

## THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL – Leisure and Environment Committee

**Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Environment Committee held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 at 6.00pm in the Community Library, Norton Road.**

In attendance: Cllr. B Rainbow (Chair), E. Bond, S Cornell, B Morris and J West.

Cllr Morris took notes in the clerks absence.

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. The clerks absence was also noted due to illness.
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) 22.02.2023 – 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: The offensive graffiti has been removed.
    - 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: It was agreed that a site survey would be carried out to establish how much of the fence needs to be replaced, or if the fencing can be salvaged with only new posts required. A bag of building material (possibly sand) has

So signed by the Chair at meeting of 31.05.2023

been discarded, Cllr West to remove. The clerk is to source quotations and report back at the net meeting.

- Thedwastre Play Area: Following a site visit by Cllr Rainbow and the clerk, a list of repairs highlighted by the annual risk assessment were inspected. Some equipment and screws requires tightening - this will be reported back to Kompan as part of their maintenance schedule. Flaky paint and general cleaning issues have been identified, quotes and timescale for the work to be carried out have been sourced, with the committee recommendation full council to accept it at their next monthly meeting.
- New Green Open Space: As per the annual risk assessment report, flaking paint and cleaning has been reported, see above regarding committee recommendation to full council.
- Recreation Ground Play Area: Nothing to report.

**7. To receive an update from the clerk regarding the bird boxes:** It was reported that 14 birdboxes had so far been collected, with all recipients very grateful and enthusiastic about the project. The clerk is to send out an email to all those taking part in the next few weeks to outline the information that should be recorded.

**8. To receive an update from the clerk regarding the thermal imaging project that was carried out:** The project is now complete, all houses that registered were survey with the exception of one. All those that took part were very grateful and found the information very informative. The clerk has followed up all the photos with information regarding incentive fro Warm Homes Suffolk.

**9. To receive an update regarding the narrative for the third walk to be sent to Discover Suffolk:** Cllr Morris advised that the walk and narrative has been completed. It has been submitted to Discover Suffolk and now awaiting approval or modifications. An email had been received from Discover Suffolk to advise that there maybe a delay due to the Suffolk Walking Festival that is currently being organised.

**10. To discuss the wildlife garden, and in particular the pond area following a site meeting:**

Cllr Morris updated the committee following a site meeting held in March. The spreading Blackthorn scrub is a problem and requires cutting back. The grass area does not appear to have been cut during the early autumn and the blackthorn is spreading in these areas. A quote has been sought from M&TJ to cut the grass now.

Suggestions for the pond included to create a bog garden or improve the pond itself by puddling clay and erect a boardwalk. Following advice from a pond specialist the clay option would prove to be very costly.

The hedge and trees are good, although additional planting such as Dogwoods would improve winter colour. After consideration it was agreed that the committee would further investigate:

- the pond should be filled in and an arid or bog garden created. Suggestions of soil to be sourced from a nearby building site were put forward.
- a new west entrance to the garden was also put forward, it would require removing part of the hedge, but may encourage more people to visit the garden.
- Creation and ongoing monitoring of a bug hotel and its residents.
- the scouts and D of E volunteers maybe able to help with this project.

It was agreed that further information will be obtained regarding costs and timescales for consideration by the committee at the next meeting prior to submission of the proposal to the New Green Trust and full council for their approval.

- 11. To establish if any councillor is available to attend the Suffolk Pathways Project Briefing to discuss support for the development of community led renewable energy projects throughout Suffolk. 23.03.23 14.00-15.00:** No councillors were available to attend the briefing.
- 12. Date of next meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 commencing at 6pm in the Thurston Community Library.**
- 13. 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.
- 14. Close of meeting –** there being no further business to transact the Chair closed the meeting at 18.26.