

# THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in the Cavendish Hall, Church Road, Thurston as prepared by the Clerk to the Parish Council.**

**The Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr. P Robinson, took the Chair for the Meeting.**

**In Attendance: Cllrs. C Dashper, D Moss, A O'Connell; B Rainbow; J Service; M Thomas; County Cllr. Penny Otton; PCSO Matt Smith; Rev. Manette Newman**

**19 members of the public**

- 1. Opening and Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council – the meeting was declared open at 8.00pm and all were thanked for attending.  
A statement was read out indicating that, in accordance with the changes in legislation, the public and councillors were permitted to film, record, photograph or use social media to report on the proceedings of the meeting.  
*A full transcript is available from the Clerk***
- 2. To receive apologies for absence: District Cllrs. D Haley (ill); E Jewson (other commitment) Thurston Community College (late/non-arrival of invitation); Thurston Under Fives School; Mrs C Bacon (Evening WI); Cllrs. D Ames; Alston; Fawcett; Masters.**
- 3. To confirm the minutes of the APM of 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 – these having been previously circulated were unanimously approved by the meeting.**
- 4. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council Peter Robinson - the Chairman of the Parish Council delivered his report and drew the meetings attention to the following:**
  - Thurston Parish Council is made up of a full complement of 11 volunteer councillors. I would like to thank everyone, for their support, commitment and humour over the past 12 months, with-out this we could not have achieved all the things we have. I would like to thank Chris Dashper (our Vice Chairman) for chairing the TPC meetings when I was unable to attend. Also, I would like to welcome our newest Councillor Jonathon Masters, who has just joined us, and I hope he will enjoy working with us for many years. Once again, I would like to thank Vicky for all her work for the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan, and Her support and Guidance to me. Without Vicky's commitment and knowledge, we would not be in the position we are.**
  - Our Suffolk County Councillor Penny Otten and our Mid Suffolk District Councillors Derrick Haley and Esther Jewson support us. We do however have heated discussions with our District Councillors at times, especially if we feel that information we should have is not forth coming, especially with information relating to the Neighbourhood Plan.**
  - The Parish Council office is open every Tuesday and Friday where residents can raise queries or obtain information on council activities. Our monthly Parish**

Council meeting is held on the first Wednesday of every month, From May, these will be held at the Library, due to an increase in the number of residents attending the Council meetings we need more space, and the Library will give us the extra space. Anyone can attend the Parish Council meetings and raise an issue or an area of concern in our open forum. We also have Council Surgeries once a month where residents can attend and discuss any issues they have. The dates of these meetings are advertised on the notice boards around the village, in the Library and on our website [www.thurston.suffolk.cloud](http://www.thurston.suffolk.cloud) and in the Village Newsletter.

- Many of you will know that we Match Funded our own Police Community Support Officer for Thurston until April this year when we will be Fully Funding this position. Our PCSO is Matt Smith who has joined us tonight in his own time. The decision to Fully Fund this position was made by the residents who attended a Public Meeting in January this year, unfortunately due to the low numbers attending, the few made the decision for the many. By fully funding the PCSO it will mean an increase in the Parish Council share of the Council Tax of 12.35% per year on a band "D" property, in the Parish Council element of your Council Tax. Matt will update you on his role as our PCSO later in the meeting.
- Although the accounts for this financial year are not yet completed, I can tell you the expenditure for the year is on budget. Once we have completed the end of year accounts the final figure will be published on the Village Website with a hard copy available from the Parish Office.
- We continue to support local organisations through donations. The organisations we supported this year include New Green Community Centre, The Cavendish Hall, St Peter Church with maintenance of the Church Yard, the Village Newsletter, Thurston Library, Royal British Legion, Marie Curie Nursing and Tiny Toes Toddler Group. Any organisations within the village that provide their services for the benefit of residents, can apply in writing to the Clerk for a grant and outline the service they provide within the village and what the grant is required for, the request will then be considered by the Parish Council.
- One of the roles played by the Thurston Parish Council is in planning applications as a Statutory Consultee. The PC Planning group meets regularly to discuss every planning application. This year has been particularly difficult due to the number of applications for large developments in the Village. We may not always recommend what residents would like, but we are required to assess each application on a set of policies that are in the local plan, and the National Planning Policy Framework, and our comments must be based on these policies not on our personal feelings. We also don't always get the results from the Planning Authority that we would.
- So, what are our challenges for this year?
  - We will carry on with our monthly surgeries, which give residents an opportunity to discuss issues and concerns with members of the Parish Council, members of the Neighbourhood Plan team (Our local Councillors and PCSO) also join us when they are available. The dates will continue to be advertised on the Parish Council notice boards, in the Library and on the Village Website.
  - We will continue to work with the Neighbourhood Plan Team: But more on that later in the meeting.
  - We are continuing to work on the on-going maintenance issues around the village. We are still employing a litter picker, and more recently we have employed a maintenance man, to deal with small tasks around the village. We are in contact with Suffolk County Council, to discuss the devolving some of the highways maintenance. around the village, such as ensuring hedges are trimmed (away from footpaths), weed control, but as with any negotiations with SCC it is a long process. It's taken us 12 months to evening get a meeting with them.

- The Vehicle Activated Sign is monitored on a fortnightly basis, and the data downloaded on to the PC Laptop. We believe this will be beneficial for confirming the volume of traffic through the village. However, our data shows that the average speed of vehicles has reduced since the introduction of this piece of equipment. There does however remain a core group of motorists who continue to drive at excessive speeds through the village. We may look at purchasing a second machine during the next financial year.
5. To receive a report from County Councillor Penny Otton – County Councillor Penny Otton was invited to submit her report -
- **SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET**; this was agreed on 17th Feb. there was an amendment to put back the cut to the library service, to children’s centres, highways maintenance, concessionary fare support, hedge and verge cutting and post 16 travel which I was happy to support. After a long and bad-tempered debate this was defeated, and the original budget agreed by a majority. This includes the 3% rise for social care.
  - **DEVOLUTION**; this time last year this was the “big thing”, however with various Norfolk councils voting against the proposals it is now left to the minister to make any decision.
  - **HIGHWAYS**; with another year of poor service the council has agreed to adopt a risk-based approach to repair work i.e. higher risk on A roads, this means potholes on minor roads may be take longer to be dealt with.
  - **FISHWICK CORNER and POKERIDGE CORNER** again these have been raised as accident black spots and included in the highways statements as part of the consultation on the numerous planning applications.
  - **SANDPIT LANE**; I am pleased to have helped the parish council get a warning sign for the crossing at Sandpit Lane and to help with the installation costs of the Vehicle Activated Signs from my small highways budget.
  - **LIBRARY**; well done to everyone, despite the cut to the financial support. I am pleased to have been able to help with your festival and other events.
  - **THURSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**; I have been involved in 2 debates; last year before the EU referendum and only this morning as part of their Democracy day. The group trying to get the swimming pool open have been actively gaining support and raising money.
  - **Congratulations on being selected to receive a banner celebrating the 800th anniversary of Magna carter** which was presented to the sixth form campus on 4th July where I was present. This is one of 18 and the only secondary school to be selected. I was pleased to attend the exhibition of for the GCSE art and design work. The regular term meetings are a good way to raise concerns and work with the college. The issue of buses parking on the road has again been raised.
  - **FLOODING AT OLD NORTON ROAD**; I am delighted that following our constant pressure on Mark Stevens Director of highways he has confirmed that this is now one of 27 sites that will be dealt with in the current financial year! A date, 17<sup>th</sup> April has been told to the residents with the possibility of 4 weeks work.
  - **BUS STOP AT MORTON HALL**; having been asked by a Thurston resident what progress, the ground works were ordered 12<sup>th</sup> December I was hoping to see a new bus stop there now.
  - **CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT**; there is to be a change to parking enforcement; this is to be de-criminalised and devolved to districts and boroughs councils to “police”, however SCC will act to determine any new Traffic Regulation Orders for e.g. new waiting or loading restrictions.
  - **PLANNING AND THE A14 GROUP MEETING**. I am glad that I am now included in this group. It is essential that SCC highways and Education **MUST** be part of any discussion on new planning applications. It is very disappointing that the NHS appears not to recognise the impact any of these applications will have on Thurston.

- REVIEW OF WASTE FACILITY IN BURY ST EDMUNDS; There is concern that it is closed on Wednesdays and the increase in fly-tipping.
- NOISE FROM FRIEGHT ON RAIL LINE; I was at a meeting with residents and Network rail to see what could be done to reduce the noise from the freight trains. It was suggested to do a noise level check.

Items put to Councillor Otton -

- Potholes - acknowledged that potholes were the responsible of the County Council. Need to make them aware that not only were potholes an issue but also there was an issue with the sides of roads being pushed in by buses passing one another. All urged to use the Highways Reporting Tool via the internet, or phone them with these issues.
- evidence given that when a complaint was submitted to Highways the complainant was asked to prove that the damage was caused as reported. It was agreed that the Clerk would ascertain the correct procedure to follow when reporting damage sustained.

6. To receive reports from District Councillors Derrick Haley & Esther Jewson - a written report had been submitted from District Cllr. Jewson on behalf of both Councillors in which she reported on the following items:

- Budget - Mid Suffolk District Council's Full Council an increase of 1.64% in Council Tax was approved as councillors voted in favour of the 2017/18 budget. The rise, voted on by Mid Suffolk Councillors on Thursday (23 February) evening, will mean that residents in the Mid Suffolk area who live in a Band D property will see a rise in their Council Tax of £2.61. The increase was voted through as Mid Suffolk faces further cuts in core funding from central government. However, the council has pledged that those most in need will not pay more than 5 per cent of their council tax bill as it continues its Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- Community Grants -as part of the budget process, the DC has provided a sum of £250k for community grants and again as part of our open, transparent and inclusive agenda, we have set up a cross party working group to determine how to award this money from April 2017 onwards.
- Appointment of new Chief Executive - following Full Council meetings at both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016, the appointment of Arthur Charvonia as the new Joint Chief Executive was approved and Arthur is now in post.
- Public Access Strategy and move to Endeavour House - at the full council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, Councillors in Mid Suffolk gave their backing to proposals to improve the delivery of public services from new Headquarters in Endeavour House. In a report to the Council on its Public Access Strategy, which included deciding on four options for the new co-location of the joint Councils Headquarters, Mid Suffolk Councillors backed the proposals by a clear majority. The Council considered four options including locating all services to Hadleigh, all services to Needham Market, the sharing of accommodation in Endeavour House with Suffolk County Council or a new building for the councils. The decision was made as one that puts modernisation, cost and reliability at the heart of future delivery of services. The Strategy also sets out the five key access channels for the local community that will be radically improved following the decision which are: Face to Face - while current offices aren't easily accessible for the public who live some distance from the offices, recommendations before Councillors will ensure one access point in each district is established ensuring the public can have a better quality 'face to face' interaction with the council. Telephone - while telephone contact continues to be the most common access for the public there is confusion with too many numbers and rising costs. The proposals will see one main phone number, charged at a local rate, channelled through a customer contact centre. Email - there will be the creation and promotion of a single email address for the

Councils, handled by the Customer Contact Centre ensuring a better-quality service especially in terms of response times. Online – Digital Services - with a growing number of residents conducting much of their household business online (i.e. banking, bill payment, shopping etc.) there is a growing demand for better online services. The proposals include a development of one new clearer and simpler website which will include new arrangements to view and comment on planning applications. Webchat and SMS - 'Webchat' is an online service that allows the public to speak to organisations while they are using other digital services. Proposals include making webchat available to the public as well as the development of SMS text messaging via the customer relationship management system. As both Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk voted to back the Public Access Strategy and the option to share accommodation in Endeavour House with Suffolk County Council in September, both councils continue to progress the implementation of the Public Access Strategy and the move to Endeavour House.

- Affordable Housing - Mid Suffolk District Council has just completed the purchase of two more redundant sites from Suffolk County Council which it will now develop to provide much needed new housing. One of the sites, Paddock House and former Day Care Centre in Wellington Road, Eye, includes a 30-bed redundant care home and a detached 3-bedroom bungalow in the grounds. The other is in Walnut Tree Walk, Stowmarket and includes the former Middle School and Community Education Centre located on Childer Road. These two latest acquisitions, together with the former Middle School site in School Lane, Needham Market, which was bought last year, demonstrates the determination by Mid Suffolk to invest in its market towns and provide new 98 homes to meet the needs of local people. In addition to this, it is anticipated the construction phase will bring more jobs into both areas and give local businesses a vital boost through increased footfall. Work to appoint development partners for these sites will begin this summer and any proposals which are drawn up will be subject to a public consultation through the usual planning processes. It is hoped that work on both sites will start next summer. The three sites cost just over £3m and will provide 98 houses. At their meeting on the 6th March the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to adopt a Joint Affordable Homes Development Strategy which will encompass the development of these three sites.
- New website - MSDC now has a new website: [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk)

Questions raised:

- Community grants – can they still be accessed in coming years – County Councillor Otton in her role as a District Councillor confirmed that the process was the same as in previous years although the criteria for future years is still being discussed.

#### 7. To receive a report from the Mid Suffolk SaferNeighbourhood Team

Questions raised

- Proposal for parking – Suffolk Constabulary still dealing with parking issues – but considering the policing review, the remit for dealing with this has now changed. Currently if there is a parking issue, residents should call 101, it will then be threat risk assessed and attendance will be ensured if threat is severe. Longer term, local authorities may apply to take over the role of

*At this point the Chairman amended the agenda to allow the Reverend Manette Crossman to address the meeting*

I have been the Vicar of St Peters and Holy Innocents in Great Barton for the past 18 months. I am always available and spend my time equally between both churches. We are a parish church of the parish as are the people who run it. Currently there are under 100 on the electoral role who either support the

church or who worship regularly. 30-40 regulars keep the church alive out of a large community for which we are very grateful, but we need more support from the community if we are to continue offering the services we currently have. Over the past 12 months we have supported the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration; held a Family Fun Day and a Thanksgiving Service. A piece of land has been gifted to the Church to serve as new burial ground which was consecrated in June by the Bishop and should be ready before spaces in churchyard run out. This will give space for next 50-100 years. The design is a work in progress, but a beautiful space area will be planned. Upcoming Festivals include Plough Sunday; Harvest Festival; Christmas Tree Festival; Midnight Service; Remembrance Service and an Evening Service to commemorate 100 years since the Battle of The Somme. Reports are submitted in the Village Newsletter which has now developed into a proper magazine, and the Church's thanks go to Ian Goodall and Richard Fawcett for their efforts. St Peters has been in a benefice for the last 4.5 years which is growing well together. Several services and alternate events have been shared and we have gained a music group and have held 3 songs of praise events. Now have a website - thanks to Peter Robinson for his support [www.greatbartonandthruston.org.uk](http://www.greatbartonandthruston.org.uk) plus a Facebook page. The Church supports Tiny Toes Mums and Toddlers. "Match, Hatch and Dispatch" - happy to provide all services. It takes 12 months to become more relevant in a community; to build on links with the village and to grow in number. If there is anything missing or any services that the community would like to see - please get in touch.

There followed an interval during which refreshments were provided by the ladies of the Evening Women's Institute, to whom the Parish Council is very grateful.

8. To receive an update on the Thurston Neighbourhood Plan - We continue our journey with the Neighbourhood Plan: following completion of the Site Assessments we are about to complete a Character Assessment of the village. This is a document, which describes the distinct appearance and feel of the village. It communicates the key physical features and characteristics that combine to give the village its local distinctiveness and unique identity. We will soon be ready to start the process of setting Policies ready for the Draft Plan. We are still pestering Mid Suffolk for the Objectively Assessed Numbers, which they continue to respond in the negative. Their Local Plan, which should have been at the Draft document stage in February, has been put back to the autumn of this year. This document should contain an idea of the number of properties required over the whole of the Mid Suffolk area. We are looking at the NP team moving forward with this issue and are attempting to meet with Mid Suffolk Officers, to discuss the allocation of sites around Thurston and what the residents of Thurston are happy to accept. We will be holding a public meeting to update residents on the progress of this meeting, and the suitability of the sites that have come forward. We must all realise that at some point growth within Thurston will take place. We will continue to work on the Neighbourhood Plan and we would like to think that by the end of the year we will have the Draft Plan. We may not be able to affect what happens with the plans already in, but we can make a difference for future applications.

Items raised:

- In last 10 years only once has MSDC achieved 35% affordable housing supply on an annual basis.
- Is there any point residents writing to local MP and complaining at the lack of information coming forward from Mid Suffolk District Council which is holding up the production of the Neighbourhood Plan?
- NP states that there is a need for a new school but must note that a new school will bring development. Someone must pay for the new school - will it be just the developer or Suffolk County Council as well?

- New Homes Bonus – paid to District Council for number of homes built in their area.
- Highways are looking at the travel assessments that have been submitted by the developers and Highways have now produced their own suggestions to mitigate the impact the proposals.
- In absence of a Local Plan and MSDC's plan is deemed to be out of date as it does not have a 5-year land supply, any applications that come forth must be determined on policies as per the NPPF. All the plans must be looked at on a cumulative basis and the responses from Highways, Education and Health have been analysed by the Neighbourhood Team and the Parish Council and comments will be made.

9. To receive reports from Parish Council Representatives –

- Recreational Ground Trust – this year has been one of consolidation after the previous year of improvements. Maintenance of veranda and drainage has been carried out and are now fit for purpose. Thanks were offered to the regular users as well as those that came forward on an ad-hoc basis. The Chair offered his thanks to his colleagues on the Recreational Ground Committee and to the Caretaker of the Pavilion. Due to the ability to change rent from the Thurston Under Fives the finances were healthy. If anyone needs to hire the venue, please speak to the Clerk to the Parish Council.

Questions raised:

- General maintenance of the field – it was confirmed that this was paid for by Recreational Ground – grass cutting monthly when needed and more in-depth maintenance on an annual basis; during the football season patching work is down to Football Club with the Cricket Square being looked after by the Cricket Club.
  - Why have posts been painted white – it was explained that due to a recent incident involving a resident walking into the post at night, they had been painted with reflective paint on health and safety grounds.
- Library – book issues are increasing at a good rate and there is an increased number of visitors. For children there is the - Coding Club; Minecraft Club; Lego Club. For adults there is the Water Colour Group; Positive Aging Club. Past events include a Music Gig in October – Honey & Bear; Charlie Haylock at AGM; There will be a further Talk on 4<sup>th</sup> May – Charlie Haylock; Trip to Kew Gardens to see the Christmas Lights; a Mediterranean Supper in the Summer and a Wine Tasting Event later in the year. Additional room is now White Room and is available for hire. More volunteers are required to hear young readers in the reading challenge.
  - Footpaths – annual report – Network Rail will reroute those that pass over railway line - Barrells Road 5 and Grove Farm 11. All routes are in the leaflet that has been produced by the Parish Council and copies are available from members of the public must report any issues with the footpath. which will dog owners etc – dogs being let off lead and running loose. Now have six new bag dispensers – the Clerk will put an article in the Newsletter letting all know their location.
  - Thurston Relief in Need Charity – (210828). There has been a Charity in Thurston from about the 1700's and its aim was to help young people from the village starting work by supplying either tools or clogs. As you probably know that in present day the main income for the Charity was from the re-cycling bins on Station Hill and since their removal our only income has bene from the rent from our 9½ acre field in Heath Road; the adjacent Play Area adjacent which is rented by the Parish Council and a small amount of share income. This income enables us to make donations within the Village to local residents when requested and last year we were able to make donati8ons to 3 local families. Details of the Trustees appear in the Newsletter together with their contact telephone numbers and any contact is treated with complete confidence.

**10. To receive reports from Village Organisations**

- i. Thurston Community College – no report due to the arrival of the late invite to the meeting – all were that an entry is put into the monthly newsletter which updates all with activities**
- ii. Thurston Primary Academy -**
- iii. Thurston Pre-School – due to illness the Chair of Thurston Pre-School had been unable to attend the meeting. She had asked that any specific matters relating to the pre-school be forward to her for consideration.**
- iv. Cavendish Hall – Bookings remain steady but there is still spare capacity for morning and afternoon sessions. Ideally, we need one or two additional regular bookings to ensure income is sufficient to cover running costs. To boost income, occasional fund-raising events are being organised; the pig race night in October resulted in a profit of £700. Minor increases in hire charges were implemented as from 1 April, and a further review will be carried out shortly. The annual work session took place in August and dealt with several jobs around the building. Other tasks undertaken during the year include repairs and improvements to the heating system and controls. It is acknowledged that from time to time minor inconvenience is experienced by some users due to something or other going wrong, but we do our best to address issues raised. The last of the funding for the refurbishment project, £1,700 from Suffolk County Council, was successfully claimed recently. A Parish Council grant has recently been awarded for replacing fire door ironmongery, and this work will be carried out shortly. Our Booking Secretary for the past 10 years, has given up the post, and we have a new person in the role.**
- v. New Green Centre – New Green Trust are responsible for hall and open space from Station Hill to Sandpit Lane which includes a small conservation area. Centre going along well, at present there are 43 regular users which covers a diverse range of groups. Finances at break-even point with a modest profit previous year. Some donations and grants have been received with 3 fundraising events held in last year. Fitness trail will possibly be considered for the coming year. Play equipment to be designed and proposal will be submitted for planning application. There is a need for more trustees and possibly also the position of Treasurer will become vacant in the near future. Thurst Café opened from Tuesdays through to Fridays. The Centre has an issue with the heating which is in need of upgrading and different options are being explored.**
- vi. 1<sup>st</sup> Thurston Scouts – it is the largest group in the district with 90 members and a waiting list that has increased to a possible 30. Until the Group can recruit more leaders it cannot open another section for 6-year-olds. Although down to plant up the garden behind the Cavendish Hall, due to the late removal of the stumps this has been delayed but will be worked on soon. Visits had been made to Bradfield, Woolpit, Hardwick Heath; Peak District, Ardeche for kayaking; Norfolk Broads; Cambridge Science Fair; Legoland; RAF Honnington for camp fire to celebrate 100<sup>th</sup> birthday; Nature Reserve at Lackford Lakes as well as covering the usual activities. Full training can be provided for leadership positions – qualifications that can be obtained, would be suitable for working in adventure holiday clubs.**
- vii. WI Evening - We have a large membership of over 40 women, mostly from Thurston but also from the surrounding villages of Beyton, Great Barton, Tostock and Woolpit. We meet on the first Thursday of every month except August, in the Cavendish hall at 7.30pm and we have met here for the past 98 years. We are starting to look ahead at our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and have a number of ideas how we will be celebrating this event. Our meetings usually consist of general business, where details of courses and groups are explained to the members and discussions are held regarding current topics of interest to the whole WI movement. This year we will be concentrating our campaigning on trying to relieve loneliness and also raising awareness of plastics in our oceans. The**



meetings then have a speaker and over the past year we have had talks ranging from the Suffolk gypsy, the history and techniques of painting on china with demonstrations, through to yoga demonstration and participation. Each year we try to support the village events, we had a tree in the church for the Christmas tree exhibition, where we used a theme of green hearts made by our members to support a WI climate change initiative, we had a stall at the New Green Christmas fair. Members made cakes for Ben Wragg's funeral tea. We've been to Stowlangtoft nursing home to talk to the residents and support international women's day and held a successful coffee morning on a rather blustery, but bright summers day. Each year we have a summer outing and this year we ventured into Essex and enjoyed visiting Tiptree jam museum and shop, Perry Wood garden centre and Cressing Temple Barns. A Most enjoyable day. We meet up with other WIs in the local area once a year and this year Pakenham hosted an enjoyable evening with an inspiring talk by a female RAF squadron leader . Our big AGM also had a military theme when all the WIs in Suffolk West met at the Apex to hear the first female hurricane pilot give a most inspiring talk. Our motto is "The WI, inspiring women." I hope we continue to do so.

viii. Football Club - Darren Carter - President and Chair of Local Football Club - his aim is to ensure that the club runs better than it has done. A few years ago, the club had 6 - 7 teams and now the club runs up to 15 sides. Youth sides going from strength to strength. Floodlights at Thurston Rugby Club have allowed the area to be used from training. At the start of the season the Sunday club were playing at Rugby Club and now have moved back to the Recreation Field. There is no room to expand at the Rugby Club Grounds and therefore looking for land to allow the club to expand and to give them their own facility. Ideal is to have a 3D pitch to play all year round to allow facilities to be accessed. The club was in a good state and funds have been accessed to allow for new equipment.

11. To receive issues from members of the public present

- Litter - there is a significant amount of litter in the village - should there be a litter pick organised? The meeting noted that the Parish Council had recently employed a Litter Picker who was working his way around the settlement area. It was confirmed that although Abellio Greater Anglia had cleared up the litter from around the station, it had just been bagged up and had taken three months for the bags to be cleared away from the station. Could this area be monitored in future?

Could pressure also be put on the college to clear away the rubbish that overflows its grounds to the rear of the college and blows around the countryside. It was noted that the Litter Picker had collected 2 or 3 bags of litter from the rear and side of the school and that a resident had taken the bags off from him to show such evidence to the College. It was confirmed that although the College employ a litter picker, the issue was the back fence as litter is then blown into the countryside and Mill Lane and across the wider area. The Parish Council should be requested to ask the College to ensure that the rear fence is mended and sorted.

- State of approach to Railway Station - potholes - can the landowner be encouraged to fill in this area? It was confirmed that this land is in private hands, but it would be reported and a request for action submitted.
- The Granary, Station Hill - what is happening? It was confirmed that the Parish Council had asked the question to Mid Suffolk District Council who had explained that the owner of the Granary was using a private Building Inspector who would contact the Council once they were ready to ask for conditions imposed on the planning permission granted to be signed off. No start date was forthcoming.
- Railway Station only has 11 parking spaces - there is not sufficient parking on site and at times users of the Railway Station some have been parking

inconsiderately in residential areas. Where they have been causing an obstruction, they have been issued with advisory notes from PCSO Matt Smith.

It was asked that the minutes show that thanks were offered to Peter Robinson, Chair of the Parish Council for all the work he puts into the Parish Council.

12. The Chair closed the meeting by thanking once again every one of his colleagues for their support this year, the speakers from the varied organisations around the village, along with the County & District Councillors. He also thanked all for attending the night's meeting. Finally, he thanked the ladies of the WI for once again serving the refreshments at the interval.

*Signed* ..... *Date*.....

*Chairman of the Parish Council*