

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 5th June 2019 at 7.30pm in the Community Library, Thurston Community College, Thurston.

In the Chair: Cllr. Dashper

Present: Cllrs. Angus, Fawcett, Haley, Mrs Morris, Rainbow and West.

In Attendance: County Cllr. P Otton; District Cllr. W Turner; Mrs V Waples, Clerk and 7 members of the public.

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. Council to receive apologies for absence – apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Hasler, Robinson and Thurlbourn for personal commitments.
 - b. Council to consent to accept the apologies received, aif.
 - c. It was noted that District Cllr. Richardson had also submitted his apologies and had provided the Clerk with a written report.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS INCLUDING GIFTS OF HOSPITALITY EXCEEDING £25** –
 - a. The following local non-pecuniary interests for the Agenda under discussion were declared: Cllrs. Fawcett & Haley as Friends of Thurston Library, Cllr. Mrs Morris as the Cavendish Hall Parish Council appointed representative, Cllr. Haley as the Parish Council appointed New Green Trustee. There were no gifts of hospitality exceeding £25 declared.
 - b. There were no declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda by those Councillors present.
 - c. The Clerk confirmed that there were no requests for dispensations for the Agenda under discussion.
4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** –
 - The minutes of the Annual (Parish) Council Meeting held on 8th May 2019 were agreed by all present as true and accurate records and signed as such by the Chairman.
 - The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 22nd May 2019 were agreed by all present as true and accurate records and signed as such by the Chairman.
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 also mentioned:

 - Agreed to arrange a meeting with SCC Highways to discuss the finalised details for S106 & highway improvements relating
 - Mount Road 40mph speed proposals implementation date was unknown as at this stage and Cllr. Otton agreed to try and ascertain likely implementation dates.

So signed by the Chairman at the meeting of 3rd July 2019

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS –

Cllr. Richardson had previously submitted a written report, a copy of which can be seen at Appendix D.

Cllr. Turner was invited to submit her report, a copy of which can be seen at Appendix D.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – *there were no comments made by the members of the public present.*

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 – the report was submitted to full Council.
- b. To receive village reports of concern for referral to Police – noted that articles on the legislation covering bonfires and parking would be added to the next newsletter.
- c. To receive a report from the Chair of the Parish Council on the meeting of the action group formed to discuss the youth shelter on the New Green car park – an action group meeting was arranged to look at issues regarding ASB, not just those looking at the youth shelter; what could be provided for the young people outside of the shelter and the use of the shelter and future locations. The young people present were users of the shelter on a legitimate basis, but it is noted that older groups access the shelter later into the evening. Concern was expressed by the young people at the loss of a facility and they were interested in other provisions that might be coming forth. Discussion over preventative measures – use of area; cutting back of vegetation; locking of gates; CCTV around the area also took place. There was an assumption made that there would be a follow-up meeting. The meeting noted that the council has an action – minded to remove shelter - which is still being considered but there is a need of being mindful of an alternative provision. Landlord is amendable to the relocation of the youth shelter which must be in-keeping with the open space area. Noted that some parents have been interacting with some of the older users of the youth shelter and discussing possible issues relating to their behaviour. Further meeting will be organised to include attendance by the PCSO.
- d. To consider and agree the next steps with regards to the Youth Shelter located on the New Green bottom car park – it was agreed by all present that there was a need to get a new meeting in place and to look at and firm up locations for a new youth shelter. Cllr. Haley informed the meeting that the New Green Trust were content that the PC were looking to move this forward. Noted that access can be gained along the New Green to a new facility and that this would need to be closely monitored. Agreed that there is a need to advertise the actions of the PC in the next newsletter to keep all engaged and informed. It was further agreed that there needs to be proactive action to ensure that the car park does not become an area to congregate. It was proposed and agreed by all to reconvene the meeting of the action group; to firm up the options of siting of a new youth shelter; to ascertain costs of a new shelter and ascertain from New Green Trust what measures they have in place to tackle the issues relating to the car park, aif. It was reconfirmed that the council was still minded to remove the shelter, aif.

8. STATUTORY BUSINESS –

- a. To receive nominations for the unfilled post of Councillor following the uncontested Parish Council Election on 2nd May 2019 – the meeting noted that the Council had received a nomination from a candidate whose application was in accordance with Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act 1985. Concerns were raised that the applicant was not independent of politics and that the PC by accepting this nomination might become a political body. The Clerk confirmed that she had mentioned to the applicant that the PC is not a political body. The proposal not to accept the nomination was seconded but not carried as all remaining Councillors abstained from voting. The Clerk informed the meeting that she would inform the District Council that a casual vacancy had

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now arisen in the post of Councillor and that this would now need to be advertised in accordance with legislation.

- b. To agree to move the date of the October Meeting from 2nd October to 9th October 2019 – approved by all present.
- c. To confirm the appointment of Parish Council Representatives on the following Bodies: to note that there is still a vacancy for a post on the New Green Community Trust – noted by those present.
- d. To confirm that the Council's 3 Year Business Plan will be circulated for discussion at the meeting scheduled for 3rd July 2019 – noted by those present.
- e. To note that the Clerk has complied with the Council's duties as an employer and completed a Re-declaration of compliance for the workplace pension scheme to The Pensions Regulator – the Chair confirmed that the completed declaration of compliance for the workplace pension operated by the council had been approved by the Pensions Regulator.

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 had been copied in on an email from Mary Evans, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, Suffolk County Council who had confirmed that they would be meeting with NR in London fairly soon and that she would raise any concerns of which she was made aware and that she would also ask them to come to a meeting with herself, County Cllr. Otton and the parish council. The Clerk further confirmed that she had responded to this email outlining the safety issues associated with the Barrow Foot Crossing and had attached a number of papers relating to the issues as identified by the Thurston Neighbourhood Plan Team in its workings on the Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council's concern over the inability or reluctance for anyone to take responsibility for the increased use of the barrow crossing with the significant development facing Thurston was also raised. The Clerk was also asked to raise the fact that Steve Merry had been in discussions previously with NR on this issue and that liaison prior to the meeting was important.
- b. To receive an update on the measures to mitigate the Thurston Area Noise Complaints with particular reference to freight trains – the Clerk confirmed that she had still not received copies of the speed data to allow Cllrs. to make an informed comment. The meeting agreed that there was a variance in the speed with which some of the trains went through the village.

10. TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO PLANNING FOR THURSTON:

- a. To consider the following Planning Application: there were none to be discussed.
- b. To note planning determinations by the Local Planning Authority (see Appendix A) – noted
- c. To note responses to previous planning comments submitted as statutory consultees – the Clerk informed the meeting that she had been copied in on an email from the senior planner at Persimmon Homes to a resident which confirmed that Persimmon Homes were in discussions with MSDC and that reserved matters approval had not yet been released. Once they had been released, they would then be in a position to discharge the pre-commencement conditions and then commence work on site. The timescales involved were as of yet unknown.
- d. To note information received from SCC Highways on work to be carried out the A143 Great Barton overnight road surface repairs between Monday 10 and Saturday 15 June 2019 during the hours of 7pm and 7am – information noted.
- e. Changes to permitted development rights – Cllr. Haley agreed to circulate the paper he had been given on changes to permitted development rights which came into force following the enacting of the legislation on 25th May 2019.

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11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING –

- a. To consider the remit for the Thurston Neighbourhood Plan Team (Paper 4/2019) – following the paper submitted by the Clerk, it was agreed that the terms of reference should be changed to allow the group to become a sub-committee of the planning committee to allow it to monitor the made plan to make sure it is achieving what it is supposed to and to ascertain how well the plan policies are being applied. This would include ensuring that the policies have been worded as clearly as possible and ensuring that the policies are as robust as required for them to do what they were originally intended to do. The group will also be expected to advise on changes in legislation and to keep the committee appraised of the key steps to follow for updating a neighbourhood plan. The revised terms of reference for the Thurston NP Steering Group with an amendment to the membership numbers to state 3 parish councillors and up to 6 residents of the village of Thurston, were approved by all present, aif.

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 - the items shown on the list as at Appendix A were approved for payment, aif.
- b. To note the accounts paid since the last meeting (see Appendix A) - items as identified under Appendix A were noted. The Council asked that the payment to Kompan be held following further investigation into the items supplied.
- c. To note receipts allocated since the last meeting (see Appendix A) – those items received since the last meeting as per Appendix A were noted.
- d. To consider and receive the Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31.05.2019 (Paper 1/2019) – Council noted that bank balances stood at £79,044.50 with available funds being £58,466.94.
- e. To consider and receive the internal control audit as carried out by Cllr. Rainbow on the 1st quarter for 2019/2020 (Paper 2/2019) – the report was received and accepted by all present. It was noted that there were no areas of concern raised within the report.
- f. To receive an update on the joint Youth Project to be sited on the New Green Centre Grounds – it was confirmed that three quotations were being sought by the New Green Community Trust and that once these were seen further discussions could be had on how to move the project forward.
- g. To receive and consider requests for donations received to date (Paper 3/2019) – in response to the applications that had been submitted to date, the meeting agreed to a donation of £657 to the Cavendish Hall for a replacement window and £1500 to the New Green Community Trust to assist with maintenance costs of the open space area at the New Green Centre, aif.
- h. To receive and consider quotations for the purchase of 2 bookcases for the Parish Council Office (Paper 5/2019) – following the paper submitted by the Clerk, the Clerk was granted permission to purchase two further bookcases for the parish council office up to a maximum of £145.99 each.

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

- a. Recreational Facilities Committee:
 - 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 i) at the end of the minutes for full details.
 - ii. The Council received the bank reconciliation to date and noted that bank balances stood at £1,011.72 available funds £813.72.
 - iii. To receive any matters coming forth – noted that the Area Sales Manager of Kompan had met with representatives of the Committee with indicative quotations for the upgrading of the current play area sites and that the tree works to trees closed to the Cavendish Hall were still to be undertaken. Clerk informed the meeting that she had been made aware that the surround to the drain cover

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- close to the disabled bay was failing and required remedial work. It was further noted that there would be a meeting of the Recreational Facilities Committee later that month.
- b. Library Account:
- 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 A 14b 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 £8,215.39 cleared funds.
 - iii. To receive any matters coming forth – the meeting was advised of the forthcoming events - Race Night – 31.08.2019; Christmas Tree Festival; Scarecrow Festival; London Trip. Suffolk Libraries will be organising a Suffolk Libraries Day (in October) which will possibly become an annual event – to help raise the profile of libraries – more details will follow. It was noted that there is a concern with the possible shortfall in the budget for the libraries (which is fixed for three years). Arts Council Project – in the process of setting up an activity the following year to carry out a project with connections to filming.
- c. Emergency Plan:
- i. The summary paper on the Emergency Plan will be uploaded onto the website over the coming weeks with a copy added to the Thurston Village Guide 2019. Now that the new committee was in place a meeting is to be scheduled for later in May/June 2019 to discuss the next steps in updating /implementing the plan. The Clerk to circulate dates for the end of June.
- d. Parish Infrastructure Investment Steering Group:
- i. to receive an update on the assessments of suitable sites within the parish of Thurston for Multi Facility Recreation Use – all recipients had been sent further copies of the files and to date only one response had been received.
 - ii. to receive an update on work on a strategy for provision of facilities for current and future residents of the village – it was noted that there was to be a meeting the following week with the Strategic Leisure Advisor for MSDC for an update on discussions over land to the west of Ixworth Road which does not come forward as a primary school. All agreed that whilst a joint bid with SCC and MSDC for a formal pitch for the College and community facilities might be a positive move forward, the communal area needed to be an accessible site for the community and should be owned and retained by the parish council for the village.
 - iii. to receive an update on the items for inclusion within a bid against the CIL 123 Regulation List in the next round (May 2019) – the meeting was informed that 2 further bids had been submitted - Bus Shelters with SCC as bid partners for Sandpit Lane & a Library bid for the Children’s area with PC and Suffolk Libraries as joint bid partners. The meeting noted that the Chairman, Cllr. Fawcett and the Clerk had attended a positive meeting with Infrastructure Officers at MSDC and SCC and discussed future development and further planning applications facing Thurston. In attendance had also been the dedicated planning officer for Thurston and it was felt that it had been a good meeting with the planning officer keen to visit the parish to view the problematic areas and engage proactively with the parish council. The meeting noted that there had been a positive walk-about had been had with the dedicated Planning Officer for Thurston – traffic flows at strategic points were seen and discussed. The Clerk was asked to remind the Officer that a further meeting had been agreed.
- e. Village Guide 2019:
- i. to receive a report from the working group on the production of the Thurston Village Guide 2019 – it was noted that the Clerk and Cllr. Fawcett would be meeting the following week to finalise the documents and design and that the file would be submitted to the printers later in June.

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f. Councillors Reports –

- i. to note Councillors' activities/ meetings attended since the last meeting –
 - New Green Trust – Cllr. Haley – Youth Shelter was discussed and the trust is supportive of the action group and agree to assisting with providing a solution. He also explained to the Trust that trustees should be there in their capacity as a trustee as opposed to working for the organisations who nominated them.
 - Meeting with Kompan – Cllrs. Rainbow and Haley
 - Youth Project Meeting with New Green Trust and Play Provision Providers– Cllrs. Mrs Morris and Rainbow
 - Bloor Homes Presentation to Council – all Councillors
 - Planning Officer walkabout – Cllrs. Dashper, Morris and Rainbow
 - Planning Meetings (22.05.19 & 05.06.19) – Cllrs. Angus, Dashper, Haley, Mrs Morris, Rainbow; West.
 - Internal Control Audit – Cllr. Rainbow
 - Repairs to swings at Heath Road – Cllr. Rainbow
 - NPSG Meeting – Cllrs. Fawcett and Mrs Morris
 - Library – Cllr. Fawcett including meetings with Clerk on the CIL bid
 - Meeting with Landlords regarding Youth Shelter – Cllrs. Dashper and Haley
 - Youth Action Group Meeting – Cllrs. Angus, Dashper and Haley
 - Officer Infrastructure Meeting – Cllrs. Dashper and Fawcett
- ii. to receive reports from Councillors' on issues relating to the village:
 - School Road - potholes
 - Bottom of School Road/Church Road junction – on side coming up – potholes
 - Footpath signs – Cllr. Mrs Morris agreed to email the Clerk a list of those requiring attention
 - New Road/Thurston Road – by bridge coming into the village from Fishwick Corner – potholes
 - Surfacing on Beyton Road outside Cracknells Garage leading to the junction with New Road
 - Large pothole on Station Hill – 20 yards up hill from water leak problem
 - Belisha beacon obscured by tree overgrowth on Howes Avenue side
 - Corner of Sandpit Lane and Norton Road – pavement lifted from tree root of the garden on the corner.

15. CLERKS REPORT

- a. Delegated powers – the Clerk confirmed that she had dealt with a number of matters under delegated powers: on-going discussion over installation of bus shelters covered by the recent CIL bid; discussions with New Green Trustee over the Youth Project; reporting of road signs; further tasks for the Village Handyman; organisation of interviews for an administrative assistant; liaison with Suffolk Cloud over security issues relating to the website; had attended the meetings with Kompan;
- b. To receive an update on the deployment of the VAS – it was noted that the unit previously located on Beyton Road had now been returned to the Parish Council and had been fitted with the ability to capture data via Bluetooth. Both units had been downloaded the previous Friday and the Clerk was still to interrogate the data collected.
- c. To note general correspondence received as follows – all has been previously circulated.
- d. To note correspondence received on the road condition - Norton Road to Thurston via Great Green from a business located at Great Green – noted and the Clerk would seek action from the appropriate authorities.

- 16. TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA** – Proposal by District Cllr. Turner for a Youth Council and the future of the youth shelter.

So signed by the Chairman at the meeting of 3rd July 2019

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS –

- a. to confirm the date of the next Parish Council Meeting as scheduled for 3rd July 2019 commencing in the Community Library, Norton Road.
- b. to note that there will be a Recreational Facilities Committee on 19th June commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Library, Norton Road, Thurston
- c. to note that there will be a Planning Committee Meeting on 19th June commencing at 8.00pm in the Community Library, Norton Road, Thurston

18. To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the Meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted – there were none to be discussed.

20. CLOSE OF MEETING – there being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.32pm

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Appendix A

10. Planning:

b) To note the following decisions coming forth:

DC/19/01296 – Refusal of outline planning permission for the erection of 1 no dwelling @ 23 Wheatfields

DC/19/01808 – Planning permission for the erection of a rear extension and a front extension. Conversion of garage into living space @ 23 Furze Close

12. Financial Matters

a) Accounts submitted for payment

| | Voucher | METHOD | NETT | VAT | TOTAL |
|--|---------|--------|---------|-------|---------|
| Westcotec – upgrading of VAS | 678 | 3491 | 305.00 | 61.00 | 366.00 |
| Sac-o-Mat – Dog bags | 679 | 3492 | 275.74 | 55.14 | 330.88 |
| Suffolk Libraries IPS – PC support for Library | 680 | 3493 | 2700.00 | 0.00 | 2700.00 |
| Navigus Planning – support with NP | 681 | 3494 | 130.00 | 26.00 | 156.00 |
| SALC – Cllr. Planning Training | 682 | 3495 | 32.00 | 6.40 | 38.40 |
| Rialtas – Alpha Software Support | 683 | 3496 | 121.00 | 24.20 | 145.20 |
| Village Maintenance Contract | 684 | 3490 | 62.30 | 0.00 | 62.30 |
| M&TJ's – Grass Cutting – May 2019 | 685 | 3497 | 282.00 | 56.40 | 338.40 |

b) Accounts paid since the last meeting

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Salaries – April 2019 | 670-672 | 3487-3489 | £2750.47 | 0.00 | £2750.47 |
| Plusnet – Internet and Telephone | 673 | DD | 37.50 | 7.50 | 45.00 |
| Amazon – Laminating pouches | 674 | CC | 25.76 | 5.16 | 30.92 |
| Adobe Systems Software | 675 | CC | 21.14 | 0.00 | 21.14 |
| Sutcliffe Play – D shackle assembly | 676 | CC | 54.04 | 10.81 | 64.85 |
| Kompan – swings for Heath Road | 677 | 3486 | 1025.20 | 205.04 | 1230.24 |

c) Receipts received since the last meeting

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|------|------|------|
| Lloyds – Interest – May | Interest | 1.49 | 0.00 | 1.49 |
|-------------------------|----------|------|------|------|

14a) Rec Ground Accounts

i) *Accounts paid since the last meeting: None*

Monies received since the last meeting: None

Accounts awaiting payment:

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|--------|-------|--------|
| R Cook – Caretaker Contract | 613 | 117.26 | 0.00 | 117.26 |
| M&TJ's – Grounds Maintenance | 614 | 150.00 | 30.00 | 180.00 |

14b) Library Accounts

i) *Monies paid since the last meeting: None*

Monies received since the last meeting: None

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 |
| ASB | Anti-social Behaviour |
| 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 |
| FR | Financial Regulations |
| 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. Penny Otton’s Report to Full Council

NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR LDGI GROUP: I am pleased to have been elected as Leader for 2019/20 by my political group at Suffolk County Council, made up of Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent (LDGI) councillors. I will have regular meeting with the Chief executive and council leader so please don’t hesitate if there are issues you feel need to go to the top.

OFSTED RATES SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL CHILDREN’S SERVICES “OUTSTANDING“: After a week-long inspection in April, Ofsted have given Suffolk County Council Children’s Services an “outstanding” rating, an improvement from the previous rating of “good” in 2015. Suffolk County Council is one of only seven in the country to achieve this rating, and the positive report is testament to the hard-working frontline staff at the council. However, the council does still struggle to fill social worker vacancies. Furthermore, this is in stark contrast to the inspection of Suffolk SEND services earlier this year, which Ofsted rated “inadequate”.

Rise in the numbers of care-leavers housed in unregulated accommodation:

BBC Newsnight has reported a large rise in the number of care-leavers being housed in unregulated accommodation, the figures for Suffolk were the fourth largest of all English authorities. Children in care may move to supported accommodation once they are over the age of 16, to encourage independent living.

POVERTY MOTION VOTED DOWN BY COUNCIL: at the Council AGM on 23 May, I proposed a motion asking the Council to acknowledge the findings of the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty following his visit to the UK in November last year, and to set-up a cross-party policy develop group tasked with investigating actions that Suffolk County Council could take to reduce poverty in the county. Unfortunately, the Conservative administration decided to vote against the motion. Suffolk has not escaped the national crisis: earlier this month, End Child Poverty published its 2019 statistics (28.5%) in Suffolk are being brought up in poverty.

THURSTON STATION: I also raised this as I feel things have stalled? Consequently Cllr Mary Evans has agreed to meet with us and follow it up when she meets with network rail.

TAR ON A RESIDENTS DRIVE-WAY: it appears that somehow some tar from a skip has found its way onto a drive-way in Maltings Garth; after some “nagging “ an officer is to meet with the resident involved.

RESTRICITONS ON RECYCLING: The amount of goods that can be recycled in Suffolk has reduced, with Tetra Pak cartons and metal items such as pots and pans no longer being accepted in recycling bins. This decision was made by the Suffolk Waste Partnership following a refurbishment of the Material Recycling Facility near Great Blakenham, because the new sorting equipment that is being installed will not be able to separate out cartons. Cartons and metal items will now need to be taken to household recycling centres. These will now be open until 7pm on Thursdays from May to August.

A14: proposed works over the next few weeks – details available from the Clerk to the Parish Council.

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Appendix D – District Cllr. Harry Richardson’s Report to Full Council

As I previously mentioned at the last Parish Council meeting, Mid Suffolk District Council held its Annual Council Meeting on Monday 20th May at which a new Conservative and Independent administration was formed. As a result, the current composition of the Council’s new Cabinet is now as follows:

Cllr Suzie Morley (Con.) – Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Assets & Investments, and for Customers, Digital Transformation & Improvement

Cllr Gerard Brewster (Ind.) – Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for the Economy

Cllr John Whitehead (Con.) – Cabinet Member for Finance

Cllr Jessica Fleming (Con.) – Cabinet Member for the Environment

Cllr Julie Flatman (Con.) – Cabinet Member for Communities & Housing

Cllr David Burn (Con.) – Cabinet Member for Planning

On a personal note I was confirmed as a member of Develop Control Committee A, one of MSDC’s two planning committees, and by extension the Planning Referrals Committee. I have also been co-opted as the Council’s representative on Suffolk County Council’s Health Scrutiny Committee, and on the West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership.

Across the District more broadly, and for those who may be interested, plans were submitted by Ingleton Wood on 21st May for the creation of 38 new affordable homes on the site of the former Stowmarket Middle School, which has been vacant since the school’s closure in 2015 following the decision by Suffolk County Council to move to a two-tier education system. In addition, on 29th May, Mid Suffolk District Council launched a housing service satisfaction survey for all Council tenants and leaseholders, across 7,000 households in the District. Should any eligible residents in Thurston wish to participate they will have until 28th June to respond.

With regards to current planning applications, I am sure the Parish Council will recall from the previous meeting the outline planning application DC/19/02090 that was submitted on 30th April for the erection of up to 210 new dwellings on the land East of Ixworth Road. With regards to that application I would like to highlight the responses received from Suffolk Highways and Anglia Water, on 22nd and 23rd May respectively, which both expressed reservations about the application in its current form. I am grateful to the clerk, Mrs Waples, for also forwarding on the Parish Council’s response to the application and find myself in agreement with all of the substantive points raised.

In addition, I attended the exhibition on 17th May from Bloor Homes to view their emerging proposals for 200 new dwellings on the land South of Beyton. I spoke to a number of residents at the exhibition, who were unsurprisingly frustrated at the prospect of yet another large-scale development in Thurston. Bloor Homes are presently in conversation with Suffolk Highways about the potential impact of the proposals on traffic issues but given their previous objections to application DC/19/02090 – which included specific references to the impact on the vicinity of Fishwick and Pokeriage junctions – I would expect there to be concerns on the grounds of congestion and road safety. I have asked to be kept updated about the status of the impending planning application and have been advised that it will likely be submitted at some point during the summer.

On a more positive note, MSDC’s Forthcoming Decisions List currently has Thurston’s Neighbourhood Plan scheduled for discussion at the next meeting of the Cabinet on 12th June, during which the Cabinet will decide whether to approve that the Plan be advanced to a local referendum. I am hopeful that this will indeed be the case and will provide an update to the Parish Council at the next meeting.

So signed by the Chairman at the meeting of 3rd July 2019

District Cllr. Wendy Turner's Report to Full Council

Annual Council meeting 20th May: The recent election created 'no-overall control' at MSDC. At the first Council meeting held on 20th May, Cllr Lavinia Hadingham was elected chair. She then had to use her Chair's casting vote in order to elect the Leader and the Committee Chairs. All these posts except the Chair and Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny went to Conservative councillors. The Conservative group, who had gained 41% of the vote in the elections, now have 100% of the power at MSDC.

Leader and Cabinet: The new leader at MSDC is Cllr Suzie Morley, with Cllr Gerard Brewster as deputy leader. She announced her cabinet of 7 portfolio holders and one member without portfolio, all of whom are from the Conservative group. The Green group and the Liberal Democrats tried to collaborate with the Conservative group who no longer have a majority, but the new Leader was unwilling to offer any portfolios to member from the other two groups.

Draft Joint Local Plan: The agreement of the Regulation 18 Draft Joint Local Plan is due at the June Council meeting. This draft will set out the preferred strategic policies, development management policies and site allocations to guide and support development in the two districts. A cross-party working group of councillors from both districts has been set up to work on the final draft with officers. Once this draft is agreed it will go out for public consultation.

Neighbourhood plans: Three Neighbourhood plans in Mid Suffolk are progressing towards a referendum. Thurston Neighbourhood Plan is due to be agreed at the June Cabinet meeting, and both Haughley and Botesdale will be discussed in July.

Rural Housing Week: There is a Spotlight on Rural Housing Week 2019 with a free 'Lunch & Learn' event, including inspirational speakers from Hastoe Housing Association, Community Action Suffolk & local Community Land Trusts, and others about Assets of Community Value, Community Right to Bid & Community-Led Housing at the Chamberlin Hall, Chamberlin Close (off Wattisham Road), Bildeston, Suffolk, IP7 7EZ.

Youth Shelter/Youth Council Proposal: Having reflected on the issues surrounding the Youth Shelter I feel that all members of the village might benefit from a Youth Council. If a Youth Council can be organised effectively this will help to keep the channels of communication open between all members of the village. It would be good to see more young people being involved in taking some responsibility and participating in decision making regarding issues that impact on them. This could be one approach, but I would welcome other ideas. I have attached my proposal with this report for the Parish Council to consider.

Planning/Housing: I have completed my basic planning training which means I will take up my seat on the Planning Development committee. I spoke at length to the Bloor Homes representative at their presentation in Cavendish Hall. We had a lengthy debate over what constitutes 'sustainable' and 'affordable' and why the village needs another 200 houses. I'm disappointed that these proposals offer nothing new in light of the Government's declared 'Climate Emergency' in terms of needing zero carbon homes with water harvesting systems and solar power in order to mitigate the impact of climate change.

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