

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6th June 2018 at 7.30pm in the Community Library, Thurston Community College, Thurston.

In the Chair: Chair Cllr. Dashper

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

In Attendance: Mrs V Waples, Clerk, County Cllr. P. Otton, District Cllr. D. Haley, 12 members of the public, 7 members of the public under the aged of 18 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. Masters for personal commitments.
 - 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. There was one Pecuniary Interests for the Agenda under discussion – Cllr. Hasler with reference to Agenda Item 12a – Appendix A.
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. Trustee for Relief in Charity – Cllr. Mrs Morris – she stated that she would prefer not to participate in any vote regarding the Skatepark under Agenda Item 14d.
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 2nd May 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 30th May 2018 were agreed as true and accurate records and signed by the Chairman of the meeting as such.
5. **BUSINESS REMAINING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING** – none that was not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

With the Chair's consent it was agreed to move Agenda Item 14di) & 14dii) to allow representations from those members of the public present on the following matter prior to the Council's deliberations:

14 d) Skatepark Steering Group –

- i. to receive an update from the Skate Park Steering Group –
the Chair of the Group provided an update:
At last meeting 24.05.18 – agreed that the group would be incorporated as a registered charity; would continue funding raising events and the pop-up skate park at New Green would be

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started soon. Main potential sites – Plum Pudding Field – only a possibility; rear of Community College/ Persimmon site & Pigeon site – both have areas designated for a primary school, whichever one is not used could that area be considered for a skatepark?

Group have in the meantime identified a site for a temporary site - location in NE corner of field - Recreation Ground – the Group have demonstrated that there is room for this. The Group thinks that this should be explored in more detail. Group only wants to provide the facility and not maintain the equipment.

It was proposed and agreed by the Parish Council that there is still a desire to continue to work together with the Skate Park Steering Group to look at the siting of the permanent structure, and that it supported the proposal to work on the options, aif. However further details were needed to move this forward and it should be noted that the NP has made reference to this in the overall plan. The Group need to be aware that there will be conditions that have to be satisfied if there is to be a permanent structure.

- ii. to receive a request from the Skate Park Steering Group to consider siting a temporary wooden half pipe at either of the following locations: Play Area at Heath Road or the Recreation Ground
the Chair of the Group spoke to the meeting on this matter:
– a small timber half pipe had been made under supervision under guidance from RoSPA website. The Group will fund the cost of inspection for such an installation and wishes the facility to be installed over a trial period – timescales to be agreed.
The following questions were posed in the public forum:
Q. Construction is hollow – potential from noise? Will only cater for one or 2 at a time – technically quieter than a concrete one.
Q. If a temporary location has the group open discussions with new green? Not favourable response for any type of skatepark at new green.

The Clerk made the meeting aware of the following conditions / comments from the Council's insurers – insurance would only be provided on the facility if the Parish Council were to inspect it and maintain it and that post installation an inspection was carried out by RoSPA or a similar inspection company. All equipment must be built to the relevant standards as specified by RoSPA. The meeting was made aware of a number of issues raised by the Thurston Relief in Charity over the siting of such a facility on its land at Heath Road and it was agreed that such issues were also relevant to the siting of the facility at the Recreation Ground.

It was proposed and agreed by those able to vote, that given the issues raised by the Thurston Relief in Charity, Heath Road should be discounted as a possible site for the temporary skatepark, aif.

It was proposed and agreed by those able to vote, that the Recreation Ground be asked to consider the siting of the temporary structure on the Recreation Ground taking into account inspection and maintenance regimes; topography of the site and installation inspections at its meeting of 13th June 2018, aif.

With the Chair's consent it was agreed to move Agenda Item 11a) – c) to allow representations from those present on the following matter:

- 11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING –
 - a. to receive the Thurston Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission (Regulation 14) Version Document – (Draft 6) from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) – following a number of minor

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changes - reordering of plan; chapters changed; maps changed and noting that the content and policies had not changed, the meeting was asked to consider the Draft Document as submitted. The meeting was made aware that the PC needed to endorse the principals and policies behind the plan and once approved, there would be a minimum 6-week consultation period at which comments would be invited from all stakeholders. These would be reviewed for factual errors and omissions. It was noted an executive summary would be produced for all to have with hard copies being placed in strategic places and uploaded onto the website. The Chair asked that formal thanks be given to all who have committed time and effort in getting it to this stage. The proposal to formally receive the pre-submission document was agreed by all, aif.

- b. to consider the request from the NPSG to arrange the formal consultation on the Draft NP in accordance with the Regulations – the meeting agreed that the Parish Council should formally ask the NPSG to commence pre-submission consultation on the document on its behalf, aif.
- c. to consider the request from the NPSG to submit the Draft NP to MSDC for a health check – it was agreed that this proposal was a sound one as it would allow early errors or omissions to be identified, aif.

The meeting was also made aware that if adopted, there will be a need to ensure that a group is tasked with ensuring that reviews on the Plan are carried out on a regular basis.

6. 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.

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

- AGM on 21st May – no major changes to committees
- Andrew Stringer had stepped down as leader of the Green Group at MSDC and his place had been taken by Rachel Eburne (no longer Chair of Scrutiny) – this has kept transparency by ensuring Chair is from the opposition parties.
- MSDC – Women's cycle tour – passing through a number of villages.
- Licensing application has been received for the retail unit at The Granary.
- Ongoing work regarding CIL – 3 authorities asked by government to look at all the data that s106 & CIL covers and where it is held and how it is held - Southwark; Bath & Somerset and BDC & MSDC.
- Elected Chairman of MSDC – Charity is Suffolk Mind

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

- Major planning applications – where are they now? It was confirmed that they were working their way through the process and that Hopkins Homes is at Reserved Matters which had been submitted and awaiting a decision; Pigeon and Persimmon were working on their Reserved Matters; and Barton Road & Meadow Lane – still satisfying conditions.

7. 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. Noted abstractions had taken place that month in accordance with his contract.
- c. to receive village reports of concern for referral to Police – none.
- d. Clerk to provide a summary of the meeting held with Sgt Vaughan of the Stowmarket SNT on the

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- e. role of the fully funded PCSO – update on the meeting held was given – summary of points covered – time spent in village; possibility of a tablet to access data away from the station; being pro-active with passing on crime patterns; generic parking letters to be issued to certain roads and up-to-date information for newsletter entry.
- f. Clerk to provide a summary of the meeting held with the Project 2025 Team to look at the role of funded and match-funded PCSOs – a summary of the meeting held with the Project 2025 Team Representative, Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk was given – summary of points covered – issues with current level of cover; extension of powers; extension of contracted hours.
- g. Community Engagement Officer – the meeting was made aware that Stowmarket Police Station, now had a Community Engagement Officer PC Stefan Erikson, who was one of nine Police Officers throughout Suffolk performing this role. This was a new role for Suffolk Constabulary which amongst other things involves contacting and meeting community representatives, groups and individuals who would like to receive information from local Police and be more aware of what we have been doing within the community. The aim was to keep you stakeholders up to date with their work and provide an insight into what can sometimes be perceived as the unfamiliar world of policing. They will be doing this in both traditional and contemporary ways, attending meetings and organised events, but also using digital means of communication such as social media. Their intention is to provide relevant and timely information.

8. 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 – having confirmed that he fulfilled the criteria to be eligible to be considered as a Councillor, Council received a nomination from Kevin Bradley to join the Council. Agreement was forthcoming from all that Mr Bradley be co-opted onto the Parish Council with immediate effect, aif. He duly completed his acceptance of the office of Councillor and joined the meeting at the table.
- b. To note that the Council's 3 Year Business Plan will be circulated for discussion at the meeting scheduled for 4th July 2018 - noted
- c. To retrospectively approve the following policies as adopted in May 2018: Council agreed to retrospectively approve the following policies, aif:
 - Electronic Communication & Social Media Policy (Paper A)
 - Subject Access Request Policy (Paper B)
 - Subject Access Request Procedure (Paper C)
- d. To note amendments to the following policies: Council noted and approved amendments to the following policies, aif
 - Data Protection Policy (Paper D)
 - Document and Electronic Data Retention Policy (Paper E)
- e. To receive an update on work carried out to show compliance with the GDPR – the Clerk provided the meeting with an update on work carried out by the Clerk to ensure compliance with the GDPR Regulations – policies as above; privacy statements; data impact assessment up-to-date; risk assessments up-to-date.

9. TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO NETWORK RAIL:

- a. To receive an update on safety measures or improvement works at Thurston Railway Station – the meeting was made aware of the recent MSDC/SCC/PC and Network Rail Meeting which had covered topics such as CIL and issues around safety issues at the station - no further forward from the feasibility study from 2015. Agreement to discuss further the feasibility of the proposal made by NR and whether it could be amended/approval was given. It was noted that the former access tunnel is unsafe and was unsafe prior to being blocked up and that a

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new tunnel would be needed if this was the way forward. The PC did and will press for the operator to be in place as there is no current feedback on the users. The PC had expressed its hope that there would be movement on this and that it would not be a talking point for a long time. Mindset of NR – at what point would they consider closure of the crossing – no figure given but they stated that there are crossings in the country that have reached the threshold and are still open as such at this stage, the crossing will remain open.

Cllr Moss made the meeting aware of his FOI with National Rail over the policy document covering the closure of platform & crossings and were there priority issues to tackle. Cllr. Moss stated that knowledge in the village is very low about the issues surrounding the Railway Station and possible closure or re-routing – how should this issue be made public? Discussion followed as to how this level of conversation could be progressed. Cllr. Dashper made the meeting aware that he had asked the question of NR that knowing how the decision went at the Planning Referrals Meeting and that funding would not be coming from S106 would they still give the same response to planning? NR had responded that they were disappointed with the way the process was working as to how to access funds for such works.

- b. To receive an update on the response to the questions posed by the Parish Council regarding the measures or improvement works to mitigate the Thurston Noise Area Complaints with reference to freight trains – the Clerk had posed the following questions - who has been informed of this? Why had residents further down the line not been informed? How is the monitoring of the speed of the trains being undertaken and what reassurances can be given that the speeds are being achieved? The responses received on this matter were as follows:

A resident acting on behalf of other local residents and his MP, Jo Churchill, have requested an update regarding their complaints in relation to noise vibrations from trains. NR were not aware of any other complaints being raised with us from other residents or organisations; the train operators are responsible for monitoring train speed and have devices fitted to trains to do so and they also carry out random checks; NR expects its train operators to act safely and responsibly and it is a condition of their licence to operate with the regulator (the ORR) to do so . In the event of an incident or if there is any evidence that trains are speeding Network Rail is able to measure average train speed indirectly through its signalling systems and the current reduced speed is 30mph over a section around 1 mile in length . However, NR intends to vary the speed and length of the temporary speed restriction during the trial period dependent upon the feedback from both train operators and the resident to ascertain where the actual noise emanates from.

It was agreed that this item should stay on the agenda to allow residents to flag up issues that might be forthcoming on this matter.

10. TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO PLANNING FOR THURSTON:

- a. To consider the following Planning Applications: none received
- b. To note decisions as determined by the Local Planning Authority – (see Appendix A)
- c. To consider matters arising from previous planning responses submitted as statutory consultees – there were none
- d. To receive an update from the Steering Group on the production of the Parish Investment Infrastructure Plan (PIIP) – 6 members now in place. 1st meeting would be held once Terms of Reference for the group was agreed?

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING –

- a. to receive the Thurston Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission (Regulation 14) Version Document – (Draft 6) from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) (Paper G)
- b. to consider the request from the NPSG to arrange the formal consultation on the Draft NP in accordance with the Regulations.

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- c. to consider the request from the NPSG to submit the Draft NP to MSDC for a health check.

12. 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 – approval of the accounts as stated was given by all, aif.
- b. To note the accounts paid since the last meeting (see Appendix A) – these were noted.
- c. To note receipts allocated since the last meeting (see Appendix A) – there were noted.
- d. To consider and receive the Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31.05.18 – Council noted the bank balances of £105,093.63 and was made aware that given the levels of compensation, Council might need to consider investments in accordance with its investment policy. The Clerk also informed the Council that, subject to regulations and financial procedures the Council ought to consider the possibility of internet banking.
- e. To consider and receive the Internal Control Report as per the internal control checks carried out by Cllr. Rainbow – Council noted the report as submitted and attention was drawn to Notes 1 – 3 of the internal control (Standing Orders Ref L04-18 2018 Model Standing Orders – no new amendments needed; Impact & Risk Assessments to be completed for GDPR; Section for CIL Receipts to be added to form.
- f. To consider and agree the purchase of replacement litter bins for those located on the New Green Centre – 2 two to be replaced were confirmed as being adjacent to the seat and adjacent to the MUGA at a cost of £595.72. Council was in agreement to proceed with their replacement, aif.
- g. To consider and agree the purchase of a cast iron bin with associated fixings costs to be located adjacent to the Youth Shelter at a cost of £698.95 – Council was in agreement to proceed with this purchase, aif

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 14c ii) at the end of the minutes for full details – approved, aif.
 - ii. The Council received the bank reconciliation to date and noted that bank balances stood at £339.59 with cleared balances being £339.59.
 - iii. To receive any matters coming forth – it was noted that, under Emergency Powers, the Clerk had had to call out Dyno-rod that day to clear blocked drains at the Pavilion. Quotes from Wicksteed and Kompan had just been received for repairs to play equipment and upgrades to the surface area of the MUGA at New Green. Tree survey work on the Oak Trees at the Recreation Ground would be carried out the next week and Pretty's would be submitting an update regarding a possible rent increase for the Under Five Building. Mah-jong were using the pavilion on a regular basis. It was noted that all stakeholders would be invited to the Recreation Meeting scheduled for 13th June at which the Skatepark Project would be discussed.
- b. Library Account:
 - i. The accounts for the period ending 31st May 2018 were presented to full Council and accepted by all. Bank balances were confirmed as £9,667.15 with cleared available funds being the same.
 - 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 14dii at the end of the minutes for full details.

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- iii. To receive any matters coming forth – plans in for Children’s Library to be discussed. 1st venture with another library – Elmswell Library is being discussed.
- c. Emergency Plan – work has been undertaken and it is largely up to date. Some sections still to be updated and latest version to be sent to the Clerk. Seasonal review to be undertaken. Edited copy to be left in strategic places. The agreed roads for which Councillors will be responsible was still a work in progress. The Clerk confirmed that she has the Master copy and is awaiting details from certain groups.
- d. Skatepark Steering Group – as covered elsewhere in the agenda.
- e. Councillors Reports –
 - i) to note Councillors’ activities since the last meeting
 - Library – Cllrs. Fawcett (+5 special meetings); Mrs O’Connell & Robinson
 - Planning – Cllrs. Dashper, Mrs O’Connell, Rainbow & Robinson
 - Neighbourhood Planning – Cllrs. Fawcett (+5) & Mrs Morris
 - Tree Warden Conference – Cllr. Mrs Morris
 - Village Recorder Conference – Cllr. Mrs Morris
 - Meeting with Sgt Vaughan of Stowmarket SNT – Cllrs. Dashper and Rainbow
 - Project2025 re PCSO – Cllrs. Dashper & Rainbow
 - Meeting with Pigeon – Reserved Matters – Cllrs. Fawcett, Hasler, Mrs O’Connell & Rainbow
 - Internal Control – Cllr. Robinson
 - Cavendish Hall – Cllr. Moss
 - VAS – Cllr. Hasler
 - Community Surgery – Cllrs. Dashper & Hasler
 - Anglia Water meeting with Pakenham Parish Council – Cllr. Hasler had attended this meeting and it was noted that the main issues were all localised issues to do with pollution. Anglia Water had stated that the extra houses were not an issue as their infrastructure is infinite scalable – new houses will pay for connection. They were only consulted on 2 out of 5 but were aware of the other 3 . It was also mentioned that they were not a Statutory Consultee.
 - Network Rail – Cllrs. Dasher & Rainbow
 - Emergency Plan – Cllr. Hasler
 - ii. to receive reports from Councillors’ on issues relating to the village
 - grass verges at Pokeridge Corner
 - Cllr. Moss updated the meeting on his FOI request to MSDC over his concerns of the wrongly posted and removed s106 notices to do with rail concerns. MSDC’s reply had stated that they have not been able to do it within the 20 days and could he grant them an extra 20 days.
 - Rubbish in sacks on road to Pakenham on left hand side going up hill
 - Beyton Road – 30 and 40mph are obscured and need cleaning as does the unrestricted. (Highways flagged up)
 - Posts at Fishwick
 - Subsidence in the road on Barton Road at Mill Lane
 - Hedge on Sandpit Lane on Victoria Road.
 - Hedge on opposite side of Victoria Road
 - Norton Road – hedge encroaching again
 - New Green Car Park – safety fencing left behind by the contractor who carried out works to the Telephone Mast
 - Cllr. Hasler made the meeting aware that he had spoken to NR regarding the metal sign on the bridge and that it is in the process of being sorted.

15. 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.

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Street Naming – a request had been submitted for a new sign for Partridge Close. The meeting agreed that prior to agreeing to such a request the Clerk should ascertain the cost to the Council, aif.

- b) To receive an update on the deployment of the VAS – the meeting noted that the new SID is now in place on Barton Road. This unit shows the speed and where appropriate a message containing the words SLOW DOWN. Be interested in comparing data from this one with the other given the change in unit.
- 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.

16. TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – Standing Orders to be revised at the July meeting. There were no specific items raised.

17. CLOSE OF MEETING – There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.20pm.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – the next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 4TH July 2018 commencing at 7.30pm in Thurston Community Library, Norton Road, Thurston with a Planning Meeting scheduled for 20th June 2018 (if necessary), commencing at 7.30pm in Thurston Community Library, Norton Road, Thurston

19. To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted – none arising

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Appendix A

12. Planning:

b) To note the following decisions coming forth:

DC/18/01222 – withdrawal of application - outline planning application (access to be considered) – erection of 1 No dwelling and access @ Ashdown, Poplar Lane Farm

14. Financial Matters

a) Accounts agreed for payment

	Voucher DD/SO	CHQ/	NETT	VAT	TOTAL
Groundwork UK – unspent grant	514	3440	3982.93		3982.93
Suffolk Libraries – Donation for 2018-19	515	3441	2700.00		2700.00
M&TJ's – Grounds Maintenance - April	516	3442	246.00	49.20	295.20
Void		3443			
PC of Thurston – Library – VAT reclaim	517	3444	82.15		82.15
PC as Trustee of Thurston Rec Grd – VAT reclaim	518	3445	158.84		158.84
M&TJ's – Grounds Maintenance - June	519	3446	358.00	71.60	429.60
I Hasler – Padlocks for SID & VAS Unit	520	3447	25.84		25.84

b) Accounts paid since the last meeting –

Adobe Systems Software	507	CC	21.14		21.14
New Green Community Trust – rent May	508	SO	360.00		360.00
Plusnet – Telephone – May	509	DD	33.50	6.70	40.20
Salaries – May 2018	510- 513	3436- 3439	2950.47		2950.47

c) Receipts received since the last meeting –

Lloyds – Interest – April	Interest	3.26		3.26
Lloyds – Interest – May	Interest	4.52		4.52
HMRC – Reclaim of VAT	BACS	2443.39		2443.69

14a) Rec Ground Accounts

i) Accounts paid since the last meeting: None

Monies received since the last meeting:

Football Club – Saturday	Chq	102.00		102.00
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ii) Accounts awaiting payment:

R Cook – Caretaker	578	107.25	0.00	107.25
R Cook - Expenses	579	12.12	2.42	14.54
M&TJ's – Grounds Maintenance	580	55.00	11.00	66.00

14b) Library Accounts

i) Monies received since the last meeting: None

ii) Accounts awaiting payment: None

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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
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
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 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 April Report to Full Council

- Overwhelming public opposition to Suffolk County Council's school transport plans - leaked documents from Suffolk County Council show overwhelming public opposition to proposed school transport changes. Of the 3600 responses to Suffolk County Council's home-to-school transport consultation, 85% "strongly oppose" the proposals and a further 5% "oppose" them. This is the most responses received by a Consultation in recent years, and it is clear that parents, teachers and communities have very serious concerns about the proposals. The Cabinet is due to make a decision on changing the school transport policy on Tuesday 19 June. I, along with my Group, have opposed the proposed changes since they were first announced in September and we will continue to raise our concerns at the Cabinet meeting. I had a letter in the EADT expressing my serious concerns. I will be having a meeting with school transport officer on 14th June to make sure all the information is presented to the cabinet, including TCC's proposal.
- New Council Leader elected - following a leadership challenge in the Conservative Group at the Council, Cllr Matthew Hicks has been elected as the new Leader of Suffolk County Council, replacing Cllr Colin Noble. His Deputy will be Cllr Mary Evans. She will now take on highways. Cllr Hicks has promised a "new era" of politics at the Council, with a focus on mutual respect, collaboration and co-operation. We are hopeful that he will be more open to working with, and listening to, councillors from other parties. The first major change has been the removal of Cabinet Committees, which were only established in September 2017. They will be replaced by Policy Development Panels, although we do not currently have the full details on how these will operate.
- 'Outstanding' schools in Suffolk have not had Ofsted inspections for years - in Suffolk, 23 outstanding schools - almost half of those rated 'outstanding' – have not been inspected for at least 6 years. For 6 of these schools, their last inspection was over a decade ago. This means that whole cohorts of students have gone through school without a single Ofsted inspection. As Spokesperson for Education from the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group, I raised the issue and my concerns at a Council meeting on 24th May. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, Gordon Jones, assured me that he shared my concerns and would raise it with the head of Ofsted. Whilst I am delighted schools are outstanding we must make sure they are continuing to be so.
- FLOODING IN BEYTON AND JUNCTION OF A14 AND THURSTON ROAD - at a meeting with SCC Anthony Smith it was asked that the verge/ overgrowth there is cut back as a matter of urgency and I have been told this will be done this month. Again, some of the problems lie with the landowners so he will again be asking for some clearance work to be done.
- LOCALITY BUDGET THURSTON CROQUET CLUB - there appears to have been some misunderstanding about how much and which councillor is contributing. I have allocated £500 and Derrick Haley £2,000 but I have suggested to Barrie James, that maybe it was Cllr Jewson where the other £2k was coming from?

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