerk to contact these

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- individually. It was also acknowledged that there was a need to look at an alternative resource pool and how to address the list of those who need assistance or have specific needs.
- f. Skate Park Steering Group – there had been no further meetings since the 1st meeting – a second meeting was planned for 10th May 2018. It was confirmed that representatives had attended the Recreational Ground Committee Meeting on 28th March to discuss the possible siting of a skatepark on the Recreation Ground. It was noted that a recommendation would be submitted to the Parish Council by the Recreation Ground Committee on the way forward once more details in terms of lease, planning permissions, charitable status etc. have been ascertained by the Parish Clerk.
 - g. Councillors' Activities since the last meeting:
 - VAS – Cllrs. Hasler and Masters
 - APM- Cllrs. Dashper; Fawcett; Hasler; Masters; Mrs Morris; Rainbow and Robinson
 - Emergency Planning – Cllrs. Hasler and Masters
 - Planning – Cllrs. Dashper; Fawcett; Masters; Mrs O'Connell & Rainbow with Cllrs. Hasler & Mrs Morris as members of the public
 - Passenger Count at Railway Station – Cllrs. Fawcett; Hasler; Masters; Mrs Morris; Mrs O'Connell; Rainbow and Robinson
 - NP – Cllrs. Fawcett (x3) & Mrs Morris
 - Recreation Ground Cttee Meeting – Cllrs. Dashper & Rainbow
 - Meeting with MSDC Corporate Manager for Planning – Cllrs. Dashper; Fawcett; Masters; Rainbow & Robinson
 - Library – Cllrs. Fawcett (x6) & Robinson
 - ii. Councillors' Reports on village issues arising:
 - Rubbish in sacks on verge on road to Pakenham
 - Fly tipping – Pepper Lane – reported and white sacks have now been removed
 - Fishwick Corner – posts and debris from cars; grit bin broken
 - Post at Pokeriage Corner – advertisements – rotten and to be removed
 - White House on Thedwastre Road – pavement collapsed
 - Pakenham Crossroads – potholes – mention to Pakenham
 - Beyton Road at Cracknells – surface is still an issue

12. CLERKS REPORT

- a) Delegated powers – several issues relating to potholes (along School Road, Barton Road, Beyton Road) have yet again been flagged up to SCC Highways Department at Rougham. The Clerk has now obtained the draft letters issued by SCC Highways with relation to trees and hedgerows and is in the process of adapting them for the Parish Council's use.
- b) To receive an update on the deployment of the VAS – the meeting noted the comments that had been received from the Safety Camera Enforcement Team on speeding issues along Barton Road as per the report given under the Police Report – item 6c – page 392.
- c) 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.

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 – the next Parish Council Meeting is the Annual Council Meeting of the Parish Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 2nd May 2018 commencing at 7.30pm in Thurston Community Library, Norton Road, Thurston

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Appendix A

9 Financial Matters

<i>a) Accounts agreed for payment</i>	<i>CHQ/DD/CC</i>	<i>NETT</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Suffolkbiz – website hosting</i>	<i>3423</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>
<i>Invicta Window Films – security film</i>	<i>3424</i>	<i>170.00</i>	<i>34.00</i>	<i>204.00</i>
<i>Navigus Planning – NP support</i>	<i>3425</i>	<i>2365.90</i>	<i>473.18</i>	<i>2839.08</i>

b) Accounts paid since the last meeting –

<i>Plusnet – Telephone – March</i>	<i>DD</i>	<i>30.41</i>	<i>6.08</i>	<i>36.49</i>
<i>New Green Community Trust – rent March</i>	<i>SO</i>	<i>360.00</i>		<i>360.00</i>
<i>Tesco – Refreshments – meetings</i>	<i>CC</i>	<i>9.62</i>		<i>9.62</i>
<i>Eurooffice – NP Expenses</i>	<i>CC</i>	<i>106.10</i>	<i>21.22</i>	<i>127.32</i>
<i>Mid Suffolk CAB</i>	<i>3416</i>	<i>225.00</i>		<i>225.00</i>
<i>Suffolk West CAB</i>	<i>3417</i>	<i>225.00</i>		<i>225.00</i>
<i>Westcotec – VAS</i>	<i>3418</i>	<i>3150.00</i>	<i>630.00</i>	<i>3780.00</i>
<i>Salaries – March 2018</i>	<i>3419-3422</i>	<i>4783.23</i>		<i>4783.23</i>

c) Receipts received since the last meeting –

<i>Lloyds – Interest</i>	<i>Interest</i>	<i>3.04</i>		<i>3.04</i>
<i>MSDC – Cleansing Grant</i>	<i>Bacs</i>	<i>1232.45</i>		<i>1232.45</i>

11a Planning:

ii) To note the following decisions coming forth:

Outline Planning Permission for the erection of up to 200 homes (including 9 self-build plots), primary school site together with associated access, infrastructure, landscaping and amenity space (all matters reserved except for access) @ land at Norton Road.

11c Rec Ground Accounts

i) Accounts paid since the last meeting:

<i>Wave – NWG Business</i>	<i>DD</i>	<i>56.23</i>		<i>56.23</i>
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Monies received since the last meeting:

<i>U3A – Mah-Jong</i>	<i>Cash</i>	<i>36.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>36.00</i>
<i>SCC – TUFs 1st Qtr Rent for 2018-19</i>	<i>BACS</i>	<i>625.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>625.00</i>

ii) Accounts awaiting payment:

<i>R Cook – Caretaker</i>	<i>573</i>	<i>107.25</i>		<i>107.25</i>
<i>R Cook – Expenses * additional work</i>	<i>574</i>	<i>69.00</i>		<i>69.00</i>
<i>H2O – Works to showers and taps</i>	<i>575</i>	<i>406.90</i>	<i>81.38</i>	<i>488.28</i>

11d Library Accounts

i) Monies received since the last meeting:

<i>Suffolk Libraries re library lights</i>	<i>Bacs</i>	<i>47.39</i>		<i>47.39</i>
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Accounts awaiting payment:

<i>P Robinson – Library equipment</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>44.96</i>		<i>44.96</i>
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Appendix B

Glossary of Common Abbreviations used

aif	All in favour
APM	Annual Parish Meeting
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
NR	Network Rail
PC	Parish Council
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
pdf	Portable Document Format
Rec.	Recreation
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
TRO	Traffic Regulation Order
VAS	Vehicle Activated Sign

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Appendix C –

County Cllr. Otton's April Report to Full Council

- Conservatives deny councillors the chance to debate final school transport proposals

On 22 March, the Conservative majority at Suffolk County Council voted against a motion that would have allowed all councillors the chance to vote on the final school transport proposals, before the Cabinet makes a decision in June. The cross-party motion, proposed by Labour and seconded by the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group, called for an extraordinary Council meeting to debate and hold a non-binding vote on the final proposals. This would have given councillors who represent the most affected areas, from across the political spectrum, the chance to have their say and raise their concerns. I am deeply disappointed that this motion did not receive the support of the council. It is very strange that Conservative councillors have denied themselves the opportunity to fully represent those who elected them.

- New Chief Executive announced

Suffolk County Council has appointed a new chief executive, Nicola Beach, following a unanimous recommendation by the authority's Staff Appointments Committee and decision by the full council. Nicola, who is currently executive director of infrastructure and environment at Essex County Council, will join SCC this summer. Sue Cook will continue in her role as Interim Chief Executive until this time, when she will return to her role as corporate director of health, wellbeing and children's services.

- Respublica commissioned to examine options for public sector reform in Suffolk - Cllr Noble, Leader of Suffolk County Council, announced that he has commissioned Respublica to look at public sector reform in Suffolk. The think-tank will examine the current arrangements for public service delivery in Suffolk and will report back on the merits of making a bid to the government for a reformed system. The review will look once again at the possibility of a unitary county council in Suffolk. However, Cllr Noble has also insisted that other options will be considered, such as East and West Suffolk unitaries, an option including a Greater Ipswich unitary council, or enhancing the existing two-tier system. County and district/borough councillors were not consulted, and the announcement has not been well-received by the leaders of Ipswich Borough Council and Waveney District Council. The review is expected to cost £68,000.

- Potholes – funding boost and rise in insurance claims - Potholes continue to be a key issue for councillors and residents alike. There are two significant updates this month:

Suffolk County Council receives cash boost to deal with potholes - following the bad weather in February and March, Suffolk County Council has received £2.5m of additional funding from the Government to help with road repairs. Rise in insurance claims against Suffolk County Council - Insurance claims against Suffolk County Council due to "carriageway surface defects", such as potholes, have risen in recent years, from 363 in 2013 to 647 in 2017. A total of 2239 claims were made in this five-year period, but 84.7% of these were successfully defended by the council. Despite this, between 2013 and 2017, Suffolk County Council paid out £226,432 in compensation and legal fees.

- Suffolk County Council's gender pay gap remains significant

Suffolk County Council's pay report revealed that, although the Council employs nearly three times as many women as men, there is still a significant gender pay gap in favour of men.

The County Council's mean gender pay gap is 14.8%, whilst the median pay gap is 18.6%. In other words, although Suffolk County Council employs relatively few men, they are overrepresented in the better paid sectors and underrepresented in the less well-paid sectors. All the statistics refer to the average hourly pay rates of employees.

- Suffolk Waste Partnership awarded £10,000

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has been awarded £10,000 from the Government's Litter Innovation Fund, to run innovative local projects aimed at reducing litter.

The SWP plans to use the funding to:

- Trial new style litter bins at key layby locations and improve labelling and signage of litter bins along the A11, A12 and A14 in Suffolk.

So signed by the Chairman at the meeting of 2nd May 2018

- Trial new remote monitoring technology to help councils coordinate litter bin emptying more efficiently and effectively.
 - Ensure that any person taken to court and convicted for a littering offence anywhere in Suffolk is named and shamed publicly.
 - Run an awareness campaign to remind residents and visitors alike about the issues and the consequences of littering.
 - Educate residents and businesses about how to prevent their waste inadvertently escaping their control and ending up as litter.
- PLANNING - I met with 2 Mid Suffolk Councillors and Phillip Isbell to discuss the MLM report on their findings regarding the station. I hoped Mr Isbell would be able to delay the decision until more talks with Network Rail, but I am sorry this did not happen.