

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE meeting held on Wednesday 15th April 2026 in the Community Library, Norton Road, Thurston which commenced at 7.15pm.

Present: Cllrs. Dashper (in the Chair) along with Cllrs. Millest, Morris, Rainbow and Smith. Also in attendance: Mr R Fawcett (part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan review team), Mrs V. Waples, Clerk and Mrs. P. Gladwell, Deputy Clerk and two members of the public.

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. Balaam, Marsh and West. **Council consented to accept the apologies submitted, aif.**
 - b) Apologies for absence were also noted from Mrs. A. Long (Compass Point Planning and Rural Consultants).
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. **[THURSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN](#)** As Mrs Long from Compass Point Planning and Rural Consultants had submitted her apologies earlier that day due to a meeting clash, agenda item 4a would be deferred until the next meeting:
 - a) Draft sites assessments for group review – updated desktop based with constraints along with any responses received to date from statutory consultees – deferred.
 - b) To receive a summary of the meeting on 15th April 2026 to commence discussions over future sport and leisure facilities in the village of Thurston with interested stakeholders – PC will review the potential for introducing new facilities into the village and/or enlarge others for use at all hours. Whilst the NDP is looking at facilities and capacity, there was a need to use consultancy support to draw together some of the ideas and the proposals and look at bringing this together in a coordinated manner and carry this forward as a project into the planning system. It was agreed that CIL was a source of funding that could be used for such a project. Good to capture the thoughts and differing and emerging needs. Potential how some of the land in the call for sites could be used / explored. External support to help channel the process in conjunction with the NDP review.
5. **THURSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**
 - a) To review the [2018 Character Assessment](#) and confirm appropriate updates – Area 7 Cavendish View PM JW; Area 8 College Park; Area 9 - Grange Park DM GB and Area 10 - Thurston Park RF BM.
Page 6 need redrafting.
Area 1 - Michaelmas Court follow the same format – not in character forms part of the NDP in terms of residential – good design and was shortlisted for the final in design terms. Changed public views. Railway is still the boundary. 6.5-acre arable field. Mature trees on Heath Roadside. Village space – landscape to the front and courtyard to the rear of the residential home. Planting is lacking in the site. Good space between the home and Maltings Space. Pressure of parking will come to the fore in terms of visitor parking. Bus route. Not a blot on the landscape. Blends into the landscape and street scene. Two storeys high but this does not appear to be impactful. Low level lighting.
Area 2 – fine
Area 3 – needs to include The Hedgerows which is being partially built out. Nursery to be removed. The

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Hedgerows has tried to follow some of the design features in the village already (such as Cedar Close needs updating – finished. No green space. Change wording under second column – surrounded by residential development.

Area 4 – Station Hill – update with information relating to the Station Hill complex – pages 20, 21, 22.

Area 5 – Beyton Road page 26 public views change and key detracting features.

Area 6 – School Road – page 28 change summary of characteristics as no longer route to the primary school, etc. SENDAT are in the school building. Change land use under School Road – remove hairdressers (now a house).

Area 7 – Under School Road ...surrounds bring in the new cemetery with Footpath No. 6 that runs between Rectory Gardens and the new churchyard. Page 33 remove reference to primary school. Page 33 remove area of well-established allotments. Recreation ground does not serve as school field. Recreation ground car park (last sentence). Remove excessive signage. Add EV chargers at Recreation Ground Car Park. Under Church Road remove last section wording relating to telephone box. Stoney Lane page 33 – remove Barrells Road community allotments. Stoney Lane – under summary of characteristics change quiet lane to rural lane.

Church Road, Woodlands Close – summary of characteristics remove 2 hourly bus routes. Remove reference to the Primary School and replace it with SENDAT (educational establishment).

Stoney Lane, Barrells Road – public views no longer panoramic views across the neighbouring countryside.

School Road – page 34 – remove considerable signage on entry to footpath along side of recreation ground.

Page 34 – remove references to cricket.

Review all photos.

Mention in the NDP designated assets views along Beyton Road, The Planche and Church Road.

The Clerk agreed to send the templates to all those who would be undertaking the assessments.

Page 28 – School Road – bring in the layout and topography of School Road into Policy for identified pinch points.

- b) To review the suggested photos of the village to be added to the draft Design Code – a review of the existing had been undertaken and it was agreed that where possible these would be replaced with modern / more relevant ones.

Mr Fawcett left the meeting at this point in the agenda.

6. MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS -

- a) Minutes of the meeting of 18th March 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.**

7. PUBLIC FORUM –

- a) To receive matters of concern from members of the public in attendance on the agenda submitted – there were no comments submitted by the members of the public present.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AS RECEIVED FROM THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY –

- a) DC/26/01428 - Proposal: Application for works to trees subject to Tree Preservation Order MS261/W1 – Crown lift 1 No. Beech (T1) to 8m and reduce lower laterals by 2-3metres; fell 1 No. Lime (T2), fell 1 No. White Poplar (T3) and fell 1 No. Beech (T4) Location: Orchard Barn, Mill Lane – it was noted that the assessment was carried out by a qualified person but overall the works appeared to be logical and part of general tree maintenance. **The meeting resolved that it would support the application as written.**
- b) DC/26/01136 - Proposal: Householder Application - Erection of single storey rear extension. Location: 8 Barleyfields – to the rear of the property, replacing like for like with no extension of the footprint. **The meeting resolved that it would support the application as written.**
- c) DC/26/01199 - Proposal: Householder Application - Replacing conservatory with extension. Location: 3 Pheasant Close – to the rear of the property with no impact on the street scene. **The meeting resolved that it would support the application as written.**

9. PLANNING MATTERS DETERMINED: TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF APPLICATIONS DETERMINING BY THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY –

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- a) DC/26/00040 - Householder Application – Permission for the erection of a of a 1.5-metre-high fence. Location: 59 Maltings Garth.
- b) DC/25/05170 - Householder Application - Erection of storage barn for mowers, tractors etc. required to maintain parkland landscape. Nether Hall, Church Hill.
- c) DC/26/00908 – Refusal of non-material amendment seeking relating to approval of Reserved Matters Application ref. DC/19/01602 for the appearance, scale, layout, and landscaping in respect of Phase 1 for the erection of 87 no. residential dwellings (30 affordable), pursuant to Outline Planning Permission 5070/16 to amend an approved landscape plan to amend frontage hedgerow. Location: Land on the north side of Norton Road.
- d) DC/26/01235 - Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/25/02731 - 5 (Refuse Provision), 6 (Noise Assessment) and 8 (Kitchen Odour Control). Location: Thurston Granary, Station Hill.

10. PLANNING MATTERS RELATING TO THURSTON

- a) DC/25/05301 – to receive commentary from the Assistant Planner from Persimmon Homes on the additional play equipment to be located on College Park (as per planning conditions) – not good enough. Discussion followed as to whether within the NDP review policies could incorporate accessible play into any new development.
- b) EN/26/00013 - Land to the East of Ixworth Road – to receive an update on this matter.

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

- a) Planning and Infrastructure Meeting – 20th May 2026 commencing at 7.000pm in the Community Library, Norton Road.

12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING – there being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.48pm.

Appendix A - Glossary of Common Abbreviations used

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	His 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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