

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd May 2018 at 7.30pm in the Community Library, Thurston Community College, Thurston.

In the Chair: Chair Cllr. Dashper

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

In Attendance: Mrs V Waples, Clerk, County Cllr. P. Otton, District Cllr. D. Haley, 6 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. **ELECTION OF CHAIR** - Cllr Dashper was proposed as Chairman by Cllr. Robinson seconded by Cllr. Mrs O'Connell. There being no other nominations, Cllr Dashper was duly elected, aif. Having been elected to the office of Chairman, Cllr Dashper duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman.
3. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR** - Cllr Rainbow was proposed as Vice-Chairman by Cllr. Dashper seconded by Cllr. Moss. There being no other nominations, Cllr Rainbow was duly elected, aif. Having been elected to the office of Vice-Chairman, Cllr Rainbow duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Vice-Chairman.
4. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** –
 - a. Apologies for absence – apologies of absence had been received from Cllr. Mrs. Morris for personal commitments.
 - b. Approval of apologies for absence – Council agreed to approve the apologies submitted for absence, aif.
5. **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.
6. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th April 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 25th April 2018 were agreed as true and accurate records and signed by the Chairman of the meeting as such.
7. **BUSINESS REMAINING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING** –
 - a. Dark Sky Authority – as mentioned at the Planning Meeting at which the Reserved Matters for Hopkins Homes was discussed, the Clerk confirmed that she was investigating how the Parish Council went about declaring itself a dark sky authority.

So signed by the Chairman at the meeting of 6th June 2018

8. 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 also noted:

- Meeting to be held with Beyton regarding flooding issues arising from the recent weather.

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

- Email regarding information from CAB. Interesting reading – perhaps the Parish Council should request a copy of the newsletter. DH to ask for
- Poplar Farm have had 2 planning applications refused.
- Letter re GDPR – all have received a copy from NALC
- Annual Report Summary has been produced – report was lately produced. A link to the report on the web will be provided.
- Papers from last week's Council meeting are on the web.
- Both BDC and MSDC have achieved 2 Silver Awards from outside independent bodies – iESE – across various categories – Council of the Year, Public Sector Working Together.
- CIL was covered at last week's Council Meeting.

Questions – how can CIL monies be ring-fenced? CIL money has not yet been ring fenced. The Parish Council will ask at the Network Rail Meeting scheduled for 10th May 2018 as to how funds can be ring fenced.

Cllr. Moss asked whether MSDC was aware if NR were having direct conversations with SCC – Cllr. Haley was not aware of any conversations.

Cllr. Masters raised issues about the planning website – Pigeon site – typo errors re S106.

PC letter is still not on the Bovis application under documents.

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

- NR will it include a comment on the condition agreed for Pigeon?
- Dangerous pothole filed by the layby on Barton Road – now failing.
- Issue over Bovis and how the area will be left given recent reports in the press – confirmed that Planning Building Inspectors will carry out their responsibility according to regulations.
- Bovis – when questioned confirmation was given that the planning application for development of land by Bovis off Barton Road was a full planning application and planning permission was granted on 1st November 2018. Once the planning permission has been granted then the development could proceed.

9. 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 and the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk was fixed for Friday of that week and would be followed by a meeting with Sgt David Cutler to seek the Parish Council's views on the current match and fully funded PCSO arrangements.

It was also noted that PCSO Matt Smith and PCSO Phil Brill had been carrying out speed checks the previous Friday which showed that there some vehicles still doing 35mph along Barton Road despite there having been 3 warnings of the speed limit by the time that the vehicle had been seen by the PCSOs.

So signed by the Chairman at the meeting of 6th June 2018

- c. To receive village reports of concerns from those present – at meeting with Stowmarket SNT – question to be asked can we extend hours into the evening to make it more relevant to the village.

10. 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 – one expression of interest – District Cllr. Haley stated that due to there not being a full complement of Councillors he felt that his conscience would not allow him not to stand. The Chair of the meeting asked that, if he were interested in standing, a formal submission be given to the Clerk for consideration at the next meeting.
- b. To confirm the continuation of the appointment of the Clerk to the Council as the Responsible Financial Officer – in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972(d) (financial administration), the Council confirmed that the Clerk was to be the appointed person who would be responsible for the administration of the financial affairs of the parish council.
- c. To note that the Council no longer fulfils the eligibility criteria to use the General Power of Competence and that no new projects may commence under this power – although the council no longer fulfilled the eligibility criteria because it has less than two-thirds elected councillors, the explanatory note to the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, provides clarity that in such circumstances the Council is still eligible to use the GPoC until the next relevant annual meeting which is the annual general meeting following an election.
- d. To confirm the appointment of Parish Councillors on the following Committees:
 Planning – Cllrs. Dashper, Fawcett; Masters; Moss; Mrs O’Connell; Rainbow and Robinson
 Emergency Planning – Cllrs. Hasler; Masters, Mrs Morris and Moss
 Recreation Ground Committee – Cllrs. Dashper; Hasler; Moss and Rainbow (Chair)
 Policy & Resources – Cllrs. Dashper; Fawcett; Mrs O’Connell and Rainbow
- e. To confirm the appointment of Parish Council Representatives on the following Bodies:
 Neighbourhood Plan – Cllrs. Fawcett, Mrs Morris and Mrs O’Connell; Friends of Thurston Library – Cllrs. Fawcett; Mrs O’Connell & Robinson; Cavendish Hall – Cllr. Moss; Thurston Community College Forum – Cllrs. Masters and Mrs O’Connell; New Green Community Trust – there were no nominations to the Trust as the issue of it being an unincorporated trust had not yet been resolved.
- f. To confirm the following Parish Appointed Positions: SALC Representative – Cllr. Robinson; Tree Warden – Cllr. Morris; Footpath Warden – Mrs Service; Bank Signatories – Cllrs. Dashper, Fawcett, Mrs O’Connell and Robinson; Internal Controller – Cllr. Rainbow; Thurston Relief in Need Charity – Mrs Churchus and Mrs. Service.
- g. To elect a Chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee – Cllr Rainbow was proposed and seconded as Chairman. There being no other nominations, Cllr Rainbow was duly elected, aif. Having been elected to the office of Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Rainbow duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of that Office.
- h. To note that the Council’s 3 Year Business Plan will be circulated for discussion at the meeting scheduled for 4th July 2018

11. TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO NETWORK RAIL:

- i. To receive an update on safety measures or improvement works at Thurston Railway Station - the meeting was made aware of a meeting scheduled for 10th May with representatives from NR; MSDC Infrastructure Team; SCC Highways and the Parish Council Clerk; Chair and Co-Chairs of the Thurston NPT and District and County Cllrs. for Thurston. It was felt that MSDC, who had organised the meeting, should also invite Jonathan Denby from Greater Anglia as any

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discussion over the future of the station could impact on services being run. For those present Condition 28 relating to the Outline Planning Permission granted to Pigeon concerning the satisfaction of the risk to future users of the barrow crossing at Thurston Railway Station was read out. It was agreed that the NR meeting was important as there was a need to discuss how mitigation in real terms could be addressed for all rail users.

- ii. To receive an update on the measures or improvement works to mitigate the Thurston Area Noise Complaints with reference to freight trains – it was reported that the Head of Maintenance Delivery for the Anglia Route had agreed to impose for a trial period, a temporary speed restriction which will apply to all freight trains which pass through Thurston. This restriction was imposed on 23rd April and will be maintained for a trial period of 3 months so that they can assess the effectiveness not only on the noise problem, but also the effect to the programmed train service as delays to freight trains at Thurston can have an effect nationally. He had requested initial and ongoing feedback on this key action and was pursuing the option of an acoustic barrier as a longer-term mitigation to the noise issue should the trial involving reducing the speed of trains is unsuccessful for either operational reasons or that it fails to reduce the noise. It was stated that indications are that this option will be expensive if they opt to build a traditional acoustic barrier over such a long length of line, but they were also exploring other potential methods including tree planting with the Woodland Trust. The meeting agreed that it would like the Clerk to pose the following - who has been informed of this – residents further down the line have not been informed and how is the monitoring of the speed of the trains being undertaken? What reassurances can be given that the speeds are being achieved.

12. TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO PLANNING FOR THURSTON:

- i. To consider the following Planning Applications: none received
- ii. To note decisions as determined by the Local Planning Authority coming forth – (see Appendix A)
- iii. consider matters arising from previous planning responses submitted as statutory consultees – DC/18/01751 - reduction of Evergreen Oak by 2 metres at 14 Howes Avenue. The meeting was made aware that although the Parish Council had submitted comments against this application, the Clerk has also raised the Council's concerns direct with the Arboricultural Officer at MSDC and, in particular, the comment relating to the tree being pruned to the previously pruned points which were undefined in the application.
- iv. To consider setting up a Steering Group to advise the Parish Council on the infrastructure needs of the existing and future community. It was noted that this would allow the Council to complete a Parish Investment Infrastructure Plan (PIIP) and enable it to identify and prioritise the needs of the community and future spending decisions. Terms of reference to be agreed but there would be no more than 6 persons on the committee – 4 from the PC and 2 from the NPT. Cllrs. Dashper, Fawcett, Rainbow and Robinson agreed to serve on this committee. Once the NPT had nominated members the Clerk would organise the 1st meeting.

- 13. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING** – to receive an update from the NP Steering Group on the production of the Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr. Fawcett reported that the NPT had received a version of the plan which will be circulated imminently to the members of the Steering Group. In turn the Steering Group will check the plan for errors and omissions. Once all their comments had been returned and any amendment made the plan will be formally submitted to the Parish Council. The Clerk provided the meeting with a resume of the actions that would then need to be taken: the next stages will involve the publishing of the draft NP on the NP page of the website, clearly stating the consultation period and how people can respond. The consultation will need to run for a minimum of 6 weeks and needs to end before the holiday season. The PC will then need to write to various

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statutory bodies as well as other parties that have got an interest in land in the village and it is recommended that the Parish Council writes to the site promoters of the sites with planning permission for example. It was also noted that the NPT recommended that the PC took up the offer of a health check to be undertaken by MSDC prior to formal submission.

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

- a. Finance - *all of the papers referred to under Items 14b-14g can be view at the following weblink: <http://thurston.suffolk.cloud/parish-council/finances/>*
- b. To receive and approve the Annual Internal Audit Report for the year ending 31st March 2018 as produced by the Council's appointed Internal Auditor (Paper 1/2018) – the meeting received the report provided by the internal auditor and noted that there were no major issues arising it and that it was a comprehensive report. The Clerk was thanked for her work in ensuring that the Council had such a good internal audit. Formal acceptance of the report was proposed and approved by all.
- c. To approve the Statement of Accounts for Thurston Parish Council for the year ending 31st March 2018 (Paper 2/2018) – the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018 was presented to full Council. Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Cllr. Rainbow seconded by Cllr. Hasler, aif.
- d. To note and approve the movement to/from the Council's Reserves for the year ending 31st March 2018 (Paper 3/2018) – the Council noted and approved the movement between the council's reserves as per the paper submitted. Approval of the general reserves at £28,414 and earmarked reserves at £34,437 was agreed by all. It was agreed that the reserves held by the Parish Council at the year-end were appropriate to its needs with sufficient reserves being held as contingency sums to meet, within reason, any unforeseen items of expense that may occur.
- e. To consider and approve the completion of the Statement of Assurance for the year ending 31st March 2018 as per the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) – the Statement of Assurance, Section 1 of the AGAR was presented to Council and agreement was forthcoming for all the statements to be answered in the affirmative, aif. The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign Section 1 of the Annual Return.
- f. To consider and approved the Accounting Statements for the year ending 31st March 2018 as transposed onto the AGAR (Paper 4/2018 refers for Items d) and e)) – the Accounting Statements made up of the Council's accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018 was also presented to Council and approved by all as a true reflection of the Council's transactions for the year under review, aif. The Clerk and Chairman were duly authorised to sign Section 2 of the AGAR. It was noted that the Internal Auditor had signed the Internal Audit Report. It was also noted that the commencement of the period which allowed electors the opportunity to inspect the council's accounts would commence on 4th June 2018 and last for a period of 30 working days. Council noted that the AGAR along with relevant paperwork should be submitted to the external auditors by 11th June 2018.
- g. To note the Budget to Actual for the Year ending 31st March 2018 (Paper 5/2018) – Council noted the position at the end of the year which showed that overall there was a 1% underspend on the budget for the year.
- h. To receive and approve the payments to be made under Direct Debit and Standing Orders for the year 31st March 2019 – in accordance with Council's FR 5.6, a schedule of due and retrospective payments which arise on a regular basis of a continuing contract was submitted to the Council. It was noted that such payments are contained within Appendix A for approval at each meeting.
- i. To approve the accounts awaiting payment (see Appendix A) including those coming forth – the items shown on the list as at Appendix A were approved for payment, aif.

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- j. To note the accounts paid since the last meeting (see Appendix A) – items as identified under Appendix A were noted.
- k. To note receipts allocated since the last meeting (see Appendix A) – those items received since the last meeting as per Appendix A were noted. It was confirmed that the 1st half of the Precept (£47,033.50) had been received from MSDC as well as a CIL payment of £1,629.69 against planning reference 4800/16.
- l. To consider and receive the Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 30.04.18 (Paper 7/2018) – noted that bank balances stood at £107,721.96.
- m. To consider the request for a small budget for the Thurston Local History Recorder to offset costs incurred in this role – suggested budget to be £50 per annum – the meeting agreed to set such a budget within the overall administration budget. All costs incurred to be against itemised claims.
- n. To consider further information received concerning compliance with the GDPR – it was agreed that there was merit in employing someone from outside the Parish Council as it added a layer to the process. Formal process to be applied and the Clerk was in the process of working through the paperwork.

15. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED – none had been received.

16. 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 16c 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 £758.60 with cleared balances being £758.60
 - iii. To receive any matters coming forth – the meeting was informed that a company had been appointed to do the survey on the trees on Church Road. Awaiting quotations for repairs to play equipment at all 3 sites. Work to be passed over to the Village Handyman for action.
- b. Library Account:
 - i. The accounts for the period ending 30th April 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 16dii at the end of the minutes for full details.
 - iii. To receive any matters coming forth – successful concert with VOCA – sold out event and proved to be very enjoyable. First venture with Cavendish Hall Committee. Arts Council Project – administrator appointed, aim to engage young people between 11 – 24 by sponsoring a range of activities for this age group. Meeting with Theatre Royal on possible link-ups.
- c. Emergency Plan – work has been undertaken and it is largely up to date. Some section 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. Cllrs. agreed roads for which they will be responsible.
- d. Skate Park Steering Group – 2nd meeting still be arranged. The Clerk is still to talk to Charities over the issue of handing land over to a non-constituted body.
- e. Councillors' Activities since the last meeting:
 - Emergency Cttee – Cllrs. Hasler and Masters
 - VAS – Cllrs. Hasler & Masters
 - Trip to Refuse Tip – road side rubbish –Cllr. Hasler
 - Library – Cllrs. Fawcett (5 meetings); Mrs O'Connell and Robinson
 - SALC – Cllr. Robinson

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- Planning – Cllrs. Dashper; Masters; Mrs O’Connell and Rainbow
 - Rec Grd Meetings with manufacturers – Cllr. Rainbow
 - Ixworth Patients Association – Cllr. Masters
 - NP – Cllr. Fawcett
 - Cavendish Hall Meeting & Function – Cllr. Moss
- ii. Councillors’ Reports on village issues arising:
- Metal behind a water hydrant on Cracknells side of the road – part of the this delineates the height sign – possible due to a bridge strike.
 - Potholes recently filled and re-opened – School Road and School Lane
 - S106 – concerns raised by behaviour of planning department – Cllr. Moss to submit an FOI on the content of his email with regards to the timing of the agreements being posted on the website, removed and then reposted with no audit trail.
 - Potholes on School Road at the end of Lodge Close – substrate has had more debris added to the hole that was originally reported which was not removed when the repairs were carried out and is causing impact by passing traffic.
 - Norton Road – edge of road is collapsing.
 - White House on Thedwastre Road – pavement dips at this point on Beyton Road.

17. 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. Street Naming – Heather Close sign – a question had been submitted to the Parish Council as to where the replacement sign should be placed? Cllr. Robinson agreed to investigate this further and report back to the Clerk. It was noted that the Clerk has taken over the responsibility of ordering the Remembrance Wreath for the Parish Council. Update re Highways Project – in abeyance.
- 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. VAS rotas to be issued. IH to undertake the VAS rota for June.
- 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.

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

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

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – the next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 6th June 2018 commencing at 7.30pm in Thurston Community Library, Norton Road, Thurston with Planning Meetings scheduled for 16th and 30th May 2018 (if necessary), both commencing at 7.30pm in Thurston Community Library, Norton Road, Thurston

21. 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, including:

- a) **Employment matters relating to members of staff** – Council approved the uplift to staff salaries as per NJC rates applicable 1st April 2018.

So signed by the Chairman at the meeting of 6th June 2018

Appendix A

Appendix A

12. Planning:

b) To note the following decisions coming forth:

DC/18/00916 – planning permission - erection of single storey rear extension @ 37 Cloverfields

DC/18/00041 – refusal of outline planning permission – erection of single dwelling house @ Poplar Farm, Great Green

DC/17/06210 – refusal of outline planning permission – erection of 1 no detached dwelling and garage @ Poplar Farm, Poplar Farm Lane, Great Green

14. Financial Matters

a) Accounts agreed for payment

	CHQ/DD/CC	NETT	VAT	TOTAL
Thurston Village Hall – Hire of hall for APM	3430	29.00	0.00	29.00
Trevor Brown – Internal Audit & Expenses	3431	233.05	0.00	233.05
S.A.L.C. – Membership Fee	3432	953.28	0.00	953.28
MSDC – Litter Bin Emptying	3433	630.00	126.00	756.00
Business Services at CAS – insurance increase	3434	20.11	0.00	20.11
Rialtas Business Solutions – Alpha Support	3435	119.00	23.80	142.80

b) Accounts paid since the last meeting –

Plusnet – Telephone – April	DD	31.07	6.21	37.29
New Green Community Trust – rent April	SO	360.00		360.00
Eurooffice -NP Admin Expenses	CC	212.86	42.57	255.43
Salaries – April 2018	3426-3429	2520.66		2520.66

c) Receipts received since the last meeting –

Lloyds – Interest	Interest			
MSDC Precept 1 of 2	Bacs	47033.50		47033.50
MSDC – Cil Receipts – April 2018	BACS	1629.69		1629.69

16a) Rec Ground Accounts

i) Accounts paid since the last meeting:

Anglian Water Business	DD	56.23	0.00	56.23
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Monies received since the last meeting:

French For Tots – rent of pavilion	BACS	288.00	0.00	288.00
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ii) Accounts awaiting payment:

R Cook – Caretaker	TBC	107.25	0.00	107.25
Business Services at CAS – Insurance	TBC	413.76	0.00	413.76

16b) Library Accounts

i) Monies received since the last meeting: None

ii) Monies 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
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

So signed by the Chairman at the meeting of 6th June 2018

Appendix C –

County Cllr. Otton's April Report to Full Council

- **POTHOLE REPAIRS** - it was recently reported that Suffolk County Council had repaired 6500 potholes since the start of the year. However, there are still a number of issues with the way Highways carry out their repairs, and this headline figure does not paint an accurate picture of the situation in Suffolk.

The Highways team are currently struggling to keep up with the need for repairs across the county, and so are resorting to temporary repairs which are quicker to complete than permanent repairs. They have recently introduced a more expensive temporary material that is supposed to last slightly longer. However, these pothole repairs will undoubtedly need to be repeated in the coming months as the temporary material deteriorates. Whether this represents value for money for Suffolk residents is an important question.

Suffolk Highways have also stated that they are “blitzing” whole areas of the road at once, rather than making multiple trips to the same area. However, it is important to note that they will only repair potholes that meet their intervention criteria. I have attached a copy of the “Defect Response Matrix” at the end of this report, which outlines the minimum size a pothole needs to be for it to be repaired by Suffolk Highways.

Further information on the pothole repairs policy can be found within the Suffolk Highway Maintenance Operational Plan, available at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/Roads-and-transport/how-we-manage-highway-maintenance/Suffolk-Highway-Maintenance-Operational-Plan.pdf>

- **HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT** - at the meeting of the Children's Cabinet Committee (not held in public) I asked why they were not suggesting using Thurston CC's local solution, it was then agreed to recommend to cabinet that this is started in September 2018 in advance of any changes in 2019.
- **REVIEW OF CABINET COMMITTEES** - I will be giving evidence to the panel reviewing these and will be asking that they should be held in public and that there needs to be a place for representatives from schools as was previously.
- **Further National Lottery funding approved for “The Hold” in Ipswich** - at the beginning of April, it was announced that the Heritage Lottery Fund had awarded an additional £10.3m towards “The Hold” project, a heritage centre to be built on the Ipswich Waterfront. Building work will begin this spring, with The Hold scheduled to open by the end of 2019. The total cost of the project is expected to be £20m. Suffolk County Council has pledged £5m for the building, whilst the University of Suffolk has pledged £1m. The Heritage Lottery Fund had previously awarded £538,000, bringing the total lottery funding to £10.8m. Additional funding will come from the Wolfson Foundation and fundraising by the charity “Suffolk Archives Foundation”. There is currently no suggestion that this project will affect the Bury St Edmunds Records Office.
- **NETWORK RAIL** - I shall be attending the meeting with Network Rail on 10th May, where we will press for some answers regarding the station and crossing.

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