

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 16th April 2026 in the Cavendish Hall, Church Road, Thurston as prepared by the Clerk to the Parish Council.

The Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor Christopher Dashper, took the Chair for the Meeting.

In Attendance: Penny Otton, County Councillor Thedwastre South Division; Harry Richardson, District Councillor, Thurston Ward; Richard Fawcett, Chair of the Friends of Thurston Library; PCSO Matt Brown; Keith Towers, Chair of Thurston In Relief Charity; Vicky Pryke, Chair of Cavendish Hall Management Committee; Melanie Johnson, Group Scout Leader, 1st Thurston Scouts and seventeen members of the public.

1. *Opening and Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council* - the meeting was declared open at 7.30pm and all were thanked for attending.
2. *To receive apologies for absence* - Rev'd. Ben Edwards; Sgt. Jamie White from Stowmarket Community Policing Team; Ellie Longman, Library Manager, Thurston Community Library; Cllr. Barbara Morris, Thurston Footpath Warden; Cllr. Julian West, Chair of the Recreation Ground Trust Management Committee; Paul Wade, Chair of the New Green Trust; Maeve Taylor, Principal, Thurston Community College; District Councillor David Bradbury; Parish Councillors xxxx.
3. *To confirm the minutes of the APM of 18th April 2024* - having been previously uploaded onto the website, these were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chair of the meeting, Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr. C Dashper.
4. *To receive a report from the Stowmarket Community Policing Team* - PCSO Brown was invited to submit the report in which he drew the meetings attention to the following: (a copy of the crime statistics and Community Policing Team can be seen at Appendix A starting at Page 17 of these minutes)

PCSO 3362 Matthew Brown has been in post for 3 Years as the fully funded PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) for the parish of Thurston.

- Providing high visibility patrols, for public reassurance, reducing fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, on either foot, bicycle, or car.
- Community engagements to understand and address local needs, such as victims of crime, new and emerging communities. Assisting with inputs and support for Thurston Primary School and Thurston Community College in the absence of School Liaison Officer/Community Engagement Officer.
- Building working relationships with Partner Agencies to help identify solutions to prevent local crime and anti-social behaviour at the earliest stage by tackling the root causes.
- Identifying and reducing community issues, tensions, and fears, including multi-agency problem solving, evidence gathering and early intervention.

- PCSO Brown also engages with several different agencies in the area as well as local businesses to try and achieve problem solving.

PCSO Matthew Brown reports to the Parish Council on a weekly basis with updates on issues raised to the Police by members of the public. A Police report is submitted each month for the Thurston Newsletter, this includes useful information relating to topics or areas of concern, which have included personal/property safety and changes to the Highway Code. The Council in turn can advise of any concerns which may have come to their attention, all crimes are to be reported via 101.

PCSO Brown will attend Parish Council meeting when able to and will look to attend the Annual General Meeting.

PCSO Brown also holds two weekly “drop in” on a Wednesday morning between the hours of 11:00-12:30 (1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month). This will give an opportunity for the residents to discuss any concerns or issues in person with the officer in private.

Please, if there are any issues or concerns that need to be raised, please contact 999 in an Emergency or Non-Emergency call 101, or report things on-line via the Suffolk Constabulary Website.

Questions raised from the public:

1. Violence against persons - are these repeat offenders? It was confirmed that this has been the case. Partner agencies will be involved in any referrals made by the police.
2. Are incidents across the ages? It was confirmed that this was the case.
3. Vehicle offences - these can include the targeting of vehicles, theft from vehicles etc. Motoring offences are recorded differently.
4. Could data statistics be recorded in the newsletter? Yes, this could be re-introduced along with % breakdown.

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:

Good evening and welcome to the 2026 Thurston Annual Parish Meeting and the Chairman’s report. The Parish Council continues to work hard to support the community of Thurston. The growth of the community as a result of recent development, coupled with the divestment of responsibility for many local services by other tiers of local government, continues to occupy a considerable amount of the available time and resources of the council. Planning matters remain one of the most significant aspects of the work of the council, but also meeting the leisure and recreational needs of the community, including the provision and maintenance of public space and equipment, supporting local groups and services and liaising with other organisations such as the district and county councils regarding highways and other public services including infrastructure and transport.

Moving on into the main body of the report, this is always my opportunity for a number of important thankyou’s.

A thank you first to all the members of the council who have committed their time and energy to the parish this year.

I am delighted to report that we have maintained a full council of 13 Councillors this year and my thanks go to all the councillors for serving as members of the Council and its Committees.

Also, thanks to Steve, our litter picker for maintaining the public areas, Matt Brown, our Police Community Support Officer for the policing and safeguarding support for local residents, Clive, our Village Ranger, who has been working to maintain areas of the village over the last year and Laura, our Newsletter editor.

Thanks also to our Suffolk County Councillor, Penny Otton and Mid Suffolk Councillors David Bradbury and Harry Richardson for their support on county and district issues including road infrastructure and planning. Penny will be stepping down this year after many years of supporting Thurston and other local parishes.

And, as ever, thanks to our Clerk Vicky and to Paula, our Deputy Clerk for continuing to manage the ever-growing and diverse range of subjects the council is involved with. Our team continue to maintain their high standards of excellence in financial management, planning and community and stakeholder engagement. In every way, the council continues to exceed expected standards and to set the benchmark for others. But, life is never without change and Vicky has decided to step down from the role of Clerk during the coming year. I am pleased to say that we have recently appointed a new clerk, Laura, to start with us in May. However, we are not letting Vicky go that easily and having decided to split the roles of Clerk and the Financial Officer, Vicky will remain with the council managing the finances, supporting Laura in her new role and will also continue to look after the Neighbourhood Plan and some of the significant planning matters impacting the village.

In planning and development matters, the community continues to grow as the current developments in the village build out and the houses are occupied. The Matthews Homes site on Norton Road is now almost complete, having received initial planning approval in 2017. The Bloor Homes site on Beyton Road, the second Persimmon development, Hakewill Mews on Ixworth Road and the Barratt David Wilson development also on Ixworth Road are all underway.

A consultation process has been held recently with regard to the replacement of the current Thurston Community College building and planning permission has been applied for. The rebuild, on the current site, will offer improved infrastructure and opportunities for the students and the community and it is pleasing to see that the community library will be unaffected by the changes and will benefit from enhanced facilities.

Whilst under construction these developments do continue to have a detrimental impact on existing residents, particularly through road closures, vehicle traffic, noise and mess. The Parish Council has worked hard to develop relationships with the developers to manage these issues and to encourage a collaborative approach to the provision of play areas, landscaping and tree planting.

We continue to be aware of concerns around the provision of essential infrastructure within the village, much of which was linked to Section 106 agreements with the original 5 large planning applications approved in 2017. Many of these improvements are scheduled to be delivered upon completion of the sites, but the council continues to press for the early completion of measures including vital safety crossings, particularly those adjacent to the Community College. We have in particular raised concerns around improvements which have been scheduled and then deferred due to other planning approvals.

We have commenced a review of the Thurston Neighbourhood Plan and will be engaging in consultation with the community to support the review, ensuring the plan reflects the needs of the community moving forward and recognising the development which has already occurred. Whilst the plan has not achieved everything we would have liked for the community, it has provided the opportunity for some influence over the development that has happened and there have been some significant achievements including the new Michaelmas Court supported housing project on Heath Road, which is now open.

We are pleased to be able to support local organisations each year with small grants so that they can provide services to support our residents. Organisations supported over the last year include Mid Suffolk Croquet Club £500; Friends of Thurston Library £500; Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service £500; Ixworth Youth Junction Youth Club £500; Lighthouse Women's Aid £500; Tiny Toes Toddler Group £288; Communities Together East Anglia £500 and the Mid Suffolk and West Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau £500 each. Organisations within the village who provide services to local residents, can apply for a grant using a simple application form available from the Clerk and the request will then be considered by the Parish Council. Requests for grant support from organisations based outside the village including regional groups may be considered where there is or has been a recognisable benefit to Thurston.

We have also continued to deploy our Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding, supporting several community focussed projects in the village over the last year. These have included funding for our Police Community Support Officer, contracting a Village Ranger for village maintenance, new flooring here at Cavendish Hall, support for the Library Sensory Garden, provision of the allotments on Thurston Park, 2 new streetlights on Barton Road and support for the Thurston Community Players. CIL has also been used to contract some consultancy support for the review of the Thurston Neighbourhood Plan. Full details of the use of CIL funds can be found on the parish website.

The Pavilion at the Recreation Ground has undergone a significant internal refurbishment this year and is available for hire, offering space for regular or one-off events with new and improved facilities. The car park also offers 2 electric vehicle charging points. The venue is open to a variety of hirers, it is not necessary to be a sports club or group to use the building. Please contact the Parish Council for more information on availability and hire rates.

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 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 2026/27 the Parish Council has agreed a small rise in the precept of £8.66 per annum or 17 pence per week for a Band D Property. This increase will support the continued investment in local services and the accompanying administration and will help to offset inflationary rises in goods and services.

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. The public are also invited to attend our other committee meetings, all of which are held at the library. The dates of all these meetings are advertised on the notice boards around the village and on the Thurston website. All papers including those relating to finance are uploaded to the website for perusal by Councillors and members of the public ahead of all meetings.

Christopher Dashper, Chairman of Thurston Parish Council March 2025.

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6. *To receive a report from County Councillor Penny Otton, Thedwastre South Division* – County Councillor Penny Otton was invited to submit her report which is repeated as follows:

Local Government Reorganisation - Following the announcement of Local Government Reorganisation in December 2024, councils in Suffolk had to submit plans to the government in September 2025 stating how many unitary councils should be set up in Suffolk after county councils, district and borough councils are dissolved in 2028. This means that the services provided by different councils in Suffolk would all be provided by one council for a specific area. Suffolk County Council submitted a proposal one unitary council for the whole of Suffolk District and borough councils in Suffolk worked together to agree a proposal for three unitary councils in Suffolk: Western Suffolk, Central and Eastern Suffolk and Ipswich and Southern Suffolk, which includes the county town and Felixstowe. At the end of March 2026, the government announced that this was the option they wanted to go forward with. The next step will be for elections to the new councils, which will be held in May 2027. The new councillors will then 'shadow' existing councillors for a year until the new authorities are 'vested' from 1 April 2028.

After 19 years as your county councillor, I decided this was a good time to not stand again for election, with all these changes. It has been a privilege, and I hope I have been able to help getting things done and changed, There have been frustrations when we didn't get the result we wanted but I know you will all carry on the excellent work of the Parish council. Thank you for all your help. In Thurston I have been able to help with the cost of new

chairs for the library and work in Cavendish hall from my locality fund. I have loved being part of the Friends of Thurston Library and congratulate them on so many activities. With the clerk we have walked the streets with the Highways officer to see what work needs to be done and where better road safety measures would help, like at the entrance to the primary school.

The change to scheme at the Bunbury arms I do think will be successful.

The proposals for the new Community College building have been with Mid Suffolk District Council, and I hope the road traffic issues can be sorted. We still do not know what the Beyton site will be used for, but it must be for education.

Devolution and the Norfolk and Suffolk Mayoral Authority - Concurrently with rearranging the councils is the process of devolution in the region. The government announced in December 2024 that a mayoral authority would be set up for Norfolk and Suffolk, with mayoral elections held in May 2026. The mayor and mayoral authority would have responsibility for strategic planning, transport and economic growth for the region and would include some members from local councils, , the plan is for the mayor to be elected in May 2028 and everyone in Norfolk and Suffolk will have a chance to vote.

Council Motions - At council meetings throughout the year, my group passed two motions successfully:

- In May 2025, we proposed that the council ban the giving pets as prizes on council owned land and writes to the government requesting an outright ban on live animals as prizes on both public and private land. The motion referred to animals intended as pets, and excluded farm animals which may be given as prizes by farmers and farming businesses
- In March 2026, we proposed that following the revelations in the media about the 'Epstein files' and the indication that there would continue to be a high volume of press coverage on the subject, that the council release a statement of support for victims of sexual harm and exploitation, and launch a social media campaign so that survivors in Suffolk would know where they can access local advice and support via Ipswich charity Survivors in Transition

My group also proposed several other motions throughout the year which were voted down by the Conservative councillors in the chamber:

- In March 2025, we proposed that Suffolk County Council gain accreditation as a 'Council of Sanctuary' to welcome refugees and displaced people, ensure that services work together to provide support to them, and to establish more 'Schools of Sanctuary' This was voted down
- In July 2025, we proposed that the council change it procedures to make it easier and simpler for residents and communities to adopt safer speed limits, including 20mph speed limits. The administration rejected the motion on the grounds that it was preparing a review of this process already (see details below)
- In December 2025, my group tabled a motion proposing that the council recognise the Rights of Rivers in Suffolk, including to be protected from pollution, to flow freely, and to recover from environmental harm, and that the council should work with districts, boroughs, local communities and national agencies such as the Environment Agency and water companies to advocate for healthy rivers and improved water quality. The administration voted this down on the basis that rivers flowing freely suggested that flooding should be enabled, which was not really what the motion was proposing.

Libraries Brought Back in House - Despite huge public and high-profile protest, the county's library service was brought back in-house from 1 June 2025. Cabinet agreed to put aside £1.8m for the transition period, with the service expected to be back within budget by the second year. As at December 2025 it had spent £0.6m of this fund, with most of the remaining funds already committed. Since taking the service back into SCC, the council has also undertaken a restructure in the libraries 'central team' which has made savings of £340k per annum in staff redundancies. Front line staffing and volunteering numbers remain the same, with most library users stating when surveyed that they had not noticed a difference in the service provided. Library 'Friends' groups continue as normal, with all funds raised by the Friends being used to benefit their local branch. The transition

was reviewed at Scrutiny Committee in March 2026 and during the meeting the libraries team also laid out their volunteer recruitment plan and governance systems for the new service (how it will be overseen). The library service is now part of the council's Public Health and Communities directorate with oversight from the Suffolk Community Libraries Strategic Group which has members from the council and the libraries service.

Council Budget 2026-27 - In February 2026, the council set out and voted on its budget for the coming financial year, including its intention to take the maximum 4.99% increase in council tax. Even raising council tax to the maximum, it will still have a budget 'gap' of £5.9m this year which it will have to fund from council reserves.

The main cost pressures are for social care in adults and children's services, which the council has to provide by law whatever the cost. Future savings will need to be made to service the council's predicted budget gap for 2027-28, which it estimates will be £23.4m. The council also has an enormous debt for provision of services for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities held under the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

The government hopes that the spiralling costs for councils everywhere will be mitigated by the Local Government Reorganisation process. This means that from 2028 there will only be three councils in Suffolk to fund rather than six.

Net Zero Financial Savings - In January 2026, the annual Net Zero Carbon Budget report was brought to Cabinet to assess the progress of the council towards its carbon reduction goals. Previously the council had an ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030, although as the council will cease to exist in 2028 it has adjusted its target to 63% of carbon emissions by 2027-28. The Cabinet agreed that any new measures for carbon reduction during the remainder of this term would have to provide in-year financial savings for the council to be considered. The council's Net Zero work has so far provided £4.8m of savings by reducing electricity and gas use, which is incredibly important at a time when the council is struggling to remain financially resilient.

Suffolk Roads Rated Red by UK Government - As you may have seen in the press, the government recently released RAG (Red, Amber, Green) ratings each county based on how effectively they use the government's highways maintenance funding and the condition of their roads. Suffolk's road maintenance was rated as Red, the worst category. This has struck a chord with residents in the county, who have been clear that they agree and want the quality of Suffolk's roads to improve. The council has met with the Department for Transport to press for the Suffolk rating to be raised to Amber, pointing out that Department for Transport data shows that only 3% of the county's A roads is in poor condition,

The council's Highways Maintenance Operational Plan is published on the SCC website and details the size and depth of potholes and the number of days it will take to repair them, based on size and depth. If the council has repaired a defect in line with its published criteria, then claims made for damage to vehicles are not likely to succeed. You can find this document here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/highway-asset-management/highway-maintenance-operational-plan>

New 20mph Policy - You may recall that last summer, my group proposed a motion at council to make it easier and simpler for local communities to reduce speed limits, including 20mph areas. The administration voted down our plans, claiming that they were already planning to review their processes and would bring this back for agreement at a later date. At Cabinet on Friday 9 January, the new 20mph speed limit policy was tabled and approved and is now in place for speed limit change requests. The aim of the new policy is to make the process for communities to apply for a 20mph speed limit easier and more streamlined. From now on, any application for a new 20mph limit in an area where recorded average traffic speeds are 28mph and under is likely to be approved by the council. The local county councillor must also be in favour of the change, and there should be majority support from residents. The new policy is based on recording speeds as follows:

- Below 28mph – likely to be accepted, with a speed limit sign only, although signs warning that a 20mph zone is ahead may be required

- Between 28 - 32mph - unlikely to be acceptable with signing alone. Gateway signing and traffic calming throughout the area may be required
- Above 32mph - Unlikely to be acceptable without extensive traffic calming measures such as road humps, plus night-time lighting. It would also be subject to a Road Safety Audit.

You can read the new 20mph speed limit here on the council website:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/traffic-management-and-road-safety/speed-limits>

Local Nature Recovery Strategy Approved - In September 2025, the council's Cabinet voted to approve the new Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which was produced following a public consultation on the draft strategy between April and June 2025. The strategy is a new requirement for the council, and sets out priority species and habitats for nature conservation in the county, giving advice on how different habitats can be improved by landowners to protect and encourage nature.

The new strategy should also help Suffolk County Council to improve the land it owns in the county, for example County Farms, and local planning authorities will have to take account of the new strategy when development is considered. In the future, mayoral authorities like the one currently planned for Norfolk and Suffolk will be in charge of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for their area.

You can read Suffolk's final and published Local Nature Recovery Strategy here, including an executive summary, which is a much shorter read:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/local-nature-recovery-strategy-lnrs>

New Funding for Buses and Sustainable Travel - In June 2025 we heard that the council had been given a grant of £8m from the Department for Transport for improving bus travel in the county during 2025-26, of which £2.8m was for service improvements and £5.2m of capital funding for improving bus stops, priority measures for buses on busy streets or upgrades to vehicles.

In December 2025 we heard that Suffolk had been awarded £27m of funding for bus services from the government's Local Authority Bus Grant (LABG), this can be used for routes, ticketing or improving infrastructure like bus stops and shelters. Previously known as the Bus Services Improvement Grant, communities and parish councils in Suffolk will be able to suggest improvements in their area and 'bid' for funding via the Suffolk on Board website: <https://www.suffolkonboard.com/>

The council has also been awarded just over £12m from Active Travel England to promote sustainable travel in the county. This can be used to invest in footpaths, cycle lanes and other infrastructure. Examples of how this funding has been used recently include pedestrian crossings in Bridge Street and College Road by Ipswich waterfront, and improved cycle routes including from Ipswich Hospital to the waterfront area, Nacton Road in Ipswich, Main Road in Martlesham, and within Woodbridge as part of the town's current active travel project.

7. *To receive a report from District Councillors David Bradbury and Harry Richardson*
District Councillor David Bradbury – in the absence of Councillor Bradbury, the report from Councillor Richardson would cover all matters (except Locality Budget) relating to Thurston.

District Councillor Harry Richardson was invited to submit his report which is repeated as follows:

Local Government Reorganisation - The government has announced that there will be three unitary authorities in Suffolk: Western Suffolk, Central and Eastern Suffolk, and Ipswich and Southern Suffolk. These will be formally established on 1st April 2028, at which point the Districts, Borough and County Councils in Suffolk will be abolished. Elections to 'shadow unitary authorities' will be held in May 2027, with an initial five-year term. All of the current District ward of Thurston (Beyton, Norton, Stowlangtoft, Thurston and Tostock) will be part of the new 'Western Suffolk' authority, with varying consequences.

Budget 2026 - 2027 - Mid Suffolk's Council Tax will rise by 2.99% in 2026/27 following a decision on 26 February. Mid Suffolk is currently forecast to achieve a surplus of £3.6m for the next financial year. A proposed budget amendment by the Mid Suffolk Independents to freeze Council Tax was rejected by 22 votes to 6.

Community Infrastructure Levy changes - At the beginning of 2025/26, Mid Suffolk agreed to move away from the bi-annual CIL submission window (i.e. two opportunities per year) to a rolling application process. This has been well received and has allowed CIL bids to come forward as soon as they are ready, rather than waiting for the appropriate submission window.

Local Plan update - Following the government's decision on Local Government Reorganisation, local planning authorities in the county (including Mid Suffolk) will need to decide whether to continue developing their own, independent Local Plans or to pause current work and instead focus on plans that are aligned to the forthcoming local authority geographies (i.e. Western Suffolk, for us).

Changes to refuse collection - From June 2026 there will be changes to refuse collection in Mid Suffolk. This includes:

- A reduction in general refuse (black bin) collections from once every fortnight to once every three weeks.
- A weekly food waste (bin caddy) collections.
- Fortnightly collections of recycling for glass, cartons, and plastic film.

Fortnightly collections for other recycling will remain unchanged. Residents should have hopefully received a pamphlet explaining the changes, and a new blue-topped bin for the glass / carton / plastic film recycling.

Garden waste collection is also unchanged.

Locality budget - I am pleased to report that I have spent every penny of the £10,000 locality budget that I was allocated for 2025/26. A breakdown of my locality spending is as follows:

Applicant	Item	Allocation
Thurston library	New chairs	£1,000
Thurston croquet club	Maintenance costs	£1,000
Thurston Community College	Replacement football goals for community use	£1,437.25
Thurston youth project	First aid kits, clothes, running costs, etc	£562.75
Norton Parish Council	Speed indicator device	£2,000
Norton Village Hall	New set of tables	£4,000
	TOTAL:	£10,000

As you can see my locality funding was spent exclusively in Norton and Thurston this year (based on the applications I received, not any deliberate focus on my part), so I would strongly encourage applications from Beyton, Stowlangtoft, and Tostock in 2026 - 2027. My locality budget for 2026 - 2027, again an allocation of £10,000, is now open for applications so please do let me know if there are any potential expressions of interest.

CIL money to NR progress to next stage. Feasibility study due out in May2026. Project to replace and close the barrow foot crossing. Bridge - preferred option is to open the tunnel up and create a pedestrian access to the southern platform - issue is state of tunnel; second option is a bridge - main issue is that the platforms are short.

New grant funds available - see their website

8. To receive reports from Parish Council Representatives -
 - i. *Recreational Ground Trust Charity (304946)* - on behalf of the Recreation Ground Trust Management Committee - a report was submitted in which it was stated that During the past year the Pavilion Building has undergone a major internal refurbishment, adding a referee's changing room with a shower and toilet, refurbished home and away changing rooms with new showers, universal and disabled toilets, baby change facilities and a general redecoration to freshen the building up. We believe that this is a great

asset within the village with meeting room facilities that at the moment, is sadly under-utilised.

Rent from the pre-school facility located on the site continues to be the largest income stream, closely followed by the Football Club and French for Tots. The Management Committee is currently investigating options regarding the promotion of the whole venue, hopefully resulting in a wider use by other leisure organisations within the village such as running groups / dog training / walking football and ramblers. The Committee is advertising the venue in all the usual places and has produced a promotional leaflet, available from the Parish Council Office, that illustrates the facilities and indicates the (very reasonable) hire rates. As far as storage is concerned, the Cricket Club has now cleared the ISO container to the rear of the Pavilion and this has been taken over by the Football Club for equipment storage. The old damaged “dugouts” have been removed from site, and we believe are to be replaced at some point with new enclosures. The Recreation Ground has a large well-surfaced carpark with two electric vehicle charging points, a children’s play area and acres of open space with seating benches that can be used by the whole village; which is something that we would very much like to see more of.

- ii. *Thurston Footpath Warden* – on behalf of the parish appointed footpath warden it was reported that Thurston is fortunate to have a wonderful network of footpaths leading to the countryside and neighbouring villages.

The current footpath leaflet is available from the Parish Council office and the library. This leaflet gives details of 5 circular walks, but these can lead into other parishes, including Pakenham, Norton, Tostock, Beyton. You can walk as far or as little as you wish. An additional footpath map leaflet, which contains information about two footpaths that link to, neighbouring villages’ network of footpath walks, is now available on the Discover Suffolk web page and the printed leaflet is also available from the Parish Council Office and the Library.

Following the discussion at the last Annual Parish Meeting an update was provided on the new permissive path to link Fishwick Corner with the estate to avoid walking on the road. A resident made all aware of work that had been progressed on linking up Thurston to Rougham and that approval had been given for a footpath to be created on the left-hand side from Fishwick Corner through the wood to the Rougham Estate down to Rougham Barns. It should be installed late Summer and will provide a link into the wider network to the south.

- iii. *Thurston Tree Warden* – the position of Tree Warden is currently vacant, and the parish council would welcome volunteers to take on this role within the community and assist with projects going forward, one of the first tasks is to survey and record as many of our veteran trees as we can access. If anyone is interested in the role please contact the Clerk to the Council for more information.

9. To receive reports from Village Organisations

- i. *Friends of Thurston Library* – Reports were received from the Library as follows:

Thurston Library continues to go from strength to strength with Ellie Longman as Library Manager: the library welcomes and provides for all age groups in Thurston and the surrounding area. Again, this year it remains difficult to increase the activity in the current space which remains well below what is recognised as that needed to serve the current population, let alone the continuing increase as housing development continues apace. There is an expectation that some of the space currently used by Thurston Community College will become library space.

The most significant change during the year was SCC taking over the running of the library service from the independent charity Suffolk Libraries IPS on 1 June 2025. The move brought the service in-house after 13 years of management by the charity. The official name of the new service is ‘Suffolk Community Libraries’.

Since April 1st 2025 to date, over 20,000 books have been taken out by nearly 1000 users: nearly 70 per day.

Over 3,000 people attended one off events and regular activities held in the library. It is worth mentioning that these figures do not include the many events organised by the Friends of Thurston Library.

The Friends of Thurston Library have sought to complement the range of activity provided by Suffolk Libraries through their many initiatives: it is a busy, attractive, and well-regarded Library.

This year the sensory garden was completed through an appropriate mix of professional and voluntary activity, and gifts from local plant nurseries. Three years ago, a garden was just a notion: it is now a really attractive space for everyone to enjoy and is being used by a wide age group. The Friends continue to maintain and develop it.

Expanding activity – for four years now we have been pleased to report a strong increase in all key areas: the number of books issued, visits made for all purposes, new users, and the number of volunteers in the Library: two years ago there were five volunteers, including Duke of Edinburgh Award students, and now there are over thirty volunteers.

The Library continues to support people through a wide range of services, from borrowing books -some through the Home Library Service - to online services and a wide range of activities and clubs for all age groups on a weekly, monthly and ad hoc basis (see appendix below); again, this winter the library was Thurston's warm space with free tea and coffee, soup and snacks. It was the only library in the County running the warm space initiative after funding was withdrawn by SCC.

As the Friends Group, we have supported all the Library does, helping in the Library, running events and raising money for Thurston Library and subsidising activities for the community.

- a. with others in the community – the Primary Church of England Academy (The Village Quiz with the Friends of the School) for the fourth year and participating in St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival; bike servicing courtesy of a recognised mechanic sponsored by national charities and SCC.
- b. as a separate group - organising a range of activities – over the last year running
 - At Christmas, festive sewing craft, singing carols and Christmas songs in the garden, and a special Christmas story time a very popular Christmas programme which included a well-supported and appreciated Lego competition for children, a play reading by Blackbourne U3A of Christmas with the Corrigans.
 - Blackbourne U3A Play Reading Group also presented: A Glittering Gallimaufry of Ghostly Goings On at Halloween.
 - A showcase music evening with Ed and Jane (who are Thurston residents)
 - Talks - about Pakenham Water Mill by Mike Dean, the curator of the Mill and The Countess of Bristol of Ickworth (and fifteen children) fame.
 - Children's Sewing and Felt-making Classes including a well-received Snowy Owl Craft
 - A Summer Wine Tasting and Festive Wine Tasting by Wynn Rees, one of Thurston Library Friends; the wine tasting events have established a loyal following! There is another this May.
 - Spooktacular: a Halloween play reading with Blackbourne U3A Players.
 - Bike maintenance sessions.

During the year along with Ellie on behalf of Suffolk Libraries and latterly Suffolk Community Libraries: Help with Tech, The Forest of Stories (inspiring a love for books in young children), Reading Quest, a replacement for the Summer Reading Challenge, Health Check Appointments for Suffolk GP Fed.

Great thanks go to Vicky Waples for her support in keeping our financial records straight and to County, District and Parish Councils for both financial and personal support.

Coming up. In two words – unwelcome uncertainty. The same two words as of last year. What will happen to the Library Service with the demise of SCC? Will Thurston Library be

extended? Will Thurston Library remain open? Will the three local authorities within Suffolk combine to run libraries?

For an example of community activity at Thurston Library please see Appendix B on page 18.

Thurston Library Manager – The main news with regard to libraries was that the Library service was taken back into Suffolk County Council in June last year and as such, no longer a charity. This has meant that during the initial period of transition the focus has been on the continuity of the service rather than adding to it. A list of all of our activities are in the monthly Thurston Newsletter.

We opened our Community Garden last year and it has been wonderful to see the fruition of all the hard work of the fabulous volunteers that have taken it from an unused and unloved space to what it is today - a wonderful haven of burgeoning growth that can be enjoyed by all who pass by (and who comment on it regularly).

The events we have hosted include visiting author Louise Candlish, The Summer Reading Quest, Play Reading performances, Christmas Craft sessions and Storytime.

I still am in the very fortunate position to have help from over 30 volunteers, whether it be the maintenance of our lovely library garden, providing IT assistance, teaching knitting and crochet, tracing your ancestors or simply helping with everyday library tasks. I currently have 2 young volunteers as well as 3 others volunteering to achieve their bronze level Duke of Edinburgh award, as well as a hugely supportive Friends Group which put on fantastic events for the community.

I have some figures to end this report which help demonstrate how well used and supported our library is.

Since 1st April 2025 to date, over 20,000 books have been taken out by close to 1000 users. Over 3,000 people attended one off events and regular activities held in the library.

It is worth mentioning that these figures do not include the many fantastic events organised by the Friends of Thurston Library. Richard as chair is much better placed to inform you of those.

- ii. *Thurston Community College* – a report was submitted on behalf of the Principal of the College in which it stated that Each school year brings the different cycles of students moving through the College but also saying farewell to those who take exams and move on as well as looking ahead to welcome future students.

In September 2026, having celebrated some excellent exam results at both GCSE and A level, we welcomed increased numbers of students into the high school in Year 7 and into the sixth form in Year 12. All students settled in very quickly and are thriving in their learning, benefitting from a wide curriculum and lots of enrichment opportunities, including extra-curricular activities and educational visits.

As soon as those students are in the College, we begin the next round of working with our local primary schools and 11-16 secondary schools to share information about TCC and what students can expect here. We are delighted that our work with our local primary schools sees our entry stay strong around 300 per year and these links with children before they reach Year 6 means that they are well prepared to make the transition to the big school!

We were delighted in the summer of 2025 that every member of our Year 10 (now in Year 11 taking their GCSEs) participated in a week of Work Experience, for the first time, post covid. Our Year 12s, now taking their A levels in Year 13, also undertook a number of days of work-related learning. This is only possible when local employers support our young people and we are grateful to all of those local groups and businesses who welcomed and supported the students in their placements. This will be happening again this year for Years 10 and 12 and we are grateful to those who will host students this summer. We are also welcoming employers into the College for careers fairs and to support our young people in planning for their futures by participating in work related interviews. If anyone local can support any of these events and has not yet been

approached, please contact us as we would be delighted to draw upon your skills! In a reciprocal way, we also have lots of students who take part in Duke of Edinburgh awards, offering both Bronze and Silver programmes, and they have to undertake volunteering so if there is something you think you would welcome support for, please get in touch. Many of you will be aware of the plans to build a new school building on the existing Thurston site and once the development is complete this will bring the sixth form back onto the main campus too. This is an exciting time for the College and its students, as we will have updated and purpose-built facilities to support students. We are particularly excited that practical subjects, Dance, Drama, Art, Music, Textiles, Photography, Science and PE will all have some wonderful spaces to use including new performance and sports halls. Integral to the planning process is how the building and site can benefit the local community, and we are hopeful that the indoor facilities and outdoor spaces will welcome many individuals and community use groups from Thurston village in the future. In addition, space will be transferred from the College for library use which will benefit many others beyond those accessing sports and performance facilities. If anyone ever wishes to visit the College and see it in action during a school day, you are very welcome! Please contact us to arrange a visit.

- iii. *Thurston CE Primary Academy* - a report was still awaited from the Headteacher.
- iv. *St Peter's Church* - the Annual Community Impact Report for St Peter's Church, Thurston (2025-2026) was submitted on behalf of St Peter's Church. Executive Summary: The past year has been a period of exceptional transformation and renewal for St Peter's. Under the leadership of Fr Ben, the church has moved beyond its traditional walls to become a proactive partner in village life. We have seen a 50% increase in our congregation, reflecting a growing desire for a community that is inclusive, intellectually engaged, and spiritually grounded.
Youth and Civic Engagement: St Peter's has prioritised the next generation, fostering deep roots within local educational and civic organisations:
Schools: Regular engagement with both primary and secondary schools has allowed us to support the curriculum and provide a space for reflection and pastoral support for students and staff.
Air Training Corps (ATC): Our partnership with the local ATC is a cornerstone of our community outreach. Fr Ben serves as the ATC Padre, providing dedicated chaplaincy, moral guidance, and a supportive presence for the cadets and staff.
Baptism Ministry: Our baptism ministry is currently thriving, welcoming new families into the heart of the village and offering a supportive environment for parents and children as they begin their journey with God.
Civic and Pastoral Service - As a "village church for everyone," St Peter's has been at the forefront of the community's most significant moments:
Remembrance and Life Events: From a deeply moving Remembrance Sunday service to the sensitive handling of funerals, we provide a dignified space for the village to grieve and remember.
Festivals: Christmas services saw record attendance, serving as a vital point of connection for residents during the winter months.
Social Responsibility: The church remains a dedicated supporter of the charity behind Michaelmas Court, ensuring that our commitment to the vulnerable is backed by practical action and advocacy.
Regional and National Leadership: St Peter's has gained a reputation as a centre for contemporary theological and social thought. Fr Ben has been at the forefront of both regional and national social and theological commentary, ensuring that the concerns and values of our Suffolk community are represented in wider public discourse. His ministry combines traditional pastoral care with a forward-thinking approach to the challenges facing modern society. This growing profile was recently highlighted by a visit from the new Bishop, who chose to preside and preach at St Peter's early in her ministry with the diocese. This was a significant occasion for Thurston, marking the

village as a key site of growth and energy. Looking Ahead: St Peter's is no longer just a historic landmark; it is a vibrant, living part of Thurston's infrastructure. As we look to the coming year, we remain committed to working alongside the Council to ensure our village is a place where every resident feels valued and heard.

- v. *Cavendish Hall* – a report was given by the chair of the Cavendish Hall which is repeated as follows: Once again our hall continues to be well used and appreciated by all. Our new flooring in the hall has worked out well with no further issues with lifting of the floor. We have also replaced the entrance hall, toilets and kitchen flooring. Over the last few years, we have completely overhauled the hall, but as the age of the hall tells us it's a never-ending job. We will be replacing the flat roofs at the front of the hall this year. The chair cupboard for some years has had a leak and we decided to replace both as they had been in situ since the 1990's. I do have concerns regarding the spalling on the walls next to the car park. The tarmac had been laid right up to the wall on the side and the South end. We had no say in this, although at the time we asked for a French drain, which was refused. There has been no further movement on ownership of the land on the south side, and sadly I am still trying to resolve our address with Scottish Power and UK Power networks. An ongoing saga! Our fund raiser about the Little Boy Blue plane was very successful, and we have two more planned this year. The Larks in March and Pig Racing in October. The lack of committee and trustees continues to be a problem. We have a new treasurer, Doug Levey who started in January. Our hall is in a good place, well supported and continues to be a great asset to our village.
- vi. *New Green Community Trust - Charity 299140* – no report had been submitted by the chair of the New Green Community Trust.
- vii. *Thurston Relief In Need Charity - Charity 210828* – the chair of the Charity gave a report as follows: Objects of the Charity: To make payments to relieve persons resident in the Parish of Thurston who are in need, hardship or distress or to provide items, services or facilities for such as detailed in the Charity's Scheme document dated 8th August 1986. Grants made: The charity has had a small number of requests for assistance in our last financial year (to December 2024). No emergency payments were made in the last financial year. The charity was advertised in the Thurston Parish magazine during the year. Trustees: The nominative, co-optative and ex-officio trustees are unchanged. Use of Charity's Assets: The major asset of the charity is the area of land to the south of Heath Rd. A decision was taken some time ago to review the use of this land and see if it could be improved. This includes the existing recreation area which has been let to the P.C. since the 1960's. The area of agricultural land has now been taken out of that use and part of it (approx. 3.5 acres) is now leased to Housing 21 for a new extra -care facility comprising flats and bungalows. The development was completed last August and residents started moving-in in September. We are given to understand that the development is a little over 50% occupied as of a month ago. It is proposed that the remainder of the land, which includes the existing recreation area, will be dedicated to some form of communal/village use. It has been expressly stated, on a number of occasions, that it will not be used for open-market housing. The charity is continuing to liaise with our legal advisors and the Parish Council towards that goal. Professional Advisers: The charity continues to use the services of Hazells (Chartered Surveyors) and Greene & Greene (Solicitors). We have also engaged with Stone King (solicitors) who are specialist advisors on charity matters to guide us through this period of transition. Future: The charity will continue in its current form for the time being. A far-reaching review of its constitution and aims has been undertaken and legal advice is being sought to ensure that we comply with the requirements of the Charities Commission when making any changes to the structure and aims of the organisation. Once these changes have been implemented the future use of the residual land will be

able to determined / plan. Queries: please direct any queries via email to: thustoninneedcharity@btinternet.com

- viii. *1st Thurston Scouts* - Melanie Johnson, Scout leader was invited to give her report in which she drew the meetings attention to the following: The 1st Thurston Scout Group has had a very busy and engaging year, filled with various activities, meetings, and events that showcased the enthusiasm and dedication of both the leaders and the young people.

Throughout the past year, the group held several meetings, where scouts of all sections participated in a range of activities that promoted teamwork and skill development. Key highlights included meetings at Bradfield Park Campsite where all members had a chance to try out new outdoor skills.

The scouting year also included several significant events, demonstrating a strong community spirit. The Woolpit Steam Rally Camp was a major highlight, engaging not just Beavers, Cubs & Scouts, but Young Leaders and Leaders for up to three days of collective experiences.

The Family Camp in August allowed families to bond while enjoying the outdoors and trying out new skills - some have experienced their very first Camp Fire sing song! The competitiveness between family members was something to see!

Special events, such as the St George's Day Promise Renewals and the Family Carol Service, reinforced our values and traditions within the Scouting movement.

A Family Bingo evening held in February raise a whopping £484 which has helped to purchase much needed equipment. We also secured a Community Development Grant during the year which has enabled us to replace our old trailer.

This year has been a busy and rewarding time for the Beavers (6-8 yrs). Throughout the year, our regular meetings included a variety of activities. The group participated in a District-wide trip to Africa Alive, visiting Go-Ape at High Lodge, swimming at Rougham Primary School, and had a visit from a paramedic, which provided valuable insights into first aid and emergency services. There were also community-focused activities, including a litter-picking hike and contributions to the local church. Fun and creative sessions, like Christmas crafts and music performances, helped to build a sense of teamwork and enjoyment among the Beavers. In addition to our regular meetings, the Christmas camp provided a festive atmosphere for everyone, and we also enjoyed taking part in the District Bowling event which they won for the fourth-year running, and an exciting tobogganing trip.

Over the past year, the Cubs (8-10½) yrs have engaged in a variety of meetings and events. The weekly meetings included activities such as cake and craft nights, environmental litter picks, personal safety sessions, and festive celebrations like Christmas crafts and a Disco. Special activities were also organised, including a visit to Go-Ape at High Lodge, a space-themed badge night, a night hike which offered opportunities for the Cubs to learn and grow together, and they also completed their Emergency Aid badge levels 1 & 2, while also having fun. Other significant events included a County Cub Day. Some of the older Cubs were also invited to join the Beavers' Christmas camp. Events such as the cinema outing added to the diversity of experiences offered to the Cubs throughout the year.

Scouts (10½ - 14 yrs) attended Emergency Aid training with St John Ambulance, which took them through levels 1 to 5. The troop explored new areas through hikes and enjoyed evening activities like geocaching and building kites. In addition, sessions focusing on skills challenges, including cooking, allowed the scouts to develop practical life skills in a fun environment. The District Scouts Summer Camp at Belchamps provided opportunities for scouts to bond and take part in diverse activities under the British summer sky. Activities such as the Archery and Air Rifle camp, Water Competition Day, and the exciting trip to the Ski Centre not only challenged the scouts physically but also encouraged camaraderie and teamwork.

The year wrapped up with a Family End-of-term Summer Barbecue and Annual Review, providing an occasion for everyone to reflect and celebrate their achievements together.

During the year, the group took pride in presenting three Chief Scout Gold Awards to Scouts, three Chief Scout Silver Awards to Cubs and a 'whopping' sixteen Chief Scout Bronze Awards to Beavers, recognising the hard work and dedication shown by these members. Such achievements reflect the commitment to scouting values and personal development within the group.

A special thank you goes to all the leaders who dedicate their time and effort into 1st Thurston Scout Group. Their guidance has been instrumental in creating an enjoyable and safe environment for the children to thrive. Each leader has contributed significantly to fostering positive experiences for our young members.

As I end this year's report, I also want to express my appreciation to the young members for their spirit and enthusiasm, which makes the sessions enjoyable for everyone involved. A heartfelt thank you goes out to their parents/guardians for their ongoing support and involvement in running the Group, as well as to the behind-the-scenes volunteers who contribute to the group's success. We look forward to another year of adventures and personal growth in Scouting as we continue to explore and learn together

Finally, we are still actively looking for a piece of land within Thurston where we could build our very own scout HQ. This would increase the opportunities that we can offer to our young people and we could look into increasing our membership and maybe even open a Squirrels Drey (4-6-year-olds).

- ix. *Thurston W.I.* - the President of the Thurston W.I. was invited to submit her report in which she mentioned that Aril is the month when members renew their subscriptions so we are currently waiting to see how many members we will have. Hopefully it will be around 45-47. We celebrated our 107th birthday in March with a party for the member. The entertainment was supplied by Home Cooked Blues. We hold events for the village and have regular soup and char lunches from September to March. In August we have a community cream and tea, and 66 people came last year. In June the WI has an outing planned for our members and families and friends to Cambridge Botanical Gardens and a visit to a garden centre. At the end of June it is Thurston WIs turn to host an evening with 5 other local WIs at New Green Community Centre. We have just had West Suffolk Federation Annual Meeting at Thurston Community College. Su Pollard was the main speaker in the afternoon. It will be another busy and fun filled year for Thurston WI.

Thanks were offered by the Chair to those who had taken time to attend and present their reports.

10. To receive comments from members of the public present - the meeting raised the following points alongside requests for action -
- Meadow Lane - management of the verges and ditches - a request was submitted for there to be overall understanding of the lack of maintenance now arising since Cavendish View had been built out. The damage being caused was further compounded by parents / carers parking on the verges when dropping off and collecting school children.
 - New path between Meadow Lane and Ixworth Road - it was evident that damage had been caused by vehicles accessing the footpath - Can there be something done to hinder vehicles travelling further down the lane onto the footpath?
 - Meadow Lane - could traffic calming be considered along Meadow Lane
 - Could an additional dog bin be located further down the lane. *The Clerk to the Council advised that this was already work in progress and discussions were being had with Waste Services at the District Council for suitable locations for a new bin to be site at the bottom.*

- Could a larger dog bin be situated at the top of Meadow Lane – *the Clerk to the Council confirmed that this was also being progressed.*
 - Difficulty to find land for sporting and recreational facilities in the village – the meeting held the previous afternoon should be explored further given that there was now the initiative / opportunity to progress in a coordinated manner. *The Chair of the Council confirmed that the Parish Council would be looking, with strategic partners, to link all parties together and would provide early resourcing to take this matter further.*
 - The plethora of yellow directional signs erected by the developers was, in places, blocking drivers sign of vision – could something be done about them? *The Clerk asked for all such signs to be reported to her and she would progress this matter.*
 - Denbury Homes advertising signs – how long is this allowed to be erected for?
 - Footpath No. 6 – why has the top surface not be erected – glass is evident. *The Clerk explained that, after much email discussion, it had been confirmed that this is the bottom surface and the top surface has still to be installed.*
 - Was there an update on the Primary school rebuild? *No further updates on this were available but the Clerk reminded all that the Parish Council had raised concerns with footpath access to those accessing the school from the south and east of the village; landscaping; loss of open space. A number of other statutory bodies had also raised concerns, and these were being addressed. It was still unclear as to whether this would be a committee decision or delegated officer decision.*
 - Safety barriers on route to school from south of Norton Road – *the Clerk advised that this was actively being discussed with Suffolk County Council Highways and the way forward may be that the Parish Council will seek to progress this matter.*
 - What will happen to the public bottle banks if MSDC are to provide bins for glass recycling at home? *The Clerk advised that, given the current state of the recycling centre, there was a concern that once the bins were removed (sometime during Summer), the area would become a dumping ground with responsibility to clear items deposited resting with the Parish Council / New Green. It was confirmed that on 1st July the centre will be shut. This would be advertised in the next newsletter.*
- It was confirmed that all of the above would be passed to the parish council for further action.

11. As there were no further comments from members of the public in attendance, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.54pm by thanking all for attending.
12. Date of next meeting – to be confirmed but all were made aware that it would need to be between 1st March and 1st June 2025.

Signed Date.....
 Chair of the Parish Council

Appendix A – Fully Funded PCSO for Thurston – Crime Report

CRIME STATISTICS between 1st March 2025 and 1st March 2026:

- Arson / Criminal Damage x 12
- Burglary x 9
- Drugs /possession/related x 10
- Miscellaneous Crime against Society x 6
- Possession of offensive weapon x 4
- Public Order x 13
- Sexual offences x 16 (this includes crimes such as to take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children).
- Violence against a person x 112 (This is covering all assaults including Domestic related incidents).
- Theft x 19
- Vehicle related crimes x 4 (This can include driving offences such as Disqualified from driving).

Please note crime statistics can be adjusted and reclassified and are only correct at the point of research, please contact crime admin team for official records. For an explanation on each crime category please visit www.police.uk

For more information on Crime statistics in your area please visit www.police.uk .

Community Policing Team Covering the area.

Inspector for Stowmarket SNT:

Inspector Connor LYON

Sergeant for Stowmarket SNT:

Temporary Sgt Jamie White.

Police officers for Stowmarket SNT:

PC 202 Kerrie Stephens Named Officer for Thurston and surrounding areas

PC 1107 Chloe Levett Covering Stowmarket.

PC 1026 Laura Shearwood (Maternity Leave)

PC 663 Colin Gedney Covering Mid Suffolk North area.

PC 468 Sievers covering Stowmarket.

PC 1782 Beth Brown Covering Stowmarket.

Link PCSO's for Stowmarket SNT:

PCSO 3098 David Harvey

PCSO 3287 Abigail Durrant (Both David and Abigail assist across all the areas covered by Stowmarket Community Policing team).

Funded PCSO for Thurston

PCSO 3362 Mathew Brown

Please if there are any issues or concerns that need to be raised, please contact 999 in an Emergency or Non-Emergency call 101, or report things on-line via the Suffolk Constabulary Website.

Cptstowmarket@suffolk.police.uk is the Email address that you can make contact by; this will then go to all the team and will be passed onto individual officers that cover the area or to the appropriate resource.

Appendix B - Community Activity at Thurston Library

We currently have these regular activities and meetings in the library:

Weekly

Tuesdays Chat 'n' chill afterschool club

Wednesdays Wordplay: Baby Bounce for 0 - 4-year-olds
Watercolour Art Club

Parish Council Meetings (evenings) (3-5 per month usually)

One to one IT help sessions

Fridays Friday Sewcial - Sewing Group

Saturdays Knitting and Crochet Workshop

Sundays Lego

Creative Writing Group

Fortnightly

Saturdays Ancestry Club

Twice monthly 1st and 3rd Thursdays

Thursdays Bricks and Beyond: an expansion of the Lego Club for Adults

Monthly

Mondays Simply Sing (choir) until 2026

The Last Monday Book Club

Tuesdays The seasonal Baking Club

Wednesdays Thurston Library Book Group

Thursdays U3A Book Club

Variously

Friends of Thurston Library monthly meetings and activities