

## THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL – Leisure and Environment Committee

**Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Environment Committee held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 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)

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 – none received.
  - 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) 25.01.2023 – 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** – None received.
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: The fence remains an issue.
    - Thedwastre Play Park Area: No updates to receive.
    - New Green Open Space: No updates to receive.
    - Recreation Ground Play Area: 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 fence remains damaged by walkers using it as a cut through.
    - Thedwastre Play Area: Nothing to report.
    - New Green Open Space: Graffiti on the youth shelter, the clerk advised it had been reported.

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- Recreation Ground Play Area: Nothing to report.
7. **To receive the annual play inspection report, review the findings and formally recommend that the Parish Council accept them (Paper 1):** Whilst the findings found all the play areas to be low or very low risk, it was noted that the matting in all areas has been highlighted as a risk. It was agreed that a recommendation be taken forward to full council that a CIL bid be put together for playground resurfacing in the Thedwastre play area and the Recreation Ground play area. As a whole, the committee were in agreement that the reports should be recommended for acceptance by full council.
  8. **To receive an update from the clerk regarding the CIL bid for bird boxes:** The clerk advised that the CIL bid had been successful and the boxes had been ordered and delivered. An article would be in the March newsletter to invite people to put their names down for a box in return for recording the birds that come into their garden over the coming years.
  9. **To receive an update regarding the narrative for the footpath leaflets and establish if the third walk draft is ready to be sent to Discover Suffolk:** Cllr Morris advised that she had walked a possible route taking in the other side of the village. She is to liaise with Cllr Cornell regarding the narrative and report back at the next meeting.
  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 confirmed that the ivy had been severed.
  11. **Cllr Cornell to present to the committee plans to establish 'Thurston Community Players' amateur dramatics group with the recommendation to take the idea forward to full council for approval and potential funding from CIL:** Cllr Cornell presented her idea to the committee regarding plans to establish an amateur dramatics group in Thurston. All were in agreement that it was a good idea, and should bring the together all ages of the community. The committee approved that it should be taken forward to full council as a potential CIL bid.
  12. **To receive an update from the clerk regarding volunteers to help manage the wildlife garden, and to establish a work schedule for jobs that need carrying out:** The clerk advised that she had had one enquiry from a mother of a D of E participant asking for more details which were duly sent.  
It was agreed that the area that needed the most attention was the pond. Whilst it is wet in the winter, it is dry in the summer and questions were raised as to its suitability to be a bog garden as a result. Further suggestions of an arid garden were discussed which could reflect the changes in climate. After much deliberation, it was agreed that the committee should consult further with more knowledgeable contacts. The clerk is to make contact with persons known within Natural England and Suffolk Wildlife Trust and report back.
  13. **To confirm dates between 21<sup>st</sup> February and 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 that councillors will be available to undertake the thermal imaging surveys throughout the village:** The following was agreed:  
Cllr West and Cornell – 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February

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Cllr Bond – 03<sup>rd</sup> – 06<sup>th</sup> March

Cllr Rainbow and Morris – 09<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March

Cllr West – 16<sup>th</sup> March

Dates have been left spare to accommodate any weather problems.

- 14. DC/20/05894: to review and consider the plans submitted under reserved matters concerning the public open space and play area. With recommendations then being formally presented at the next full council meeting on March 1st 2023:** The following observations were agreed on and will be presented to full council at their next meeting –
- Wetland area – concerns that it will be a manmade structure and not natural, and therefore will need maintenance plans and monitoring. Is it appropriate for the soil conditions in the area?
  - Wildflower meadow – the committee were pleased to see the plans in place for long term upkeep of the area.
  - Gym equipment – the committee were pleased to note that the equipment proposed for the play areas are age appropriate to older children.
  - Footpaths and Cycle routes – it was felt that these have not been thought through enough. The footpath from the site leads onto Beyton Road, and the user would then have to cross a busy main road to access the pavement on the opposite side of the road. There does not appear to be a cycle route that can safely link the user to the village or cycleway 51.
  - EV points – the committee were very pleased to see that every home had an EV point, but disappointed to see that there appears to be only one communal charge point for any visitors. This should be increased to reflect the growing number of electric vehicle users on the roads, it would be unfair to expect homeowners to provide charge to their visitors considering current energy costs.
  - Air source heat pumps and Photovoltaic panels – the committee were impressed by the plans for all houses to have either an air source heat pump or solar panelling.
  - Landscaping – sadly this is still very limited by the density of the build, but the committee were pleased with the planting mix that has been suggested by Place Services.
- 15. Date of next meeting** – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 commencing at 6pm in the Thurston Community Library.
- 16. 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.
- 17. Close of meeting** – there being no further business to transact the Chair closed the meeting at 19.52

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