

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE meeting held on Wednesday 18th February 2026 in the Community Library, Norton Road, Thurston which commenced at 8.00pm.

Present: Cllrs. Dashper (in the Chair) along with Cllrs. Balaam, Marsh, Morris, Millest, Rainbow and West. Also in attendance: Mrs Waples, Clerk.

1. **OPENING** – the Chair opened the meeting advising all that the Protocol adopted by the Parish Council for reporting at Parish Council Meetings, would be taken as read. A copy of the Protocol can be downloaded from the website: [Protocol for recording at meetings](#).
2. **APOLOGIES** –
 - a) Council to receive apologies for absence – verified apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Smith. **Council consented to accept the apologies submitted, aif.**
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FROM COUNCILLORS INCLUDING GIFTS OF HOSPITALITY EXCEEDING £50** –
 - a) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests; other registerable and non-registerable interests as detailed in Appendix B of the LGA Model Code of Conduct – there were no interests declared for the meeting.
 - b) To receive declarations of lobbying for items on the agenda – there were no declarations of lobbying for items on the agenda.
 - c) To note the determination of requests for dispensations in accordance with Council’s Dispensation Policy – there were none to be reported.
4. **MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS** -
 - a) Minutes of the meeting of 28TH January 2026 - **it was resolved to approve the minutes as previously circulated and to give consent for the Chair to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record of the proceedings that took place.**
5. **PUBLIC FORUM** –
 - a) To receive matters of concern from members of the public in attendance on the agenda submitted – there were no members of the public present, and no matters had been submitted for the attention of the council.
6. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AS RECEIVED FROM THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY** –
 - a) DC/26/00040 - Proposal: Householder Application – Erection of a 1.5 metre (5-foot) high fence. Location 59 Maltings Garth – whilst the fence would be visible until the hedge grew, **it was resolved that the council would support the application.**
 - b) DC/26/00438 – Proposal: Application for Works to Trees subject to Tree Preservation Order MS81/A3 – Prune the overhanging branches back to the boundary line by use of tripod ladder and pole saw / pole ladders to a height of 12m approximately as they have been pruned before. Reason: to reduce risk of branch failures over and toward the property during adverse weather conditions. Location Oakwood House, Pokeridge Gardens – it was noted that works had been carried out previously and that this application would be repeating a precedent. **It was resolved to support the application as submitted.**
7. **PLANNING MATTERS DETERMINED: TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF APPLICATIONS DETERMINING BY THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY** –
 - a) DC/25/01043 – Withdrawal of application for the part conversion of garage and erection of a single storey extension to form annexe accommodation for family members. Location 7 Gatekeeper Close.
 - b) DC/25/05158 – Approval of Discharge of Conditions for DC/17/02782– Conditions 11 (HGV and Construction Management Plan) and 23 (Sustainability Strategy) for land off Church Road, access via The Firs.
 - c) DC/25/05419 – Planning permission for the replacement of existing living window with a set of patio doors. Replacement of existing kitchen door with 1 No. window. Location 9 Royston Drive.

So approved and signed at the meeting of 18th March 2026

- d) DC/25/04434 – Refusal of Discharge of Conditions for DC/24/02330 – Condition 35 (BNG Requirements). Location land to the west of Ixworth Road.
- e) DC/26/0030 – Approval given for works to trees subject to Tree Preservation Order MS131/G1 0 fell 1 No., Scots Pine (T14). Location Aspire SENDAT Academy, School Lane.
- f) DC/25/05076 – Planning permission given for the variation of Condition 2 (Approved plans and documents) to allow changes to the dwelling, garage and landscaping; Condition 6 (BNG plan); and removal of Condition 8 (Sustainability statement). Location: Cafe And Premises, Harvey's Garden Plants, Great Green.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

- a) To receive commentary from the Professional Consultants in regard to liaison with the main statutory consultees and pre-plan comments on the sites submitted for the SHLAA –

9. PLANNING REFORM

- a) Clerk to provide commentary on the Government's plans to reform the planning process to speed up the development process to make it easier to build and deliver housing and major infrastructure – all were made aware of the active consultation that proposed changes that would form part of wider reforms to national planning policy and infrastructure delivery. Main objectives of the consultation were that it aimed to create clear, accessible national planning policies for plan-making and decision-making; sought to establish comprehensive policies to speed up local plan preparation and ensure consistency across the country.

Key policy changes covered proposals for a permanent presumption in favour of suitably located development to streamline approvals; introduction of support for building homes around rail stations and encourages urban densification and an aim to secure a diverse mix of homes and support small and medium sites for development. The term "substantial" will be consistently used to indicate positive weighting, replacing terms like "great" and "significant." There was an expectation that these would affect areas such as: local plan expectations; housing delivery; infrastructure planning the role of statutory consultees and community engagement.

It was agreed that the Clerk would formulate a response on behalf of the parish council concentrating on the areas that were applicable to Thurston.

10. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: to take place in Thurston Community Library –

- a) Planning and Infrastructure Meeting – 18th March 2026 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Library, Norton Road.

11. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING – there being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.23pm.

Appendix A - Glossary of Common Abbreviations used

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| Aif | All in favour |
| AGAR | Annual Governance and Accountability Return |
| APM | Annual Parish Meeting |
| ASB | Anti-social Behaviour |
| BACS | Bankers Automated Clearing Services |
| BUAB | Built Up Area Boundary |
| BMSDC | Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils |
| CC | Credit Card |
| CAS | Community Action Suffolk |
| CCG | Clinical Commissioning Group |
| CEO | Chief Executive Officer |
| Cil | Community Infrastructure Levy |
| Cllr. | Councillor |
| CMP | Construction Management Programme |
| CPT | Community Policing Team |
| Cttee. | Committee |
| DC | District Council |
| DCLG | Department of Communities and Local Government |
| DD | Direct Debit |
| FOI | Freedom of Information |
| FR | Financial Regulations |
| GA | Greater Anglia |
| GPoC | General Power of Competence |
| HMRC | Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs |
| HRA | Habitats Regulations Assessment |
| LGBCE | Local Government Boundary Commission for England |
| LGA | Local Government Association |
| LHB | Locality Highways Budget |
| LPA | Local Planning Authority |
| MSDC | Mid Suffolk District Council |
| NEAP | Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play |
| NCIL | Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy |
| NDP | Neighbourhood Development Plan |
| NP | Neighbourhood Plan |
| NR | Network Rail |
| PC | Parish Council |
| PCSO | Police Community Support Officer |
| Pdf | Portable Document Format |
| PIIP | Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan |
| PROW | Public Rights of Way |
| RAAC | Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete |
| RFO | Responsible Financial Officer |
| SARS | Suffolk Accident Rescue Service |
| SEA | Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| SALC | Suffolk Association of Local Councils |
| SCC | Suffolk County Council |
| SDR | Sensor Data Record |
| SID | Speed Indicator Device |
| SLA | Service Level Agreement |
| SO | Standing Order |
| SPS | Suffolk Preservation Society |
| TCC | Thurston Community College |
| TOR | Terms of Reference |
| TPO | Tree Preservation Order |
| TPS | Thurston Primary School |
| TRO | Traffic Regulation Order |
| VAS | Vehicle Activated Sign |
| VCSE | Voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations |

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