

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 28th March 2019 in the Cavendish Hall, Church Road, Thurston as prepared by the Clerk to the Parish Council.

The Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr. C Dashper, took the Chair for the Meeting.

In Attendance: Cllrs. Fawcett, Hasler, Morris, O'Connell, Rainbow, Robinson, Thurlborn, PC Hollie Allen, on behalf of Stowmarket SNT, County Cllr. Penny Otton, District Cllr. Derrick Haley, Mrs V Waples and 25 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: Helen Wilson, Principal, Thurston Community College; Rev'd Manette Crossman, Vicar of Great Barton and Thurston; Alan Nobel, Cavendish Hall Management Committee; PCSO Matthew Smith Stowmarket SaferNeighbourhood Team.**
- 3. To confirm the minutes of the APM of 21st March 2018 – these having been previously uploaded onto the website and circulated were unanimously approved by the meeting.**
- 4. To receive a report from PCSO Matthew Smith of the Mid Suffolk SaferNeighbourhood Team – part of the report relating to anti-social behaviour in Thurston was read out to the meeting and follows below:
Anti-Social Behaviour in Thurston: This year I also want to add crime statistics in to the level of anti-social behaviour which has occurred in Thurston in the past year. It has been raised to both the police and Thurston Parish Council about the concerns which residents have on this matter and so within this report I wanted to provide those figures. Between Tuesday 21st March 2018 to Tuesday 26th March 2019 there were a total of 29 calls made to the police about anti-social behaviour incidents in Thurston. Of those 29 calls made 15 of them were sufficient enough to record as either public order offenses or anti-social behaviour related crimes. It has been well documented the concerns raised by residents over the use of the youth shelter which is based on New Green Avenue over this past year. To shed some light regarding those concerns, of the 29 calls made in total about anti-social behaviour in Thurston, 16 were about anti-social behaviour occurring at the youth shelter so just over 50% of all calls. As previously mentioned to residents all incidents which are brought to the police's attention will be relayed to Thurston Parish Council who continually review the situation.**

What has been noticed recently this year about the reports of ASB in Thurston is that the individuals who are involved have tended to be not residents of Thurston and when challenged by officers as to the reasoning as to why they have chosen to come to Thurston the general answer has been that Thurston is a central location to which they like to meet up with other individuals. Whilst police are very happy for individuals to come and visit Thurston and use the facilities available to them at the same time what we want to avoid is Thurston being used as an area which individuals feel that they can cause anti-social behaviour in the village because they feel comfortable in doing so compared to other places in Mid-Suffolk.

The safer neighbourhood team are currently looking at ways in which we could try and prevent this from happening on a regular occurrence with the resources which are currently available to the team. In the meantime anti-social behaviour in Thurston has been the focus of the safer neighbourhood team since the start of the year and we implemented a section 35 dispersal order towards the end part of the February half-term to discourage any anti-social behaviour incidents and deal with those individuals particularly if they do not live in Thurston.

The Stowmarket Safer Neighbourhood Team police officers have been patrolling around the village in the evening time as and when they are able to which has resulted in incidents of alcohol being seized from youths for under-age drinking, as well as obtaining details of individuals involved. Also disrupting any general anti-social behaviour in Thurston and showing more of a presence in the evening time to try and prevent such issues.

It must be stressed that any action taken by the Safer neighbourhood team police officers to patrol Thurston of an evening time specifically for anti-social behaviour concerns is still secondary to any tasks or calls which police officers have to respond to such as serious assaults, public order in towns like Stowmarket, robbery or burglary incidents and indeed helping out response officers due to resources and demand in having to cover the whole of Mid-Suffolk. Also the PCSO's for safer neighbourhood teams in Suffolk continue to only be able to work between the hours of 8am - 6pm mainly Monday - Friday with only 1 in every 3 weekends on duty doing the same hours. And significant changes were introduced again to community policing back in November 2018 which will be mentioned now.

PC Hollie Allen was invited to address the meeting on the matter of anti-social behaviour and its possible solutions:

3 tiers of trouble makers:-

- ones that are not local to Thurston - meeting point
- local youths - causing issues of riding bikes - parents have been informed but little success.
- general local youths - cheeky and behave

Types of actions open to the Police:

- CPN - letter - conditions given to an individual to abide by - full CPN, power of arrest; partial CPN given

Solutions:-

- Hope to remove ringleader - evidence and CCTV is important to allow the police to gather information to take this further.
- Removal of youth shelter - abusing facility; intimidation factor - particularly for those older people. Improve quality of life for those
- Youth Club - young people will feel victimised and alienated with its removal therefore there should be more facilities for young people.
- Switch off free wi-fi at New Green Centre

- Remove permanent benches at New Green Centre thereby removing the ability to congregate.

Sgt Bourne – SNT & MS Building Capacity Officer – has previously advised over the logistics for setting up a Youth Centre.

Issues raised by those present:

- Do not feel that the older residents are being listened to.
- No thought given to the residents who live nearby.
- Recognised that there is a likelihood that the issue might move around the village and the police will need to deal with such issues arising.
- Names and faces are being recorded by the policy and PCSO Smith liaises with the College on a regular basis. There is assistance from the College on identification.

PC Allen - Response Officers attend as much as they can. Some parents are on board and assist with measures suggested by the police and some are not.

The Chair of the Parish Council confirmed that this will be a standing item on its agenda but there does need to be a joint discussion with other organisations in the village affected as to how this type of behaviour is to be tackled.

5. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council Christopher Dashper - the Chairman of the Parish Council delivered his report which is as follows:

A thank you first to all of the members of the council who have committed their time and energy to the parish this year. We currently have 9 dedicated councillors working to try and achieve the best for the village. During the year, councillors David Moss and Jonathan Masters have left the council and John Thurlbourn and Derrick Haley have joined. My thanks once more to Vice Chairman, Brian Rainbow, for supporting myself and Vicky, Clerk to the Council and to all the councillors, including Richard Fawcett, Peter Robinson, Anne O'Connell, Ian Hasler and Barbara Morris serving as part of our committees and carrying out weekly tasks including inspecting play areas and charging and downloading data from our two Vehicle Activated Signs, a second sign having been added this year. Councillors have maintained their commitment to the village over the course of the year and we continue to strive to ensure that Thurston should provide the best environment possible for those who live, work and attend school here. My thanks also to Janette Service, a former chair of the parish council who stood down from her role as footpath's warden this year.

Sadly, we also learnt this year that one of our former councillors, Robert Alston, passed away before Christmas and our thoughts remain with his family at this difficult time.

To Steve and Trevor for their efforts to keep the village litter free, and the public areas and facilities maintained.

And of course, once more to our Clerk. Vicky has continued to work to support the Parish Council in all respects over the last year, particularly with regard to the planning issues facing the village and ongoing support for the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan. Vicky is a vital part of the Council and there is no doubt that we would not achieve the quality standards and the levels of efficiency that we operate at without her efforts.

Our Suffolk County Councillor Penny Otton and Mid Suffolk District Councillor Derrick Haley have worked with us again this year and we are grateful for their ongoing support.

This time last year I reported on the decision by Mid Suffolk District Council at their November 2017 meeting to approve 818 new homes in Thurston. Whilst none of those homes have yet been built, the Parish Council has continued to work with a number of the developers and continues to do so to ensure that wherever

possible we can influence the design and quality of developments and manage the impact on the village of the amount of growth we are anticipating. In particular we are trying to minimise how the developments affect existing residents, whilst integrating the future new residents into the community wherever possible. We are actively pursuing the inclusion of facilities such as suitable play equipment and appropriate landscaping on all of the new development sites. The Parish Council continues to receive planning applications for the village, but we are now much closer to our Neighbourhood Plan becoming officially recognised, which will help us to manage development in the future and ensure future growth is what the village wants and needs.

We are pleased to be able to support local organisations each year with small donations so that they are able to provide services to support our residents. Organisations supported this year include New Green Community Centre, The Cavendish Hall, St Peters Church with maintenance of the Church Yard, the Village Newsletter, Thurston Library, Royal British Legion, Ixworth Patients Association, Mid and West Suffolk Citizen's Advice Bureau and Tiny Toes Toddler group. Organisations within the village who provide services to local residents, can apply in writing to the Clerk for a grant outlining the service they provide within the village and what the grant is required for, the request will then be considered by the Parish Council. Requests from organisations based outside the village including regional groups may be considered where there is or has been a recognisable benefit to Thurston.

Thurston Parish Council has a number of responsibilities many of which have a financial implication, including maintaining the village sports, recreational and play facilities and equipment, some street lighting and general village maintenance and litter clearance. The village also now fully funds its own Police Community Support Officer for Thurston, Matt Smith. The combined cost of these services along with the core running costs of the parish council is supported by the annual precept, funded by the Council Tax paid by each household. For 2019/20 the Parish Council has determined to keep any rise in the precept to a minimum and it will therefore increase by 1.9% - £1.46 per annum or 3pence per week for a Band D Property. In terms of the parish finances, expenditure for the year is on target. Accounts will be published on the village website once they are completed for the year.

The Parish Council office is open every Wednesday between 10am and 4pm and Friday between 10am and 3:30pm 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 at the Library. Anyone can attend the Parish Council meetings and raise an issue or an area of concern in public forum. We also have Council Surgeries once a month where residents can attend and discuss local issues they may have. The public are also invited to attend our planning meetings, usually held twice a month, also at the Library. The dates of all of these meetings are advertised on the notice boards around the village, in the Library and on our website www.thurston.suffolk.cloud and in the Village Newsletter.

Going forward, another busy year awaits us. Firstly, following elections on 2 May, a new council will be in place. We hope to have a full complement of 11 councillors to help to deliver the work of the council. Key tasks for the Parish Council include:

Continuing to work to secure the best solution possible to the new developments in Thurston and exploring options for community spaces and facilities throughout the village for existing residents and as a result of forthcoming development

- Supporting the work to complete the Neighbourhood Plan
- Working with Suffolk County Council to devolve responsibility for some minor highways works down to the Parish Council.
- Working with the local Safer Neighbourhood Team to help to address the issues of anti-social behaviour in the village.

6. To receive a report from County Councillor Penny Otton – County Councillor Penny Otton was invited to submit her report in which she drew the meeting’s attention to the following -

School Travel -The change to free school transport was one of the most controversial decisions the council has taken in my time; I am of course so disappointed that this is going ahead despite a brilliant campaign by Thurston Community college, its staff parents and pupils , along with the Parish council and myself. I am now working with them to see what can be done to help those who will lose out on free transport to the college. Following changes to the school travel policy, which will take effect in September 2019, eligible families must now “opt-in” to receive free school transport – you will no longer be automatically signed up. School place allocations have taken place, and families are being advised to check their transport eligibility. There still the ability to apply under hardship grounds, and staff to walk grounds.

If your child is eligible for free transport, you will need to apply each year. The application window for this year is 1 March 2019 to 31 May 2019. There is more information available at www.suffolkonboard.com/optin.

New Council Leader and Chief Executive - in May, the Conservative group leadership changed, and Cllr Matthew Hicks became the new Leader of Suffolk County Council. Cllr Hicks brought with him a number of new Cabinet members , including Mary Evans for highways. Towards the beginning of the municipal year Suffolk County Council also appointed a new Chief Executive. Nicola Beach joined the council from Essex County Council, where she was Executive Director of Infrastructure and Environment.

Highways - again this has been a full in-box. There is a new director of highways, Mike Ash, so no doubt his will be too. I have supported a cyclist who had a very serious accident with his claim and supported the parish council in getting remedial work at Fishwick and Pokeriage corners.

Just this week we have had the timetable for grass/verge cutting and an invitation for communities to appoint their own contractor if they so wish.

Planning and Infrastructure - I hope I have been able to help to get the best out of the huge number of planning permissions granted. I have been to see the plans for the new Primary school.

OFSTED Report on Suffolk Service for Children with Special Needs - a shocking report has highlighted the failures in Suffolk to support children with special needs. The council will have to make major changes if it does not want the government to come in and take over the service.

Review of County Council Boundaries - the boundary commission is looking into a possible review of Suffolk county council divisions.

Motions to Council –

- my group put a motion on climate change and for SCC to do all it can to reduce carbon emissions. This was supported overwhelmingly.
- to reduce the gender pay gap. This was not!
- My motion to get Suffolk to stop the use of single use plastic was fully supported.

Locality Budget - I have been happy to help with the cost of your neighbourhood plan, and improvements to the children’s area in the library.

I have been delighted to again present to certificates for the reading challenge, to attend the centenary church service for the WI, and to continue to be part of the Friends of Thurston Library.

7. To receive reports from District Councillor Derrick Haley - a written report had been submitted from District Cllr. Haley on behalf of both Councillors in which he reported on the following items:

- In purdah period – careful what we say. Report is limited.
- 2nd May Elections – 40 down to 34 Councillors – shape of wards will change – loose Hessett but take on Stowlangtoft, Norton and Tostock.

- Council tax increase by 6pence per Band D
- Council Office and middle school in Needham – planning permission for housing and retail
- Your Council Booklet – a copy should have been sent out to all residents of Mid Suffolk.
- Website – more and more information is now on the website – face to face contact is now reducing. Base in Stowmarket where people can access services if required.
- Elected again as Chair of Council and attended many civic events.
- Thanks to Clerk and Cllrs. for there work
- Thanks to those who make a contribution to the village.
- Stepping down after 16 years – will step down as a District Councillor.

Question - Any implications for the change in ward?

Answer - Do not feel that there will be a difference as long as those elected carry out their fair share of tasks.

8. To receive a report from the Mid Suffolk SaferNeighbourhood Team – the following report was read out to the meeting:

Crimes for the period from 21st March 2018 – 26th March 2019: -

Thurston (covered by Stowmarket snt)	Vehicle Crime (Theft from, Theft of & Damage including Attempt)	Criminal Damage (Buildings, Other)	Burglary (House, Other Buildings including Attempt)	Theft (Other)	Other (Including no publicity crimes)	Total
Year 2018-19	14 increase of 2 from previous year	7 decrease of 7 from previous year	9 increase of 2 from previous year	12 increase of 4 from previous year	8 decrease of 1 from previous year	50 – figures same as 2016-17

This also includes crimes that occurred at Thurston Community College.

(Please note crime statistics can be adjusted and reclassified and are only correct at point of research, please contact crime admin team for official records)

Whilst there has been an increase in 3 of the 5 categories, crime in Thurston remains significantly lower than most towns and villages in Suffolk. Also within these figures above are crimes which have taken place at Thurston Community College. And the overall figures for crimes in total for Thurston have stayed exactly the same as the previous year.

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

9. To receive an update on the Thurston Neighbourhood Plan – The Co-Chair of the Thurston Neighbourhood Plan presented his report in which he drew the meeting’s attention to the following:

We are at the last stages of the production of the Neighbourhood Plan. Summary document led to production of the Thurston Submission Document 2018-2036 upon which many residents commented along with a number of statutory consultees. Anticipating the first report from the examiner in early April 2019.

Her job is to undertake a review of the Plan to make sure it meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements. We will be circulating the final document

including the recommendations of the examiner. All being well we expect to go out to referendum in May/June. Providing the referendum approves the Plan it will be endorsed by MSDC as a legal document and then have full force in planning and other matters.

Once the result of the referendum is known it should be a formality of the Recommendations reflects what has happened and has taken into account the significant planning applications that have occurred during the submission of the document.

Issues raised by the PC and NP and members of the community were listened to at the Development Control Committee Meeting of 27th March 2019 at which the reserve matters for the site to the West of Ixworth Road was discussed. The majority of the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Team's comments were endorsed by the Committee Members who voted to be minded to refuse the application in its current form. The applicant (Persimmon) was advised to go away and design it better and engage with the community.

10. To receive reports from Parish Council Representatives -


- i. **Recreational Ground Trust (304946) -** The Chair of the Committee presented his report in which he stated that the first thing to note is that the Recreation Ground Trust has now become the Recreational Facilities Committee, this change of title more accurately reflects the role of the committee & the work it undertakes at present & in the future with new developments coming forward. The committee is responsible for maintaining play equipment, recreation ground & pavilion at Church Road. Play equipment & grounds at Heath Road & Thedwastre Park (New Green) All play equipment is well used Equipment & areas are checked on a monthly basis and any problems are reported at Monthly Parish Council meetings. An annual check is also carried out by an independent assessor. The recreation ground & pavilion are used by depending on the season the Football Club & the Cricket Club. As well as the public the recreation ground is used by the Primary School. The pavilion is now used three mornings a week during term time by French for Tots. U3A also have two clubs that meet on a regular basis & from time to time the recreation ground & pavilion are hired by clubs & persons from outside the village. During the last year main expenses apart from grass cutting & ground maintenance of all three sites has been minor works to the pavilion have been work to the trees at the recreation ground bordering Church Road. The Recreational facilities Committee meets four times a year at the Library & all meetings are open to the public. Next Meeting Wednesday 19 June 2019.

- ii. **Friends of Thurston Library -** The Friends of Thurston Library are one of the most active Friends Groups across the 44 libraries of Suffolk.

Within the group we have many people who do a great deal including Peter Robinson as Vice Chair and Ann Verity as Secretary, and those who run activities into the library. We are particularly grateful to Vicky Waples for looking after the accounts. We work closely with our Librarian, Cathy McDonald - and the other supportive librarians who come to Thurston - and Suffolk Libraries.

Events held throughout the year:

- Halloween Crafts event
- Christmas Tree Festival with St Peter's Church
- Valentine Make and Bake day
- Charity Sewing Day making cushions for people after Breast Surgery donated to West Suffolk Hospital.
- Bike maintenance Saturdays June - Oct (Sustrans and Cycling UK) May onwards this year
- Joint fundraising event with Cavendish Hall. Concert on 28th April given by VOCA - a community choir from Bury St Edmunds
- Supported Suffolk Libraries Reading Challenge
- Quiz night with St Peter's

- London Trip with The Friends of Elmswell Library
- Wine tasting evening
- Half term crafts this Spring Term.
- Arts Council Project This is a National Project. Thurston has been asked to join with Bury St Edmunds Library as we are very active in the community.
- Bronze workshop undertaken for top year of Thurston Primary Academy: really enjoyable and productive; the bronzes are on display in the library
- Theatre visit: Full of Beans'  A Fairy Tale adventure with a difference'; greatly enjoyed by young children, parents and grandparents.

Further involvement: planning shortly

- Joint working - bringing together organisations in the village is an enjoyable feature of the Friends of Thurston Library
- Clubs and activities run at the Library:
- Code Club (now suspended)
- Lego Club (featured on the village newsletter cover this month)
- Sewing group
- Ancestry group
- Manga group
- Watercolour group
- Community singing group
- White Room - Parties

Plans for the future:

- Revamp of Children's library: a major project; plans are on display in the library
- Help with marketing of the library: need for Suffolk Libraries to generate funds
- Keen to innovate: looking to
- Run a scarecrow festival
- Start a board games group.

Finally - Thurston Parish Council is the only PC in Suffolk financially supporting the provision of library facilities. We have excellent involvement and support from our District and County Councillors. We welcome ideas and above all involvement of people in the Friends Group. We are keen to innovate and respond to people's ideas and enthusiasm.

- iii. Thurston Footpaths - the past parish council appointed Footpath Warden, drew the meeting's attention to the following report: main paths for accessing locations in the village.

Thurston residents are very fortunate in having an excellent choice of footpaths to walk, either from Meadow Lane through to Sheep Lane and further on to Pakenham and then on to Great Green and back down part the Church; from Heath Road on to East Barton and the Mere coming back past the pumping station round by Nether Hall and back via Mere Lane. Suffolk Wildlife are busy re-routing the Blackbourne River that runs through the Water Meadows on the boundary of Norton and Thurston walkers will in time be able to walk a circular route from either Coopers Wood on the Tostock Road end of the village or by going down Wynards Lane or Gypsy Lane round to Norton and back again. The proposed closure by Network Rail on TH5 has not yet been done and just be aware if you are still crossing the line on TH11 the stile is extremely high. The permissive footway that comes out just under the Railway Bridge by the Fox and Hounds continues to the bottom of Old Heath Road and is used regularly by dog walkers, this is very evident by the amount of dog waste left by the owners. This is particularly noticeable along the stretch leading to Fishwick Corner and as this is a permissive path, we are allowed to use this courtesy of the landowner and ought to be considerate in our use of it. The only way to can make sure these footpaths are passable is for members of the public to either inform the

Clerk or the Footpath Warden, Mrs Jannette Service on 01359 230763 if there is a problem with brambles or a missing sign so that we can make good these items. Grove Farm – Suffolk Wildlife are carrying out extensive works to this area. If you have a dog please clear up after it and use the bins.

- iv. **Thurston In Relief Charity - Thurston Relief in Need Charity** dates back to 1662 and in its present form since 1986. The objectives of the Charity are to provide items, services or facilities for persons resident in Thurston in need or hardship. The Charities have the responsibility of looking after the 9 acre field on Heath Road, and as has been previously mentioned, the Charities agents have engaged in pre-application discussions with MSDC. Once plans are further advanced these will be shared with the parishioners of Thurston. The Charity will remain in existence following any changes to the site and the Trustees feel they will be in a better position to meet its objectives. The Trustees continues to welcome requests from Thurston residents who find themselves in financial hardship.
- v. **Thurston Tree Warden – Suffolk Tree Wardens** have been caring for the trees of Suffolk for nearly 30 years. Suffolk was one of the first counties to set up a network of parish Tree Wardens. Throughout Britain, District Councils are finding they no longer have resources to support and train parish Tree Wardens, thus District Councils in Suffolk have had to withdraw their support for Tree Wardens. In response to this and with the support of Suffolk County Council the Suffolk Tree Warden Network was established. Their aim is to have every parish supported by a Tree Warden. I attended the first event to celebrate and re-launch Suffolk Tree Wardens on Saturday 14th April at Denham near Eye. It proved to be both an interesting and enjoyable day. During the afternoon there was a guided walk in David Mitchell's 'wonderful' Redlingfield Wood. This year the Annual meeting will take place in Ufford on 28th April 2019. I hope to attend this event. The STWN and the Woodland Trust joined forces last year to provide an opportunity to plant trees in local parishes and/or towns. These trees could be planted in private gardens as well as open space and farmland following permission obtained from the landowner. The trees I acquired were planted in local gardens and farmland. This scheme, hopefully, will take place again next year. The Neighbourhood Plan has an Environment Policy document which will help to add protection to Thurston's green spaces, trees and hedgerows. The new developments will be required to plant more trees and shrubs and create green spaces but also should retain, where ever possible, our current trees and hedgerows.

11. To receive reports from Village Organisations

- i. **Thurston Community College – The Principal of Thurston Community College**, having previously submitted her apologies, asked that the following report be submitted to the meeting:

I am immensely proud to be the Principal of an exceptional educational establishment, dedicated wholeheartedly to giving every young person the very best start in life. We firmly believe that every child matters. We are relentless in our pursuit of outcomes of the highest quality for every Thurston student. Whether success is measured by academic achievement, sporting excellence, brilliance in the performing arts or in creative design, Thurston Community College will deliver. Students are assured of acquiring the skills and qualities they will need to live a happy and positive life. Our students are taught to believe in themselves, to take ownership of their lives and to aspire to fulfil their dreams. We encourage every student to set high expectations for themselves, supporting them to set their own goals, inspired by the success of others within our College community. At this time of year, I am compelled to mention our Year 11, 12 and 13 students who are readying for their GCSE and A Level examinations and assessments. I have a perfect view point from my office of the Year 11 students lining up to go into their exams in the Sports Hall during exam time; their behaviour is always exemplary. I do hope that they each feel they had

an opportunity to demonstrate all the hard work and commitment that they have put into their studies and I look forward to being part of their celebrations when they receive their results later this summer. During a recent interview process, a long serving member of staff was asked by a candidate: "What is it like to work at Thurston Community College?" The member of staff replied: "No two days are ever the same; the College is full of energy and is constantly changing and evolving." My experience confirms and contradicts this statement. On the one hand, there is always news of outstanding achievements by our students (and staff), highlighting the diversity of opportunity afforded by our College community. However, also contradicts the statement by demonstrating how consistently our students excel and complete these outstanding achievements. The list of triumphs last year seems endless and are not limited to student success either - I myself achieved a lifelong ambition by receiving a Blue Peter badge; being nominated by a student for being 'an amazing and inspirational Principal'! I was both thrilled and honoured in equal measure.

Achievements - there are far too many to mention today but here are just a few of the achievements from the last year that we are proud of. Students Max Berry & Alex Richardson won the Energy category at the 2017 Teen Tech Awards with their E-Den, an innovative project for affordable and ecological micro-homes to help tackle the world's housing crisis. They collected their award from HRH Prince Andrew at Buckingham Palace. Another group of gifted Design Technology students took part in a competition held in conjunction with Smart Garden Offices in Thurston to design an ergonomic working desk for the interior of a Smart Garden Office which could be manufactured from MDF. The winner Isabelle Turpin saw her design made by the company.

Thurston Sixth hosted a lively debate with the BBC Radio 4 - Any Questions team presented by David Dimbleby. A fantastic opportunity for us to showcase Thurston Sixth, Beyton Campus and one that was well attended by all members of the community. Student Ruby Last picked up both The Rotary Club Service above Self Award and Suffolk County Council's Raising the Bar Award just before leaving Sixth Form and heading off to University and ex-student Phoebe Mercer received the prestigious Duke of Westminster Award and become the 'This Girl Can Ambassador'. Sixth Form student Luke Askew won the Aldeburgh Young Musicians, Young Composer Award, whilst a group of Year 10 students organised and presented the B Festival music event in the College auditorium in memory of their friend Ben Wragge and raising funds for the skate park in Thurston village. Our exceptional Performing Arts teams orchestrate productions that rival the quality seen in the West End. Our shows have won NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association) Awards for the last 3 years. This year's production of Oliver! achieved outstanding reviews and record-breaking ticket sales. In our second year of partnership with Jardine's School in Shanghai we welcomed their staff and students along with students from Yu Hua School in Shanghai. Activities including a leadership course and co-curricular projects were enjoyed by all who took part in this wonderful exchange programme.

Sporting Success - Our sports teams are highly successful, not only in the trophies and titles they win, but also in the quality of experiences provided for the amateur and the elite to train together and to challenge and support each other. We have many students representing both County & Country in their sports: Thomas Clare (Swimming); Olivia Coe (Hockey); Oliver Griggs (Cyclocross); Fern McCarthy (Golf); Maisie Squire (Gymnastics); Aidan Gibson (Hockey); Connor Tweed (Jujitsu); Alana Finch (Karate); Jessie Sloan (Equestrian); Hallam de Cort (Rugby) Aleksandra Popova, Esther Little & Kenzie Day (Basketball) to name just a few. Esther Little also picked up the Young Sports Personality of the Year Award at the West Suffolk Sports Awards in 2017.

In 2017 our girls handball team were crowned England Handball U15 National Champions and the same team are now competing in the U16 category. Our U19

netball team were crowned Suffolk Champions. We also have a brilliant sailing team who recently took part in the Suffolk Regatta with much success against a number of private schools in the area.

We were also incredibly fortunate to have had Andy Murray's Men's Wimbledon trophy visit the school. What makes the visit to Suffolk even more special was that Thurston were the only secondary school in the whole country to have had a trophy visit and the only venue selected from across the whole of the Eastern region where the trophy had been seen last year. In addition to these outstanding individual and team achievements, the PE Department were awarded the 'School Games Bronze Mark'.

Exam Results - Students at Thurston had another successful year of examination performance in 2017. Thurston Sixth had another strong year with 100 students sitting A levels with 79 per cent of students achieving A* to C grades, down just one per cent on last year and an overall pass rate of 98 per cent. Of the 260 pupils at Thurston Community College, 63 per cent achieved the grade four or above benchmark.

Charity Fundraising - Students support many good causes over the year, most recently the Little Princess Trust with over £1700 raised; 15 students and 1 member of staff had their hair cut on stage in front of a cheering audience. Hair is donated to make wigs for children with cancer. Next Stop Symi, a charity based in Hoxne, Suffolk, benefited with donations of books to help Syrian refugees in Greece. Student Support Officer Matt Boreham took 6 teams to the Swimathon this year raising money for CLIC Sargent, East Anglia's Children's Hospices and local charities and Jane Cooper, also a member of the Student Support Team, is raising funds for St Nicholas Hospice throughout this year.

The B Festival was organised by Year 10 students raising over £1,000 for the Ben Wragge skate park and the College Council arranged a non-uniform day and bake sale for Children's Cancer & Leukaemia Group raising over £1300. The Poppy Appeal contributed nearly £300 to the overall Thurston area collection.

Thurston Partnership -Our relationship with the Thurston Partnership goes from strength to strength, providing transition activities for year 6 students joining us in September. These include the very popular Tuesday Club, our Sports Festival and STEM festival are well received. Primary school students also visited us for a Christmas Carol concert and had a sneak preview of the College production of Oliver! New this year is a Maths project working with eight of our primary schools to coordinate Teaching, Learning and Assessment of Maths within those schools.

Extra-Curricular -The College remains a strong supporter of the Duke of Edinburgh Award with 37 students achieving their Bronze award last year and currently over 85 student have signed up for the National Citizen Service. Many students have also achieved their CREST awards this year, with 68 receiving their Bronze Award and 19 receiving their Silver. We continue to support our students with many opportunities to meet with employers, Sixth Form Colleges and Universities at our Next Steps Events. Careers & Apprenticeship Weeks have recently taken place. Our Work Experience week during July of 2017 saw some 318 years 10 students out on placement. Clinical Psychologist, Dr Beth Mosley joined Thurston Community College to encourage our students to talk openly about their emotional wellbeing and mental health. We strongly believe that a culture of openness will not only contribute to educational success but will furnish our young people with a much better chance to lead a fulfilled life as a successful adult. We are extremely proud to be at the forefront of providing mental health support in this way.

Friends of Thurston College - The launch of Friends of Thurston College has been very successful. A number of events have taken place and are already helping to improve the courtyard areas of the College for students to use/study in. A stall was taken at the Beyton Village Fair and the Friends held a Festive Family Fayre at Beyton at Christmas time.

Thurston Sixth - It has been a fantastic year at Thurston Sixth; not only are our students on course to achieve excellent A Level results but there have been many incredible personal and group achievements.

The students have a wealth of destinations mapped out for next year, ranging from studying at Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Yale, LSE, Ravensbourne or at some of the world's best Media, Drama and Art Colleges; taking part in national and international sports programmes; gap year adventures; undertaking social care related courses at UEA and the University of Suffolk; new and higher level apprenticeships, to Veterinary Medicine, Midwifery and Medical Schools and much more. These are exciting times.

Community - The ATC are building a brand-new building in the grounds of the College to house 863 (Thurston Squadron) and the community sports facilities in the Sports Education Centre continue to be well used by all.

The College would like to thank the Parish Council and all other members of the Community Forum for their continuing support within the community.

- ii. Thurston Primary Academy – having previously submitted their apologies, the Co-Headteachers of Thurston Primary Academy asked that the following report be submitted to the meeting:**

Thurston Primary Academy continues to thrive, with 203 pupils on roll. Our teaching and support staff remain stable with continued opportunities for professional development. At present we are training two members of staff for Mastery Maths which we will then cascade to other staff. We hope the impact of this funded training will be evident in future results for our school. We are also training two further teaching assistants to become Higher Level Teaching Assistants. One of our Teaching Assistants is a Forest Schools Lead, taking classes and groups of children to our small wooded area to learn in the outside environment.

New perimeter fences have been fitted with gates locked with push button access codes. The gates are opened at 8.35 and 3.20 to allow parents access.

The co-headship arrangement between Mr Bayes and Mrs Lambert is in its second term. Mrs Lambert leads the school from Monday to Wednesday with Mr Bayes in charge on Thursday and Friday. The arrangement is working well with staff and parents able to talk to both members of the senior leadership team.

The SLT and governor representatives have had an initial meeting with Suffolk County Council Infrastructure team (education) and the proposed new site for the school has been discussed. We believe the school will be ready in 2021 and hope that the pupils will be fully involved with the building project and design of their school environment.

Our priorities for this term are to raise the focus of science, to promote reading for pleasure and to promote e-safety for pupils and parents in school and outside of school hours. We are also celebrating active learning with PE clubs and a 'Skip2BeFit' initiative which has proved very popular with our children. Our record skips so far are 259 skips in 2 minutes with Year 6 leading the way!

- iii. St Peter's Church – the Vicar of St Peter's Church, having previously submitted her apologies, requested that the following report be presented to the meeting:**

Just to say that St. Peter's is the Parish Church, serving all the people who live in the parish. Anyone who either lives in the parish or has previous connections to the parish can be baptized and get married in the St. Peter's and have their funeral service there and be buried in the Churchyard. Thanks to a generous donation we have the new churchyard which we hope will be landscaped and prepared soon as the extension to the old churchyard has only got a few spaces left. We were delighted to have a great turnout for the Civic Service last year and numbers for festivals like the Flower Festival, Christmas, the Carol service and Christmas tree festival show that many people value traditions even though they don't come to Church regularly. Many people support the Church in other ways, either through financial donations or by helping with the work in the Churchyard, doing flowers, cleaning and other duties. We're also a Benefice with

Holy Innocents' Church in Great Barton and last Sunday we started a Benefice Café Church which takes place at the Church Institute in Great Barton. We start with croissants, pain-au-chocolate and tea or cafetiere coffee followed by a short worship accompanied by the worship group. Despite the cold we had a great turnout and the next Café Church will be on 15th April. At St. Peter's we have an informal Praise+Prayer@7 time at The Rock on 2nd Sunday - at 7pm. Updates on Church news can be found on our website

<http://www.greatbartonandthurston.org.uk> and on the Church Facebook pages. The Church is open every day and we welcome visitors for informal visits or at our services.

- iv. Cavendish Hall - The Chairman of the Cavendish Hall Management Committee had submitted his apologies and asked that the following report be submitted to the meeting:

Reports in recent years have referred to a shortage of daytime bookings, resulting in a shortfall in income. The past year has, fortunately, seen some improvement, with regular bookings coming in for Yoga, Pilates and Circuit Training. The hall is well used most weekday evenings, and one-off bookings at weekends, for private parties, etc; have strengthened. Once we see the full effect of this, coupled with last April's fee increases, it is anticipated we will be generating sufficient income to cover expenditure. There are still daytime slots available for booking, particularly on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Anyone looking for a venue should contact our booking secretary, Hayley Pollard. The heating system has undergone some significant maintenance work, and occasional problems experienced by user groups have been ironed out. August saw another successful work session, during which numerous tasks were completed to keep the fabric of the building in good condition. One particular item flagged up during the work session was the poor condition of the high-level timber window - believed to be the original. A quotation for replacing this has now been accepted, with the work scheduled for late April. The new window will be much the same as the original, but double glazed which will help a little with energy efficiency. We are very grateful to Derrick Haley, our Mid Suffolk District Council representative, for allocating the sum of £2,100 from the Council's Locality Awards budget towards the cost, leaving us with approximately £650 to secure. The external paintwork generally will soon require some attention; the extent of which is soon to be assessed. A defibrillator has been installed on the front of the hall. This was donated by friends and customers of the Fox & Hounds in conjunction with the Louis Butcher Fund. David Moss has recently relinquished his post as parish councillor, and we welcome Barbara Morris as the new representative.

Successful fund-raising events organised during the year included a 'Field to Fork' talk; our first joint venture with the Thurston Library, when the VOCA choir performed; and another sell-out evening with the Edmund Octet. Plans are in hand for other events later this year and into next year. We have started to look into options for re-fitting the kitchen in order to provide a better facility for a wide range of user groups, and will be seeking funding to help with this once we have some firm proposals in place.

- v. New Green Centre - established over 30 years. Beginning to need repairs and updates. Spent over £17k in updating the heating service - very sophisticated system which allows a variety of settings. Looking at the Bar Lounge where Café is - how to modernise the space. Open Space and conservation area to maintain. Recently a group has come forward to take over responsibility for cleaning the conservation area and it is hoped to install a rubbish bin in the area and Centre is heavily used but more income is needed if the premises are to be upgraded. At present only 6 trustees and there should be 12. Parish Council should either nominate or support the nomination of 6 trustees. Need more trustees to come forward to lighten the load.

- vi. **1st Thurston Scouts – approx. 90 young people and a waiting list for Beavers. Capacity in future years might be an issue. There is a dedicated number of leaders who continue throughout the year offering activities for this thriving organisation which has groups in all age ranges - Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. A number of new leaders have come forward to help, but more are also being sought as it is not possible to meet the demand from the village and the surrounding villages. There are not enough leaders to create a separate group in each of the groups to allow progression through all of the divisions. Leaders are dedicated individuals they cover not only Mondays and Tuesdays for the clubs but also provide many activities at weekends and during the holidays.**
 - vii. **Thurston Evening W.I. – Thurston W.I. meets in the Cavendish Hall on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7.30pm and is the only W.I. active in the village now. It has met there for 99 years and is looking forward to celebrating our centenary next year. It has over 52 members from Thurston and surrounding villagers. At the meetings they usually have a varying range of interesting speakers or activities for the members to enjoy. Many events have taken place during the year, all of which would not be possible if it wasn't for the help and support of our small, hardworking committee.**
- 12. **To receive issues from members of the public present – there were none raised.**
 - 13. **The Chair closed the meeting by thanking all for attending.**
 - 14. **Date of next meeting – to be confirmed but anticipated March 2020.**

So approved and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council at the Annual Parish Meeting of 20th May 2021