

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING held on Wednesday 19 August 2020 at 6.30pm by VIDEOCONFERENCE of Thurston Parish Council.

Present (by video): Cllrs. Dashper (Chair), Cllrs. Haley, Hay, Morris, Rainbow, Thurlbourn, Towers and Turner. Also in attendance (by video): Mrs V Waples, Parish Clerk.

1. **OPENING** – the Chairman opened the meeting advising all that the Video Protocol adopted by the Parish Council, would be enacted for this meeting. *A copy of the Protocol is available from the Clerk or can be downloaded from the website:*
<https://thurstonparishcouncil.uk/parish-council/policies-procedures-and-strategy/>
2. **APOLOGIES** –
 - a) Apologies for absence were received from Cllr West due to personal commitments.
 - b) Council consented to accept this apology as submitted, aif.
 - c) The Chair took the opportunity to inform the meeting that Cllr. Fawcett had resigned from the council in writing with immediate effect. It was explained that Cllr. Fawcett had felt that following the conversation at the last meeting and the decision taken by the Parish Council, by a unanimous vote, on the subject of the Youth Shelter had resulted in him feeling that he was at odds with not just the decision but also the direction being taken by the PC on this matter. It was noted that Cllr. Fawcett had indicated that he was still willing to assist with some of the other projects with which he was already involved. The Chair confirmed that he would be writing to Cllr. Facwett to thank him for his time and commitment to the PC and all agreed that they were very sorry to see him leave. It was understood by all that a decision had been made on the matter of the Youth Shelter and that the PC will be taking this forward but it was acknowledged that given current circumstances there might need to be a change of direction once advice had been received from the Police and other relevant authorities.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS INCLUDING GIFTS OF HOSPITALITY EXCEEDING £25** –
 - a) To receive declarations of pecuniary, local non-pecuniary interest(s) and personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature including gifts of hospitality exceeding £25 – there were no declarations declared for the agenda under discussion.
 - b) To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda – there were none declared.
 - c) To receive requests for dispensations – none had been received prior to the meeting.
4. **PUBLIC FORUM** - due to government advice relating to public meetings, it was confirmed that the Meeting ID and Password for this meeting had been made available via the website and the parish noticeboards for those who wished to join the meeting - there were no members of the public present.
5. **PLANNING MATTERS** –
 - a) To consider Council’s response to the following planning application as statutory consultee:
 - DC/20/02930 – full planning application – severance of part of garden and erection of 1 No. two storey detached dwelling and creation of new vehicular access @ 18 Oakey Field Road – it was noted that SCC Highways had given a credible reason along with rationale for their objection and it was suggested that the PC should consider the response and support the comments. Discussion followed as to whether there was sufficient space to accommodate the proposal and whether there would be an impact on the character of the locality in which it was located. This is in a prominent position and will have an impact on the character of the road. The meeting was reminded of the consistent approach taken by the PC in terms of new dwellings in Thurston following comments as stated by SCC in relation to the impact of the Thurston 5 on the highway network with no further

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mitigation measures forthcoming. This had been applied to all new dwellings since 2017. It was also acknowledged that material impact and mitigating factors should also be taken into account.

By a majority decision, the Council agreed that it would object to the application on the grounds of Highway Safety (T10 – MSDC Local Plan) and impact on the character of the road given its prominent location.

- b) To consider Council's response to the following planning application as statutory consultee:
- SCC/0011/20MS to be determined by Suffolk County Council – re-consultation – phased development for Thurston Community College. Phase 1: construction of a 60-space car park, 10 place drop-off area, cycle parking and footpath link to Community College. Phase 2: construction of a floodlit Multi-Use Games Pitch (to include out-of-hours community use of pitch and car park) @ land to west of Ixworth Road (immediately north of Community College site) – the Clerk gave an explanation as to how the CIL process was being managed around the planning permission. It was noted that under the previous application the Parish Council had raised concerns as to: access; footpath; mitigation for loss of vegetation; loss of amenity and understanding that there needed to be an agreed area to be given to the community for additional open space / recreational use. Following discussion the meeting agreed to expand its original comments requesting further details on the management of operating hours, handling of traffic around the opening hours; whether there were to be restrictions on the evening use given the impact of the lights on residential properties in the vicinity and how access was to be handled when the area was in use by the community. It was also agreed that for the PC to support the application for the Artificial Pitch / MUGA it needed to be clearly accessible to the community and details were required on the arrangements for the access for out of hours use. The PC also wanted an understanding as to how access to the land to the West of the site would be handled during school hours and clarity on the trees that were to be retained. The meeting was also concerned that the drawing referred to in the letter of 7th August 2020 had not been uploaded onto the planning portal. *Post meeting note – the Clerk confirmed that the drawing was on the planning portal and had been uploaded on 7th August 2020.*
- c) To note determination by the LPA of the following applications:
- DC/20/02062 – Refusal of Reserved Matters for DC/17/04938 – erection of 1 No dwelling @ Ashdown, Poplar Farm Lane
 - DC/20/01702 – Discharge of Condition 28 (Written Scheme of Investigation) for 4942/16 @ land at Meadow Lane
 - DC/20/01802 – Approval of Reserved Matters for Phase 10 Plot 9 – DC/19/05114 @ land south of Barrells Road
 - DC/20/02211 – Approval of Reserved Matters for Phase 1 Roadway and Path – DC/19/05114 @ land south of Barrells Road
 - DC/20/01803 – Approval of Reserved Matters for Phase 9 Plot 8 – DC/19/05114 @ land south of Barrells Road
 - DC/20/02236 – Approval of Reserved Matters for Phase 5 Plot 4 – DC/19/05114 @ land south of Barrells Road
 - DC/20/02237 – Approval of Reserved Matters for Phase 7 Plot 6 – DC/19/05114 @ land south of Barrells Road
 - DC/20/01981 – Approval of Reserved Matters for Phase 2 Plot 1 @ land south of Barrells Road
- d) To note matters arising from approved planning applications:
- College Park (Persimmon Site) – Oak Trees along Ixworth Road – it was noted that tree identified as T29 had now been removed and that clarification was being sought as to whether any further trees were to be removed.
 - Thurston Church of England Primary Academy – the meeting was advised of an email trail relating to the commencement of works on the new Primary Academy on Norton Road and the potential use of Meadow Lane to access the site due to the non-completion of the bellmouths; cycle way, surfacing and drainage on Norton Road for the development to the North of Norton Road. The Clerk had sought reassurance that the time period for the use of Meadow Lane by large vehicles

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and that procedures would be in place to avoid a repeat of the mistakes carried out by the contractors working for Linden Homes. The Clerk had been given access to the Construction Management Plan which had mentioned Thedwastre Road as the main route to the site. The Clerk had sought and been given reassurance from the contractor and the Schools Infrastructure Team that as the inappropriateness of this route had been raised, the contractor – Barnes – will write this into their sub-contract and material orders so that their QS and buyers are aware. Barnes Construction will also be writing to all residents in the vicinity to advise them of start dates and who to contact should there be any issues. The Clerk was requested to contact SCC Highways to ascertain when the s278 works along Meadow Lane will be carried out.

- e) To consider further the request submitted by Linden Homes for consideration of any upcoming initiatives, relevant area investments or events planned for the area that they could consider supporting in some way as part of their general community outreach – it was agreed that computers for the Community Library would be the best beneficiary of any monies coming forth.
- f) Linden Homes – to note that the Clerk has responded to the Planning Officer on the expectations for community infrastructure on a without prejudice basis reconfirming that the Parish Council continued to object to the proposals for an increase in numbers on the site to the North of Norton Road – the clerk confirmed that she had responded stating that the PC wished to see the original layout imposed along with allotments; play areas and open spaces. To date the Planning Officer had not responded despite being chased by the Clerk and District Cllr. Turner.
- g) DC/17/02232 – land to the west of Barton Road – the meeting was informed of the intention of Bovis Homes/Linden Homes to submit two planning applications to amend the house types on the development along Barton Road. It was stated that there would be two applications – one for the 12 dwellings in the north eastern corner of the site and the other for the remaining dwellings across the site. Although the email stated that the overall number of dwellings, mix of dwellings, parking spaces and site layout including open space will remain as previously approved, there was unease at the terminology used – new planning application as opposed to amendments to approved plans. It was also confirmed that the footprints of the dwellings in some cases will change slightly, however they will be substituted like-for-like in terms of bedroom numbers, and elevational treatments such as render, brickwork features etc will closely follow those previously approved. The Parish Council will be consulted on by Mid-Suffolk District Council in the usual way.

6. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS:

- a) To report village matters of concern to the Clerk
 - Hedge on footpath along Station Hill
 - Hedges overhanging cycle route 51 along Norton Road
 - Drain at bottom of Thedwastre Road
- b) To update the meeting on reports from Committees / Working Groups
 - Library – the Chair of the Friends of Thurston Library had provided a written report in which the following was brought to the Council's attention:
 - The librarian is on extended sick leave with cover being provided by two part-time librarians who are doing an outstanding job in holding the fort in difficult (Covid) circumstances.
 - There is a set procedure to reserve a book from Suffolk Libraries book stock to collect at Thurston Library – users can reserve their choice of book online or by phoning the library on 01359 235048 during opening hours - or online on the Suffolk Libraries website.
 - The computers inside Thurston Library can also be reserved by phoning the library on 01359 235048 during opening hours or users can go along to see if it is free. One session of 50 minutes for any one day.
 - One of the members of the sewing group at Thurston Library has been making masks. She is donating the money raised to the Friends of Thurston Library and has raised £300 so far! She has been thanked in person.

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- Emergency Plan (COVID-19) – the plan is still in place and ticking over. Recently, there had not been a huge call for help as it has dropped off significantly. A postcard drop to all residents is being organised to advise all that it is still ongoing and help is available if needed.
 - Village Information Booklet – Mr Fawcett provided a written update which confirmed that the booklet is aimed at newcomers to the village and will now be solely published by the Parish Council. Progress has been made but not quite as much as hoped for! Outline contents for an A5 booklet and running order have been established in draft. Some content is in place. Most of the content is available. Contact will be made with one or two people who kindly contributed a topic's information a while ago to see if any updating is needed. We have all the photos needed 'in the bank'. The cover will be similar to that of the Neighbourhood Plan and History of Thurston, in that it will be in colour with various images of the village on it (in this case front and back covers).
 - Climate Emergency – it was noted that prior to Covid-19, Cllr. Turner had taken the lead on organising a weeklong Climate Awareness Event to be held in the Library during the Summer. This had been put on hold during the Covid-19 restriction measures. It was agreed that it would be appropriate for the Parish Council to raise the issue of climate awareness and perhaps take the lead in providing information to residents of Thurston prior to organising a further Climate Awareness Week in Spring/Summer of 2021. The meeting was in agreement that this should be put on the agenda for a more in-depth consideration. Cllr. Turner agreed to put a paper together for consideration at the September meeting.
- c) To receive reports from Councillors as representatives on Village Organisations
- Cavendish Hall – Cllr. Morris confirmed that the Cavendish Hall annual clean up and tidy up had taken place the previous week. A skip had been organised by the Recreation Facilities Committee and had been filled with accumulated rubbish. When asked for an update on the project for enhanced security at the Pavilion/Cavendish Hall, Cllr. Towers confirmed that he would be researching this matter further and would report back to the Council at a later meeting. Cllr. Morris mentioned that she had spoken to two persons on the Recreation Ground who were in the process of putting together a video on the life of Julia Cavendish who had given the hall to the village of Thurston in memory of her husband Tyrrell William Cavendish who had lost his life on the SS Titanic. Once completed the video would be uploaded to the internet. Cllr. Turner explained that this was part of a community project run by the Bury Theatre Royal to encourage local residents to retell stories of the places and people where they live.
 - New Green Trust – Cllr Thurlbourn mentioned that hirers were slowly returning to the New Green Centre. The Thurst Café was running well and there was a meeting the following night to discuss further initiatives. The new mast project was progressing and should be sorted the following month.
- 7. CLERK'S REPORT** - to receive the Clerks report and in particular:
- a) to receive the reports of items actioned under delegated powers – Council advised the meeting that the day to day running of the council was continuing and that various issues relating to footpaths and hedgerows along with access issues relating to the use of Meadow Lane had been flagged up to relevant authorities.
 - b) to receive items of correspondence for noting only – it was confirmed that all relevant emails had been passed onto the Councillors where applicable.
- 8. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS:**
- a) 2nd September 2020 – full Council Meeting – via the Zoom platform – commencing at 7.00pm
 - b) 16th September 2020 – full Council Meeting – via Zoom – commencing at 6.30pm
- 9. TO RESOLVE THAT UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISISON TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960, THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED – *it was resolved that the public be excluded from the meeting to consider negotiations***

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over a possible land transaction as publicity of the options being offered is likely to prejudice the position of the council, aif

- a) to receive and discuss information on negotiations over a possible land transaction involving the parish council – the meeting were made aware that the Clerk had requested a further meeting with interested parties to allow negotiations over land to move forward.

It was confirmed that the wooded area to the north east of the Persimmon site was still in the control of the original landowners.

- 10. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING** – there being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.03pm.

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Appendix A - 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
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
Chq.	Cheque
Cllr.	Councillor
CMP	Construction Management Programme
Cttee.	Committee
DC	District Council
DCLG	Department of Communities and Local Government
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
JR	Judicial Review
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
NDP	Neighbourhood Development Plan
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
SARS	Suffolk Accident Rescue Service
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
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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