

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING held on Wednesday 25th June 2020 at 6.37pm by VIDEOCONFERENCE of Thurston Parish Council.

Present (by video): Cllrs. Rainbow (Chair), Fawcett, Haley, Morris, Rainbow, Thurlbourn, Towers and West. Also in attendance (by video): Mrs V Waples, Parish Clerk and one member of the public as a representative of the Football Club.

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) Council received apologies for absence from Cllr. Turner for personal commitments.
 - b) Acceptance of the apologies submitted was agreed by all, aif.
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.
 - b) 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.
 When questioned it was confirmed that the documents submitted by both the Football Club and the Cricket Club had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.
5. To discuss issues relating to the Recreation Ground, Church Road, Thurston:
 - a) To receive the report of crimes and anti-social behaviour associated with this area – the meeting received the report compiled by PCSO Smith and the Clerk following interrogated of crimes/incidences reported direct to Suffolk Police via 101; direct to PCSO Smith/Stowmarket SNT and direct to the Clerk.
 It was considered that this issue was not a new one for the village and that the type of behaviour had moved from New Green to Cavendish Hall. It was suggested that the police actions as a direct response were negative and had done nothing to assist with the situation. There is a perceived understanding that once 6.00pm arrives then there is a free for all. It was noted that for previous issues at New Green, the Stowmarket SNT had carried out a sustained campaign into the evening to engage and react to such behaviour but it was acknowledged that this was dependent on resources and input from the leading Sgts in the SNT at the time. When questioned it was confirmed that due to COVID-19 there had been no further discussion to amend / increase the police hours for the contracted PCSO. It was noted that a lot of the incidents in the report seem to suggest that it was an older group that were causing the majority of the issues.
 - b) To note concerns raised by users of the Recreation Ground, Church Road –
 The Football Club had submitted a letter which had outlined the issues and suggested a course of action that should be considered and which the club would support. It was accepted that the demise of the shelter at New Green has played a part on this which the PC did warn might be a consequence of the action to remove. The Football Club were thanked for the comprehensive report and issues raised. Issue is that the community is being tarnished by the actions of a few. The FC confirmed that they were reaching out to others to cut the anti-social behaviour element causing issues and damage. It was noted that this was an open space and agreed that the good name of Thurston should not be tarnished by the actions of a few.

So approved at the meeting of 01.07.2020

The Cricket Club had also submitted a letter which also detailed the issues and events occurring with possible solutions being mentioned. The club urged the PC to take action and possible solutions mentioned were: installing security cameras on existing building; increasing police or PCSO visits through the evenings; installing a safe form of fencing around the pitch and playing field to reduce access; installing a speed monitor on Church Road; installing traffic calming measures on Church Road to reduce vehicle speeds.

- c) To note concerns raised by the Cavendish Hall Management Committee – the meeting noted the email from the Cavendish Hall and the impact that the anti-social behaviour was having. The committee had previously raised concerns that the building was being targeted and possible solutions that could and should be considered.
6. To consider the advice from the following bodies with regards to dealing with the above-mentioned issues:
- a) Stowmarket SNT – in the report – *previously circulated* - it was noted that a number of the comments coming from the SNT were either incorrect or not helpful to the situation. In relation to the vandalism to the cricket club container to the rear of the pavilion, the SNT had stated that whilst you will never be able to stop access to cavendish hall or the pavilion by foot as this is a public access, it is suggested that the Council consider the option of putting some kind of fencing or barrier behind the pavilion where the container is to stop people gathering round the back there as there is no reason for individuals who are not involved with the football / cricket club or the groundsman to be there. It was agreed by all that this solution was not practical as there was an access footpath behind the pavilion for the site from Church Road. It was mentioned that there was a sign on the gate to the rear of the TUFs which states do not shut the gate and agreement was forthcoming for the Clerk to investigate and make arrangements to remove the sign. The area was noted as being accessible from multiple directions and discussion followed as to whether a fence could be erected at both ends - School Lane and Church Road - perhaps a kissing gate - which would prevent motorised vehicles from gaining access via that route.
- b) The Crime Design Out Crime Officer (DOCO), For West and South Suffolk – *all had previously been circulated with the email comments*. It was noted that the initial recommendation from the Officer had been to install a barrier on the entrance to restrict after hours. However the main issue with a barrier is a) the price and b) how the barrier will be closed and operated. It was noted that his advice covered:
- electronic barrier that will be programmed to close and reopen at certain specified times. To mitigate if someone has come in before closing time it would be best to have a barrier that has a sensor on it, that detects on coming movement from within the car park wanting to go out and on detecting it allows the vehicle out automatically, but will still be closed to any vehicle wanting to come in.
 - bollards in place of barriers which could be either lock in bollards or rising bollards
 - CCTV that reacts to movement and sends a message to a prominent user that movement has been detected and needs to be looked at straight away to verify what the movement is. This would allow immediate knowledge as to when vehicles were being driven in and could immediately contact the police.
 - Installation of Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 Warning signs, to assist the police in being able to invoke this section which first gives a warning and then allows an officer to seize and impound any vehicle. By having the signs up it means an offender can't plead ignorance.
7. To consider the Parish Council's response to the above matters, noting that a financial decision may require formal ratification at a further meeting once all known costs are ascertained –
- a) Cars using car park – Section 59 Warning Notices seemed a very sensible initial solution to assist with tackling the problem. Need to ascertain places to be fixed within the curtilage of the

Signed

Chairman

Date: 01.07.2020

Recreation Ground. It was agreed that access needed to be looked at in terms of the effectiveness of barriers or gates given the use of the car park.

- b) Anti-social behaviour and in particular those using the grounds in an appropriate manner – overall it was agreed that there was a problem and that the PC needed to respond to it in a proactive way. There was agreement that CCTV needs to be monitored to be effective and the meeting noted the options that can be had for the different types that are available. All agreed that there were two main issues – access and behaviour – and both are interrelated. It was considered that CCTV might be the best way forward but there was a need for professional advice on how this is to be controlled, systems available and how and which areas are to be covered. The issue of monitoring behaviour seems to be proactive.

Further points were noted:

CCTV

- Privacy impact - complex issue to ensure that all users – including vulnerable persons – are covered in the impact.
- All people who have a vested interest need to be involved in this and therefore should include the Cavendish Hall and SCC.
- County Council might have a preferred contractor – but note that this is a more rural area and a place with a reduced footfall.
- Technical advice needed
- Discuss with existing

Barriers

- Issue re access for different users
- Kissing gate for entrance to the footpaths
- Metal gates for car entrance – issues for access from Highway
- Gates are seen to be a management issue
- Barriers with sensors could be considered

It was resolved that, in the first instance, the Council would investigate installing a s59 notice as advised by the DOCO and the Clerk would liaise with MSDC to get these installed as soon as possible, aif.

It was also agreed that expert advice be sought on the other two items and that consultation with the other users of the area would be necessary to allow the PC to move forward on the basis that one or both of the technical solutions are explored, aif.

8. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

- a) 1st July 2020 – full Council Meeting – via the Zoom platform – commencing at 7.00pm
 b) 22nd July 2020 – full Council Meeting – via the Zoom platform – commencing at 6.30pm

Signed Chairman

Date: 01.07.2020

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 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

CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSION FOLLOWED –PUBLIC EXCLUDED

It was resolved that the Clerk would revert to the main party to ascertain timescales involved for purchasing the land and whether there were restrictions on timelines for development, aif. It was also resolved and agreed that the PC should commence negotiations on the offer being put to the council along with options for further areas of land, aif.

10. **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING** – there being no other business the meeting was closed at 20.03pm.

Signed Chairman

Date: 01.07.2020

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

Signed

Chairman

Date: 01.07.2020