

Minutes of the Emergency Planning Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17th July 2024 at 6.30pm in Thurston Community Library, Norton Road, Thurston.

In Attendance: Cllrs Rainbow (Chair), Morris, Moy, Bond, West and Smith. Deputy Clerk: Mrs Gladwell. Representatives from Beyton Parish Council, Cllr Harris and Cllr Jones. District Cllr Davies.

1. **OPENING** – Cllr Rainbow opened the meeting advising all that the protocol of reporting at meetings adopted by the Parish Council, would be enacted for this meeting. A copy of the Protocol is available from the Clerk or can be downloaded from the website: [Policies, Procedures and Strategy \(thurstonparishcouncil.uk\)](http://thurstonparishcouncil.uk)
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**
 - a) Council to receive apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Cllr Balaam (substituted by Cllr Smith).
 - b) Council to consent to accept apologies received – The submitted apologies were accepted and approved with aif.
3. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**
 - a) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registerable and non-registerable interests detailed in Appendix B of the LGA Model Code of Conduct in items on the agenda – there were no declarations declared.
 - b) To note the determination of requests for dispensations – none had been received or determined prior to the meeting.
4. **MINUTES – to confirm acceptance of the minutes of the meetings held on:**
 - a) 28th February 2024 – all agreed that the minutes as presented were a true and accurate record of the meetings that took place, aif. The Chair signed the minutes in accordance with legislation.
5. **TO RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:**
 - a) On the agenda under discussion – Beyton Parish Councillor Graham Jones outlined the concerns they have regarding flooding of the road between Beyton and Thurston and the measures they have undertaken to alleviate flooding in their parish. It was noted that the Assets Manager for Suffolk County Council Highways had confirmed that they would clear the length of ditch from Beyton Green to the A14 flyover in the autumn. The A14 culvert was the responsibility of National Highways and had been maintained in 2021 however had now silted up again, National Highways have now confirmed that they will not clear this again until downstream blocking is solved. The length between the A14 and Church Road will be cleared by the landowner once the crop is harvested. The culvert under Church Road is SCC Highways responsibility and no agreement has been forthcoming to clear this. Beyton Parish Council are now seeking financial help from Thurston Parish Council to clear the waterway from the Church Road culvert through to the culvert under Pepper Lane. This length of waterway passes over land at Dream Care Farm (formally Field of Dreams) and a verbal quote has been received by Beyton Parish Council to clear this part of the waterway at a cost of £3050.00. It was noted that should there be a requirement to dig the balancing ponds this would incur additional costs. The landowner of this length of the waterway has agreed that work can be carried out but is not prepared to cover the costs.
Documentation has been forwarded by Beyton Parish Council that shows the results of investigation by Suffolk County Council back in 2014 and the options suggested to mitigate the flooding issues together with two Flood Investigation Reports from 2019. Concerns were expressed that some of these suggested options included notes that the “channel along Thurston Road is not in its natural position” and “channel is deeper here than further downstream” “remove the right angles” and at Pepper Lane “culvert and channel substantially higher than upstream” “negative gradient” “the current network does protect Thurston by holding some flow back”
Although sympathetic to the issues of flooding in Beyton, members had concerns that any work to clear the waterway and increase the flow of water towards Thurston may have a detrimental effect on

Signed.....

Date.....

Thurston residents especially at the low points in Church Road that already experience flooding at high rainfall events. It was suggested that before any commitment can be made to help clear the waterway professional advice would be needed to confirm whether there would be any detrimental effects to others further downstream. Cllr Davies confirmed that he would contact Suffolk County Council Local Lead Flood Authority for advice and help in the hope that now there was a plan to alleviate the flooding they would be able to help with a professional opinion.

Concerns were expressed that the ditch dug alongside the road had diverted the water from its natural channel and floodplain across the field and the lack of any gradient here creates the low point in the road. The suggestion that it was only about spending the money was refuted with the affirmation that it is not about the costs but about ensuring any work done would not have a negative effect elsewhere. It was confirmed that members of the Emergency Planning Committee could not make any recommendation to Full Council regarding financial help until a professional assessment of the risks was obtained.

Thanks were extended to Beyton Parish Council for their attendance and the information they provided.

- b) On any other matters relating to emergency plan matters within the village of Thurston –
None

6. TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR THURSTON:

- a) To consider flooding issues in Thurston following requests from Beyton Parish Council to collaborate on solutions to mitigate future flooding on Beyton Road - It was agreed by all that further consideration was required before any recommendation could be made to Full Council regarding the contribution of funding towards the ditch clearing work in Thurston. It was noted that Cllr Davies would report back on his request to LLFA Manager Matt Hullis for a professional opinion on the work proposed by Beyton Parish Council. Once professional advice was received further consideration would be taken.

It was agreed that contact be made with Pakenham Parish Council to inform them of the information now available regarding proposals to alleviate flooding in Beyton with an offer for them to be involved in any future deliberations.

- b) To review and consider the amendments made to the adopted Emergency Plan for Thurston following advice from Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning - It was noted that the amendments suggested had yet to be finalised into a new draft and further consideration was deferred.

- 7. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT EMERGENCY PLANNING MEETING:** 23rd October 2024 was noted as the next scheduled meeting – time to be confirmed. 21st August 2024 was suggested as an interim meeting tbc.

- 8. CLOSE OF MEETING:** There being no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.23pm.