

## Thurston Parish Council Annual Report 2012/13

28 June 2013

This report summarises the activities of the Thurston Parish Council for the period 6 April 2012 to 5 April 2013. It was presented initially at the Annual Parish Meeting in Thurston on 17 April 2013 and is presented for publication now the annual accounts are completed.

Last year the Thurston Parish Council took the difficult decision to raise the parish precept (the part of the council tax that pays for street lighting, grit bins, bus shelters, seats, recreation grounds maintenance, litter bins in the village) to ensure we covered increases due to inflation. This meant we had to keep the donations we normally give to village organisations to the similar low level to that in 2012, we felt it was the right thing to do under the current economic climate. The Council has 2 bank accounts, one for the general running of its business and one for the Recreation Ground. The annual reconciliations for these accounts are:

	<b>General Account</b>	<b>Recreation Ground Account</b>
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>£64,330.17</b>	<b>£ 722.43</b>
<b>Less unrepresented cheques</b>	£ 346.00	£ 340.47
<b>Plus receipts</b>	£63,984.17	£6309.86
<b>Less payments</b>	£65,489.46	£5755.02
<b>Plus unrepresented cheques</b>	£ 0.00	£ 381.16
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>£63,960.23</b>	<b>£1287.96</b>

Part of the reasons for the over-budget expenditure were due to the legal fees associated with the negotiation of the lease of part of the Recreation Ground with Suffolk County Council for use by Thurston Preschool Ltd and for the upgrading of all the street lights in Thurston to enable individual control and to switch them off in the early hours of the morning when not required.

During the year, two of our Councillors resigned. We would like to thank Sarah Bullen and Lisa Couper for their valuable contributions. In their place we welcomed Robert Alston, Anne O'Connor and Mike Thomas who have fitted in and are contributing well.

Achievements during the year:

Reducing costs associated with the collection of rubbish in the village.

The planning group assessed 44 planning applications for buildings in and around Thurston.

Working with the Thurston Under Fives Group towards their new building on the Recreation Ground.

The Library Group of the Parish Council has done sterling work and is seen as a leader in the area of working on maintaining the excellent library service we enjoy in Thurston.

The Thurston Parish Council achieved Quality Council status in April 2012. This is clear evidence that our Council follows best operational practises where possible.

Our fourth annual village litter pick was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013

We have produced 4 editions of the quarterly Parish Council newsletter – the Thurston Voice which is available in all good locations in and around Thurston.

Looking ahead: we are still finalising all the detail of the lease agreement between ourselves and the Suffolk County Council so the Thurston Preschool Ltd can have their building on the Recreation Ground, we are starting the public consultation and participation of the Thurston Neighbourhood Plan and we are working on upgrading the Thurston Village website.

Grants made during the year include the following :-

New Green Community Trust	£1,000.00
Blackbourne Centre	£200.00
2 ATC Cadets	£100.00
St Peter's Church	£400.00
Suffolk Accident Rescue	£150.00

List of Councillors and phone numbers :

CHAIRMAN, Cllr Stuart Campbell	270456
VICE CHAIRMAN Cllr Christopher Dashper	234424
Cllr Robert Alston	233444
Cllr David Ames	233420
Cllr Richard Fawcett	231363
Cllr Teresa Harvey	231747
Cllr Anne O'Connell	231680
Cllr Bryan Rainbow	231669
Cllr Jannette Service	230763
Cllr Mike Thomas	270191