

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL – Open Space & Leisure Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Open Space & Leisure Committee held on Wednesday 19th November 2025 at 6.00pm in the Community Library, Norton Road.

In attendance: Cllrs. B Rainbow (Chair), J Allen, P Marsh, B Morris

Also in attendance: Mrs. P Gladwell (Deputy Clerk) no members of public.

1. **OPENING:** the Chair opened the meeting advising all that given the apologies submitted the meeting would be declared inquorate.
2. **Apologies:** Apologies for absence noted – Cllrs Y Hamel- Cooke, D Millest, M Moy and P Smith
3. The chair closed the meeting

It was noted that whilst no decisions could be taken on the items on the agenda, informal discussion would provide information and any points raised could be formally ratified at the next meeting.

It was noted that monthly risk assessments had raised no major concerns and officers would ensure any action points were dealt with.

The deputy clerk reported that the installation of the new picnic benches at New Green Open Space had been delayed due to the logistics of the concrete plinth installation. Professional quotes would now be sought for the install.

It was noted that the recent work party had planted three trees on New Green Open Space in replacement of those felled earlier in the year. Further pruning within the wildlife garden was still required and a date would be fixed for another work party.

It was noted that the Environment and Biodiversity Committee were supportive of a project to provide bird, bee and bat boxes and hold a Biodiversity Open Day event. With the cancellation of the Environment and Biodiversity Committee meeting it was confirmed that creation of a working group to progress this project would now be added to the full council agenda for next month. Discussion around alternative funding streams for the purchase of the boxes took place. It was noted that Awards for All had a biodiversity fund and that this should be explored. The addition of Sparrow boxes was also suggested.

It was noted that the children's design dog control signage at play areas and public open spaces was faded with some signs damaged. The deputy clerk confirmed that Thurston Primary School had expressed interest in holding another children's design competition to facilitate the provision of new dog control signs. It was confirmed that consideration of this project and approval of any funding required would now be added to the full council agenda for next month.

Informal discussion ended at 7.00pm