

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Paper prepared by: Clerk to the Parish Council for Parish Council Meeting: of 7th August 2024

Agenda Item **8b** Council to receive the Clerk's paper recommending a change in the manner in which the Council operates its committees given the number of vacancies currently being held,

Background:

1. With a further resignation Council now has nine (9) serving members out of a possible thirteen (13).
2. With one councillor requesting a four-month sabbatical, council will be down to eight (8) serving members out of a possible thirteen effective November 2024.
3. Standing Committees are long-term committees with ongoing responsibilities concerning the performance of statutory powers and functions of the council and related work.
4. Council currently has three such committees.

Recreation Ground Charity	Cllr. Bryan Rainbow (Chair) Cllr. Liz Bond Cllr. Stephen Gerrish Cllr. Barbara Morris Cllr. Phil Smith Cllr. Julian West
Policy & Resources Committee	Cllr. Christopher Dashper (Chair) Cllr. Graham Balaam Cllr. Liz Bond Cllr. Michael Moy Cllr. Bryan Rainbow Cllr. Julian West
Planning Committee	Cllr. Christopher Dashper (Chair) Cllr. Graham Balaam Cllr. Barbara Morris Cllr. Phil Smith Cllr. Bryan Rainbow Cllr. Julian West

5. Council has a number of committees which have been set up to deal with specific tasks with reporting responsibilities to Full Council.

Emergency Plan Committee	Cllr. Bryan Rainbow Cllr. Liz Bond Cllr. Stephen Gerrish Cllr. Barbara Morris Cllr. Phil Smith Cllr. Julian West
Leisure and Environment Committee	Cllr. Liz Bond Cllr. Stephen Gerrish Cllr. Barbara Morris Cllr. Michael Moy Cllr. Phil Smith

Given that there are only nine members left serving on the Council, and noting that

- this will reduce to eight for four months;
- each committee only has six members;
- the quorum for each committee is five;
- the same two councillors are substitutes for three out of the five committees but sit on all five committees

the following proposal is submitted to Council for its consideration:

- 1. The Recreation Ground Charity Trust Committee remains as a standing committee and retains its full financial powers.**
- 2. The Policy and Resources Committee remains as a standing committee with no change to its terms of reference however it will be bolted onto a meeting of the council on a quarterly basis unless changes in legislation require further reviews and an amendment to the frequency to meet.**
- 3. The length of full Council meetings be no longer than 3.00 hours in length (to finish at 10.00pm latest) with the order of the meeting being as follows:**

**Chairman's Welcome
Apologies for Absence
Declarations of Interest
Approval of Minutes
Reports from County and District Councillors
Comments and/or reports from Members of the Public
Police Matters
Statutory Business
Finance
Reports from Councillors
Business remaining from previous meetings for information only
Clerk's Report including items of correspondence for noting
Items for Future Agenda
Close of Meeting
Date of Next Meeting**

- 4. The Planning Committee be suspended, and all planning matters be considered by full Council until new members have been elected and have received training on planning matters.**
- 5. The planning meeting previously called for the middle of each month now be amended to be a full Council Committees meeting to be no more than 2.5 hours in length (to finish at 9.30pm latest) with the order of the meeting being as follows:**

**Chairman's Welcome
Apologies for Absence
Declarations of Interest
Comments and/or reports from Members of the Public
Planning Matters
Network Rail Matters
Leisure and Environment Matters
Parish Infrastructure and Investment Matters
Emergency Plan Matters (to include flooding)
Items for Future Agenda
Close of Meeting
Date of Next Meeting**

- 6. All councillors will be expected, as the barest minimum, to have viewed the planning slides of the planning webinar as hosted during 2024 by Birketts LLP.**