

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL – Leisure and Environment Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Environment Committee held on Wednesday 25th January 2023 at 6.00pm in the Community Library, Norton Road.

In attendance: Cllr. B Rainbow (Chair), E. Bond, S Cornell, B Morris, J West and Mrs A King (Deputy Clerk)

Mr J. Thurlbourn, Trustee of New Green Centre.

Also in attendance 17 members of the public.

1. **Chair's Welcome** - the Chair opened the meeting advising all that the Protocol adopted by the Parish Council for reporting at Parish Council Meetings, 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. **To receive Apologies of Absence** – Cllr Hay sent their apologies due to personal commitments, these were accepted by all.
3. **Declarations of pecuniary and local non-pecuniary interests:**
 - a) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other registerable interests as detailed in Appendix B of the LGA Model Code of Conduct - Cllr Morris declared an interest concerning item 13 on the agenda.
 - b) To receive notification of gifts of hospitality exceeding £50 – none received
 - c) To note the determination of requests for dispensations in accordance with council's Dispensation Policy – none received
4. **To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meetings:**
 - a) 30.11.022 – Leisure and Environment Committee - approval of the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting that took place was given by all present, aif. The Chair signed the minutes in accordance with legislation.
5. **To receive comments from the members of the public present:**
 - a) **On the agenda under discussion** – None received.
 - b) **On any other matters relating to recreational matters within the village of Thurston** –
 - Matters concerning the proposed 33-acre recreation site were raised.
 - Discussions were had regarding the land opposite the Rugby Club and Cracknells garage.
 - Consideration was requested that the District Councils of Mid and West Suffolk identify a site that would be more suitable to facilities being planned, with no impact to surrounding residents.
 - The council invited the members of the public to the full council meeting planned for Feb 1st, advising that the 33 acres was an agenda item, and would be a better forum for their concerns.
6. **To receive and consider matters relating to the Monthly Risk Assessments Reports:**
 - a) **To receive updates on previous works highlighted in the Monthly Risk Assessments for action.**
 - Heath Road Play area: No updates to receive.

So signed by the Chair at meeting of 22nd February 2023

- Thedwastre Play Park Area: No updates to receive.
 - New Green Open Space: No updates to receive.
- b) To consider matters on the Monthly Risk Assessment Reports for the following and agree appropriate actions arising:**
- Heath Road Play Area: The fencing remains an issue.
 - Thedwastre Play Area: The clerk advised that complaints had been received regarding dogs in the play area. She confirmed that after taking advice from Mid Suffolk, there remains no legal rights to ban dogs from that area. However, an article has been written in the newsletter advising dog owners of their responsibilities and the health risks to toddlers and babies that are crawling on the grass.
 - New Green Open Space: Nothing to report.
- 7. To receive an update from the clerk regarding the High Street Safari AR Christmas Story trail player figures:** The clerk advised the figures from the story trail, all agreed it had been a popular village event.
- 8. To receive an update from the clerk regarding the CIL bid for bird boxes:** The clerk advised that the CIL bid had been submitted and the council would be considering at the February meeting.
- 9. To receive an update regarding the narrative for the footpath leaflets and establish if any draft is ready to be sent to Discover Suffolk:** Cllr Morris and Cornell confirmed that they had drafted and edited the first walk and second walk. Following feedback from Discover Suffolk, the clerk confirmed that she had added more historical narrative to the script and was waiting for further feedback.
- 10. To receive an update from Cllr Hay (in his capacity as tree warden) regarding the severing of the ivy growing on an Oak tree in School Road Gravel Pit:** Due to the absence of Cllr Hay, Cllr Morris updated the committee regarding the ivy and the general condition of the Oak trees in School Road. It was agreed that a recommendation would be put forward to the full council that a tree survey be carried out on all the trees on the open space as although some are young and healthy, the older trees may require attention.
- 11. To receive an update from Cllr Morris regarding the newly created footpath on the Hopkins site:** Cllr Morris reported that although the footpath was not yet complete, the trees that had been planted were in very good condition and the overall impression was very satisfactory.
- 12. To discuss the management of the wildlife garden and receive an update from the clerk regarding communications made with the primary school and community college:** *To note, the committee invited Mr Thurlbourn, a trustee of New Green to join the discussion taking place regarding the wildlife garden which is located in the New Green Open Space.*

The clerk reported that she had spoken with the Primary School regarding their involvement with bug hotels, and that the feedback from the school was positive. They would be happy to arrange a small group of pupils from different year groups to regularly visit, once a half term.

Thurston Community College advised that their Environmental group was based on the Beyton site and would struggle to commit to long term projects. However, they did advise that this may be something that the Duke of Edinburgh groups could be involved with as their volunteering section required sustained projects. It was agreed that the clerk would make contact with the DofE programme and discuss ideas further. She will report her findings at the next meeting.

Mr Thurlbourn raised no objections to the school and DofE volunteers helping to manage the garden and agreed that involving the local children would be a positive. He did advise that the area would benefit from an information board to explain what is there. This was duly noted and will be put onto the agenda at a future meeting for further discussion.

- 13. Following the planning approval of the extra care affordable housing scheme, to outline potential plans for the play area that can be discussed at future meetings between TRINC and the PC:** Whilst the committee agreed that the play area needed to be upgraded, they were reticent to commit to any potential plans that could be put forward for discussion with TRINC. It was agreed that they would establish what the Charity's vision for the land was, before entering into any discussion regarding the play area.
- 14. Date of next meeting** – 22nd February 2023 commencing at 6pm in the Thurston Community Library.
- 15. To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted** – None to be discussed.
- 16. Close of meeting** – there being no further business to transact the Chair closed the meeting at 19.09