

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5th December 2018 at 7.30pm in the Community Library, Thurston Community College, Thurston.

In the Chair: Cllr. Dashper

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

In Attendance: County Cllr. P Otton; District Cllr. D Haley; Mrs V Waples, Clerk and 2 members of the public (1 attending later in the meeting).

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 of absence were received from Cllr. Mrs Morris due to a personal commitment.
 - b. Council consented to accept these apologies, aif.
 - c. Council to noted that Cllr. Masters formally resigned at the end of the last Parish Council meeting. The resignation was in writing and has been accepted by the Chairman and advertised in accordance with the necessary legislation.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS INCLUDING GIFTS OF HOSPITALITY EXCEEDING £25** –
 - a. Cllr. Robinson declared a Pecuniary Interest under Agenda Item 12a with regards to financial matters and would not take part in the vote that would follow. The following local non-pecuniary interests for the Agenda under discussion were declared: Cllrs. Fawcett, Mrs O'Connell & 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 November 2018 were agreed as true and accurate records, aif. The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 21st November 2018 were also agreed as true and accurate records, aif. The Chairman duly signed the minutes as such.
5. **BUSINESS REMAINING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING** – none that was not covered elsewhere in the agenda.
6. **PUBLIC FORUM** –

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS OTTON'S REPORT – Cllr. Otton was invited to submit her report, a copy of which can be seen at Appendix C.

The following items were brought to Cllr. Otton's attention:

 - When questioned, clarification was given on sponsored bus services as opposed to commercial bus services.
 - Education – is raising the bar initiative aligned to those in the Sunday Times Top 150? Cllr. Otton made the meeting aware that a significant amount of money has been invested in the educational initiative in Suffolk. Sunday Times list is believed to use similar classification to the Ofsted list. Agreed that standards have improved overall.

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- Cllr. Otton was made aware of concerns over the continuing thread regarding SCC not listening to the PCs and distinct lack as to what is happening at a local level. Cllr. Otton enquired whether Council should consider having a meeting with the CEO to raise concerns.
- When questioned as to whether there would be any monitoring of the uptake of the DofE given its link to sport following the report of the cessation of the accreditation of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, Cllr. Otton was unaware as to whether such reporting would be undertaken by the organisations who would be licensing themselves directly with the charity.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MR HALEY'S REPORTS – Cllr. Haley was invited to submit his report in which he covered the following items:

- Briefing notes issued by BMSDC – to be circulated to the Clerk – headlines covered - CiL; home strategy and homelessness strategy; local plan & NPPF; tree for life for all new parents in Mid Suffolk.
- Planning decisions given out recently – Acorns appeal dismissed; refusal of planning permission at Poplar Farm and planning permission for land at Rojalina.
- Forthcoming decisions - these will be updated on a weekly basis via the web.
- Tax bases given out and sent to all Clerks.
- Local Government Finance Settlement put back to 18th December 2018.
- MSDC has submitted plans for new homes and retail units in Needham Market.
- Application for Field of Dreams – Officer requesting further information from the agent.
- MSDC – planted 7 Oaks to commemorate the fallen in WW1 in Debenham.
- Appeal had been submitted for Harveys Garden Plants.
- Changes to permitted development – government has a consultation out on this topic which might be of interest.

When questioned, he did not know if a decision had been taken on the appointment/funding of a PCSO by MSDC but would find out the position and report back.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – there were no comments made by the member of the public present at this point.

7. POLICE MATTERS –

- a. Council received the latest Thurston SNT Report detailing the work undertaken over the past month by PCSO Smith which had been produced following reports submitted to the Clerk from PCSO Smith. It was noted that PCSO Smith over the past couple of weeks had been occupied with carrying out active engagement with regards to anti-social behaviour; carrying of potential weapons; inappropriate parking along School Road and Oakey Field Road.
- b. To receive village reports of concern for referral to Police – issue of inappropriate parking in the Thurston library car park, in particular on a Monday afternoon.

8. STATUTORY BUSINESS –

- a. To receive nominations for the posts of Councillor – Council agreed to accept the nomination to the Council of Mr Thurlbourn who, having declared he was eligible to be co-opted as he was qualified to be a councillor pursuant to s. 79 of the 1972 Act, was elected to the Council, aif. Council further agreed to accept the nomination of Mr Haley, who having declared that he was eligible to be co-opted as he was qualified to be a councillor pursuant to s 79 of the 1972 Act, was elected to the Council by a majority decision. Council noted that the remaining vacancy was still being advertised in accordance with s.87(2) of the 1972 Act.
- b. To consider Christmas Street Lighting Switching and whether the Council wish to follow the SCC Option of leaving part night lit lights on all night on Christmas Eve into Christmas morning and

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New Year's Eve into New Year's morning – it was proposed and agreed that Council would adopt the SCC proposal to leave part night lit lights on all night on certain dates as specified, aif.

9. TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO NETWORK RAIL:

- a. To receive an update on safety works / improvements to Thurston Railway Station - Clerk confirmed that she was still chasing for a response by SCC as to progress on the discussions with Network Rail over satisfactory mitigation measures that might be agreed upon. Cllr. Haley informed the meeting that the Transport Policy and Development Manager of SCC had met with the Professional Lead – Key Sites and Infrastructure at BMSDC recently and it had been agreed that he would put something in writing with regards to the mitigation measures being proposed and their response to such proposals.
- b. To receive an update on the measures to mitigate the Thurston Area Noise Complaints with particular reference to freight trains – there was nothing further to report at this stage and Council noted that the speed restrictions were actively still in place.

10. TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO PLANNING FOR THURSTON:

- a. To consider the following Planning Applications: none had been received for consideration by the meeting.
- b. To note decisions as determined by the Local Planning Authority – none had been received that had not been dealt with at previous meetings.
- c. To note responses to previous planning comments submitted as statutory consultees – there were no new comments for the meeting to consider.
- d. To receive notes of the meeting held on 21st November 2018 with SCC and other stakeholders on the new school for Thurston CofE Primary Academy – it was noted that these had been previously circulated. Following discussions over access to the school in terms of highway safety, it was agreed that the format for raising concerns relating to safety should be addressed in the first instance with the Head of School Governors.
- e. To consider setting a date for a Community Housing Enabling Officer to attend a future Parish Council Meeting to discuss Community-Led Housing and the way that it can be connected to Neighbourhood Planning (Paper A) – it was agreed that an invitation be extended to the Officer to attend a planning meeting in either January or February 2019 to learn more on this subject.

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING –

- a. To confirm that in accordance with Regulation 16 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, 2012 (as amended) the Thurston Neighbourhood has been submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council for formal consultation on the content of the Thurston NDP to see if it fulfils the Basic Conditions as required by Paragraph 8(1)(a)(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Localism Act 2011) – aim to send it by the end of the 2nd week in December. It was re-confirmed that there were no fundamental changes to the pre-submission consultation document that required a further round of consultations and that once the Engagement Strategy had been completed the documents were good to go.
- b. Landscape Assessment – should the Parish Council considering funding a Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the village of Thurston to review the landscape character and landscape setting and how the existing settlement sits within the surrounding landscape (Paper B)? It was agreed by all that it would be good to have one as it would strengthen the Neighbourhood Plan in the long run and would provide useful information for the PC in dealing with future planning applications and would sit as a reference tool moving forward. Clerk was instructed to obtain quotations for the next meeting.

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12. FINANCE (for financial details see Appendix A at the end of the minutes)

- a. To approve the accounts awaiting payment including those coming forth – Council approved the items for payments as listed at Appendix A, aif.
- b. To note the accounts paid since the last meeting – Council noted the items that had been paid since the last meeting as listed at Appendix A, approval of the schedule by all was forthcoming.
- c. To note receipts allocated since the last meeting – Council noted the monies received since the last meeting as listed at Appendix A.
- d. To consider and receive the Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 30.11.18 – Council noted the bank reconciliation for the period ending 30th November 2018 with cleared funds being £89405.02.
- e. To consider and receive the Internal Control Review as carried out in November 2018 – Council received the report noting that a complaint had been received regarding the Council's procedures which would be determined in line with the Council's Complaint Procedure.
- f. To consider the budget monitoring paper for the period ending 30th November 2018 - it was noted that this should read 30th December which would cover the 3rd Quarter and as such would be presented at the January 2019 meeting.
- g. To consider further the quotations received to 'fence off' the New Green bottom car park from the Youth Shelter and access to Station Hill – to be funded by the Parish Council and New Green Trust on a pro-rata basis. It was agreed, following comments received from the New Green Trust that the original specification would be the one upon which all would be asked to quote, aif. This would be presented to the Council for formal approval at the next meeting.
- h. To note the order for works to the trees on Church Road, based on the arboriculturalist report produced by Urban Forestry will be awarded to Urban Forestry once further information received on road closure costs – noted that the order had been placed on the proviso that the costs for road closure were reviewed.

13. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED – none had been received.**14. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND GROUPS -**

- a. Recreation Ground Trust:
 - i. 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 14a 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 £379.01.
 - iii. To receive any matters coming forth – the Annual Playground Inspection reports from MSDC have now been received and would be reviewed by the Recreation Ground Committee at its meeting the following week. Possible vandalism in Thedwastre Park – cover of bin had been removed and it is noted that on occasions the bins are left unlocked. Clerk to report this to MSDC Cleansing Dept.
- b. Library Account:
 - i. The accounts for the period ending 30th November 2018 were presented to full Council and accepted by all. Bank balances were confirmed as £8,460.65 with cleared available funds being the same.
 - 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 14b ii) at the end of the minutes for full details.
 - iii. To receive any matters coming forth – successful recent trip to London; continuing involvement with the Suffolk Arts Foundation Project aimed at promoting the arts and libraries in general. 1st Project run previous week for some pupils from the Primary School – very successful. A 2nd

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- activity will be run in January for the remainder of the class. Coming up: AGM (December 2018); Christmas Tree Festival (December 2018); Wine Tasting Event (February 2019).
- c. Emergency Plan:
- i. to receive an update on research work carried out to date - the master copy with personal data had been updated with regards to GDPR. As such the abridged version was confirmed as being ready to be uplifted to the website over the coming weeks and copies would be left at various locations within the village.
 - ii. Emergency Plan Committee – as there was now a vacancy on the Emergency Plan Committee, it was agreed that Cllr. Thurlbourn be elected to sit on this committee (members now being Cllrs. Hasler, Moss, Mrs. Morris & Thurlbourn) and that a meeting be scheduled for January to discuss cascading of information and the formal production of the document for release to all residents and businesses of Thurston, aif.
- d. Parish Infrastructure Investment Steering Group:
- i. to receive an update on the bids submitted against the CIL Bid Round 2 fund – it was confirmed that MSDC have acknowledged that they have the application and formal consideration of the bids for round 2 will be February 2019. It was further noted that a price has been received for the upgrading of the uncontrolled crossing point on Sandpit Lane and that this would be considered further by the PIISG prior to a paper being submitted to Council for consideration under Bid Round 3.
 - ii. to receive an update on the assessments of suitable sites within the parish of Thurston for Multi-Facility Recreation Use – it was expected all of the site assessment work would be completed by the end of December and that the results would, in the first instance, be shared with the Strategic Leisure Advisor & Leisure Projects Manager (Community Services) for BMSDC and the Public Realms / Open Space Officer at BMSDC for comments. The assessments would then be discussed with relevant stakeholders for further input.
- e. Village Welcome Sheet:
- i. to receive a report from the working group on the production of a Village Fact Sheet / welcome sheet or similar documentation – it was noted that the membership of the working group was Cllrs. Fawcett, Mrs Morris and Mrs O’Connell and that the Church had also expressed an interest in this being a joint venture. A discussion point with Gipping Press had been had who were interested in being involved and quoting for production. It was agreed that a starting point would be similar to the one produced previously by the Parish Councillor and that there was a need to link into the parish newsletter, parish website and church website. It was suggested that this should in the first instance be given / handed to new residents and then made available to all. Ideal to be put onto the website as a living document but there was a need to be aware of those who do not have access to website / computer.
- f. Councillors Reports –
- i. to note Councillors’ activities/ meetings attended since the last meeting
 - Library Meetings – Cllrs. Robinson & Fawcett
 - PIISG Meeting – Cllrs. Dashper, Rainbow & Robinson
 - SALC Meeting – Cllr. Robinson
 - Christmas Tree Festival Meeting – Cllrs. Robinson & Fawcett
 - VAS – Cllrs. Hasler
 - Engagement Surgery – Cllr. Dashper
 - Planning Committee Meeting – Cllrs. Dashper; Fawcett; Moss; Mrs O’Connell; Rainbow and Robinson
 - Library External Meetings – Cllr. Fawcett
 - School/Hib with SCC – Cllrs. Fawcett, Mrs O’Connell and Rainbow
 - Internal Control Audit – Cllr. Rainbow
 - Village Welcome Booklet/Sheet – Cllr. Fawcett

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- Arts Councillor Accreditor Meeting – Cllr. Fawcett
 - Funding for Development of Library – Cllr. Fawcett
 - Community Library Meetings – Cllrs. Fawcett & Robinson
 - Cavendish Hall – Cllr. Moss
 - Training Session x 2 – SALC – Cllr. Hasler
 - Project 2025 – PCSO Structure Going Forward – Cllrs. Dashper & Rainbow
- ii. to receive reports from Councillors' on issues relating to the village:
- State in which Thedwastre Road was left in following the recent roadworks. Noted that there is a condition on planning applications re site maintenance and cleansing and Council will need to monitor this once development starts on the five planning applications.
 - Consider moving Heath Close sign. Difficult for some to locate dwellings in the vicinity of this sign.
 - Pothole on Station Hill following repairs carried out by Anglian Water.
 - Broken chairs by the Youth Shelter.
 - Norton Road Hedgerow by Rylands – overgrown.
 - Potholes at the end of Lodge Close on School Road.
 - Dogs off the lead on the Recreation Ground during the evening.
 - Furze Close – report of the road surface.
 - Howes Avenue – parking issues.

15. CLERKS REPORT

- a) Delegated powers – the Clerk confirmed that she had dealt with the following matters under delegated powers: blocked slot drains; hedgerow along Sandpit Lane; various locations for potholes; surfacing in Furze Close and had answered questions over parking enforcement in residential areas. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for an article on parking enforcement regulations to be inserted into a forthcoming edition of the newsletter following liaison with PCSO Smith.
- b) To receive an update on the deployment of the VAS – there had been a temporary issue with the downloading of the data from Barton Road which would be sorted in the coming weeks. The data showed that the excessive high speeds along Beyton Road were dropping overall and that generally this area was showing a slight decline in those exceeding 35mph+ when existing the village. There was still a significant number exceeding 40mh on entering the village along Beyton Road.
- c) BMSDC – New Development at Elm Farm Park, New Green – it was proposed and agreed that the Council would suggest the road name Elm Court for the new development at Elm Farm Park noting that Elm Tree Farm was to form part of the address.

16. TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – themes for road names for the other four significant development areas with planning permission.

17. CLOSE OF MEETING – There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.41pm.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING –

- a) to confirm the date of the next Parish Council Meeting which is scheduled for 9th January 2019 and planning meeting 12th December 2018.

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19. To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that disclosure of disclosure of ongoing discussions relating to the lease of New Green Trust are not in the public interest:

- a) To consider further the request for financial assistance from the New Green Trust with regards to the costs involved with its conversion to Community Incorporated Organisations – **CONFIDENTIAL**
- b) To consider further the request from the New Green Trust to set-up a working group to commence negotiations with the Parish Council (tenant) and the Landlord over a new lease for the New Green Centre and Open Space – **CONFIDENTIAL**

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Appendix A

10. Planning:

b) To note the following decisions coming forth: none

12. Financial Matters

a) Accounts agreed for payment

	Voucher	CHQ/ DD/SO	NETT	VAT	TOTAL
Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner	599	3253	17363.50	0.00	17363.50
Thurston Charities in Need – rent	600	3254	55.00	0.00	55.00
SALC – Cllr. Training	601	3255	103.00	20.60	123.60
M&TJ's – Hedge Cutting Heath Road	602	3256	225.00	45.00	270.00
LexisNexis – Local Council Administration	603	3257	110.99	0.00	110.99

b) Accounts paid since the last meeting –

Salaries – November 2018	589-592	3249- 3252	3020.04		3020.04
New Green Rent – November 2018	593	SO	360.00	0.00	360.00
Plusnet – business account	594	DD	37.15	7.43	44.58
Eurooffice - Stationary	595	CC	115.81	23.16	138.97
ICO – Reg Fee – DATA Protection	596	DD	35.00	0.00	35.00
Amazon – prime – <i>to be cancelled</i>	597	CC	6.66	1.33	7.99
Lloyds – Mastercard Annual Fee	598	CC	25.00	0.00	25.00

c) Receipts received since the last meeting –

Lloyds – Interest – November	Interest		2.31	0.00	2.31
MSDC – Cleansing Grant – Qtr 1	BACS		510.25	0.00	510.25
MSDC _ Cleansing Grant – Qtr 2	BACS		612.30	0.00	612.30
1 st Thurston Scout Group – Wreath	Chq		18.50	0.00	18.50

14a) Rec Ground Accounts

i) Accounts paid since the last meeting: None

Monies received since the last meeting:

Mah-Jong – rent of pavilion	Cash		84.00	0.00	84.00
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ii) Accounts awaiting payment:

Caretaker Contract	595		110.77	0.00	110.77
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14b) Library Accounts

ii) Monies received since the last meeting:

Tickets for London Trip	Cash		360.00	0.00	360.00
Tickets for London Trip	Chq		36.00	0.00	36.00

iii) Accounts awaiting payment:

Elmswell Library Friends – hire of coach	122		310.00	0.00	310.00
P Robinson – Wine Tasting Expenses	123		11.98	2.40	14.38
St Peter's Church – Donation from Hoopla Quiz	124		163.68	0.00	163.68

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Appendix B

Glossary of Common Abbreviations used

aif	All in favour
AGAR	Annual Governance and Accountability Return
APM	Annual Parish Meeting
BACS	Bankers Automated Clearing Services
BUAB	Built Up Area Boundary
BMSDC	Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils
CC	Credit Card
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
Chq.	Cheque
Cllr.	Councillor
Cttee.	Committee
DC	District Council
DD	Direct Debit
FOI	Freedom of Information
GPoC	General Power of Competence
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
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
PIISG	Parish Infrastructure Investment Steering Group
Rec.	Recreation
RFO	Responsible Financial Officer
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SALC	Suffolk Association of Local Councils
SCC	Suffolk County Council
SID	Speed Indicator Device
SNT	SaferNeighbourhood Team
SO	Standing Order
SPS	Suffolk Preservation Society
TBC	To be confirmed
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 December Report to Full Council

PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS FOR 2019/20: On 22 November, the Scrutiny Committee discussed proposals for the 2019/20 budget. These will be finalised and presented to the Cabinet in January, before being debated by the full Council in February.

Council tax will increase by a total of 3.99% in 2019/20 – this will be made up of a 2.99% increase in general council tax and a final 1% increase for the Social Care Precept.

Removal of full Citizens Advice Grant – the Council have since announced that this will be phased in rather than immediate, with 50% of the grant being cut this year and the remaining 50% being cut in the 2020/21

Table 8: Summary of Savings Proposals

	Adult & Community Services (ACS) £'m	Health, Wellbeing & Children's Services (HW&CS) £'m	Fire & Rescue Service and Public Safety £'m	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure £'m	Corporate Services & Central Resources £'m	TOTAL £'m
Cost reduction	1.0	0.2	0.0	2.0	0.1	3.3
Grant reduction			0.4			0.4
Maximise Income		1.4	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.7
Service reduction	1.0	0.1		1.7	0.0	2.8
Staffing reduction	0.1	0.9	0.3	0.5	1.2	3.0
TOTAL	2.1	2.6	0.7	4.2	1.6	11.2

- Staffing reduction (totalling £3m) across all directorates
- Reduce Housing Related Support and the provision of hostel beds
- Negotiate care pricing
- Stop displaying bus timetables at the roadside
- Reduce spend on sponsored bus services
- Reduce out-of-hours stand-by service and winter support fleet for Suffolk Highways
- Stop road sign cleaning and only maintain mandatory road markings
- Turn more streetlights off overnight
- Cease accreditation of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme (the scheme will continue; however, organisations will license themselves directly with the charity rather than through SCC)

Unfortunately, I have not been informed of the savings associated with each of the above proposals, and instead have only been told how much each directorate is expected to save in total. The final proposals, along with the savings associated with each of them, will not be made available until January.

MOTION ON SINGLE USE PLASTIC: Following the support I had on the plastic bottle motion I am putting a motion to council on Thursday asking that the council and all its commissioned businesses conduct a survey of all single use plastic and to end its use where feasibly possible.

QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION: I will ask why not one school in Suffolk was in the top 150 of best schools in the Sunday Times list and whether that shows “Raising the Bar” is not succeeding

U-TURN ON SUPPORT FOR PERIOD POVERTY: In October, a motion asking for a commitment of £15,000 in the budget to help tackle “period poverty” was unfortunately rejected by the Council.

However, the administration has since announced that they will be undertaking an audit of the services in Suffolk that are aimed at tackling period poverty, to identify gaps and assess how provision can be improved.

I am cautiously hopeful that this review will result in proper support and funding for those amazing voluntary organisations that are currently providing free sanitary products. They cannot provide that service

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all on their own, and a commitment of funding from Suffolk County Council will be vital to ensure we eradicate period poverty across the whole county.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN INSURANCE PAY-OUTS FOR CARS DAMAGED BY POTHOLE: Data published under Freedom of Information laws has shown that, between 1 January and 16 October this year, Suffolk Highways have already paid out £67,819.07 for vehicle damage (including insurance pay outs, costs and legal fees). This is a significant increase from the previous year, when pay-outs for the whole of 2017 totalled £26,004.63. The number of claims has also more than doubled, from 598 in 2017 to 1,265 so far in 2018.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: Thank you Richard for laying my wreath.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP: I have asked that Helen Wilson attends the next meeting in January and she has agreed.

NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY HUB: Following the meeting I have asked Neil McManus to organise a meeting.

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