

Thurlby Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Thurlby Parish Council

(Min 23-07) held on Wednesday the 6th December 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room

Present: **Councillors:** N Bradley, S Broadbent, M Harrison, L Lowe, and A Thomas (presiding)
Residents:
Others: Bernard Champness – Clerk, and District Cllr B Dobson

Open Forum	
There were no members of the public present and there was no Open Forum. The meeting was formally opened at 19.30.	
123.	Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies & noting of resignations received
123.1	Apologies were received from Councillors R Bill (personal) M Keene (work) H Daines (personal) M Owen (work) P Haley, (work) L Day,(work) Resolved that the apologies be accepted. Apologies were also received from County Cllr R Reid,
124.	Declaration of Interest – To receive Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests, as set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and the nature of those interests relating to any Agenda item
124.1	Cllr Broadbent declared a personal interest in Item 128.1 (S23/1922) as the building was at the end of his driveway.
125.	Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 1 November 2023 (Min23.06)
125.1	Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 1 November 2023 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.
126.	To receive a report from the County and District Councillors on matters relating to Thurlby
126.1	County Cllr Robert Reid had sent his apologies, and a report as follows: I wish you all a very happy Christmas, and look forward to supporting you in 2024. I know that you traditionally do not have a meeting in January. My next divisional Highways meeting is 30th Jan I readiness for the February meeting of TPC. The most important news for me to report is on the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution progress that following full council on 1st December, now produces an opportunity for public consultation, which closes on 29/01/2024. I have left some media information with the chairman for him to share with you all this evening. Please look at the documents "Your Views Matter: devolution in Greater Lincolnshire. Means more funding, local decisions, national voice, we therefore recommend devolution in our area. Please participate in the survey www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk or contact 01522 555222.

		<p>We have a new Bishop of Lincoln The Right Reverend Stephen David Conway, his Enthronement was truly magnificent and it was an honour to attend and see our Parish Vicar Carolyn also in attendance.</p> <p>Highway's matters:</p> <p>A15 Puffin crossing - outside 'The Horseshoe' public house. I can confirm that yellow box hatch markings will be considered as part of the works but may be installed post works within a reasonable time frame, to justify the presence of such markings. Further preparation work has started, Will update when received.</p> <p>- A15 - speed reduction TRO (50mph to 40mph) - between Northorpe & Thurlby. FPB 4558015. I have been informed by our Traffic Regulation Order team, that the review of the existing 50mph speed limit between Northorpe and Thurlby on the 28/11/23 - Consultation documents sent out.</p> <p>Crown Lane/Chapel Lane/Park View - Flooding - Job No 5681189 & 5712193 On 22/11/23 - Works listed as complete, awaiting report from contractor. May be a case of referring further works to our dedicated drainage asset team if works required are complex.</p> <p>High Street (adjacent to Obthorpe Lane Junction) - FPB 4557084 On 10/10/23 - Forward Programme Brief was awaiting assessment by Surfacing & Patching team. Noted on brief that works are outstanding following recent resurfacing of other areas. Due to drainage issues, this area was omitted from original works package. Expect drainage issues are now resolved, monitoring over winter now, before escalating works request with appropriate team. Work is programmed for Spring 2024 on our come assessment.</p> <p>FLOODING ISSUES.</p> <p>Owing to the unusually wet time again this autumn, can I ask that the parish Council review their emergency procedures, and liaise with both SKDC and LCC on any updates please.</p> <p>Following tonight's meeting, I look forward to learning of any further actions required.</p> <p>The Clerk explained that he had been in correspondence with Cllr Reid regarding an uncovered drainage manhole at the fen end of Church Street. Mr Wallace had complained in October and the Clerk had written to Cllr Reid then but had not received a reply. Mr Wallace had been in touch again as nothing had ben done and the area was now flooded. Cllr Reid had been advised of this and he promised that he would take this matter up with Highways.</p>
	126.2	<p>District Cllr Dobson had sent a report as follows:</p> <p>It is that time of year again and we can already see the flooding issues returning, but hopefully there have been some improvements over the last few years that will prevent our villages here from flooding during the Christmas break. I have contacted LCC as well as SKDC and Black Sluice which, although not directly responsible for this area, has been requested by SKDC to ensure that the worst areas have structured some relief.</p> <p>It is my belief that a new pipe will be laid to resolve the issues on Crown Lane, but this has not been confirmed. I have a meeting with the Chief Executive of SKDC next week where I will be discussing various proposals for our village including the drainage.</p> <p>Interestingly, we have perhaps now received the new black bins with purple lids for residents to place clean and dry paper products in the bins which will be collected at 4 week intervals. I have currently read an article in Packaging Journal that DEFRA is</p>

		<p>working on a new disposal system which basically does away with bins. This will involve sorting at destination, but it has not been sanctioned yet and further work is being done.</p> <p>I attended a forum the other evening where we discussed the Welfare State and whether or not Britain was doing enough to support. One hopes that some of these suggestions filter through to central government and that they take action. NHS, DEFRA and the like could well do with talking to councils that are at the sharp end of these services.</p> <p>We understand that the coalition party currently in power at SKDC is due to have a change in leader next year. We are not aware who this is going to take over from Cllr Richard Cleaver, but we'll have to wait and see.</p> <p>The decision to build a new waste site where mainly HGVs and administration sit close to the A1. This has now been on the table for three or so years since we purchased the land. This has now been approved with a sum of £9 million to secure the perimeter of the site, build administrative buildings and parking for the refuse trucks, fuel station and personnel car parking. This follows the initiative we took 3 years ago to move the operation out of Grantham's residential area where residents have suffered over the years. Contrary to many people's belief, the collected waste is taken to an LCC depot in the north of Grantham. There will not be any dumping of waste at the new SKDC site. Large capacity trucks then pick up the waste from the LCC site and take it to the respective recycling or energy generation centre where the rubbish is tipped into a furnace to provide electricity to neighbouring buildings.</p> <p>The Mallard Pass Farm planning decision has now completed its round of public consultation and is now with the secretary of state for final approval.</p> <p>Wishing everyone the best for a merry and healthy Christmas and for 2024.</p> <p>Mention was made of the problem with the street lighting along the footpath from Beck Way to Northorpe and who was responsible for it. The Clerk explained that he had been in correspondence with both Cllr Reid and Dobson about this matter. Cllr Dobson explained that it was not a light which the District Council were responsible for, and he had tried hard to find out who was. He suggested we write to either the Housing Association or Larkfleet Homes as they might be responsible.</p>
127.	Clerk's Report and correspondence received	
	127.1	<p>The Clerks Report had been circulated and explained that he had received various emails from NALC, ICCM and various playground equipment providers but if anyone wished to see copies they can be forwarded on.</p> <p>The Clerk wanted to mention 2 emails received both of which related to completing a survey.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greater Lincolnshire devolution consultation launched today and would end on the 29 January 2024 and 2. Have your say on SKDC's draft Animal Licensing Policy which would close on the 3 January 2024. <p>It was considered that these surveys should be dealt with by individuals rather than the Parish Council so copies would be sent to the Councillors</p>
128.	Planning applications:	
	128.1	To consider any Planning Applications received –

		<p>S23/1922 - Proposal: Change of use and alteration of Church Hall (F1) to residential dwelling (C3). at Parish Church Hall, 12 Church Street, Thurlby. Response extended to 7 December 2023. Resolved: that we do not object to the change of use but on the understanding that the dwelling will be in keeping with the surrounding area and other properties and the existing building</p> <p>S23/1978 - Proposal: To extract sand and gravel with restoration to agricultural and nature conservation, import and processing of inert restoration materials, export of recycled aggregate, the creation of new public footpaths, the erection of associated plant and infrastructure and a new/alterd access from the A15. at Thetford House Farm, Baston. Response by 6 December 2023. The Clerk explained that he had been in touch with the Planning Officer to see if he would agree an extension to file a response. He stated that South Kesteven District Council had been contacted as a consultee and he had no powers to grant an extension but had written to LCC to see if they would agree. The Clerk sent the Planning Officer a copy of the letter we had written to LCC objecting to the proposal. The Clerk was informed that if there were any different objections we should let him know. Resolved: that we object with the same reasons given to the County Council. In addition we would comment that having now seen the proposed access/exit road we would say that it is on a large bend on the A15 and potentially a danger to other road users. Highways should be reminded that the Baston Classic Car festival which was on the field where the road will be was stopped because of the concern of the potential danger to other road users. This was a festival last lasted 2 days, but lorries will be entering and exiting onto the A15 every day 5-7 days a week. To overcome this problem, it was suggested that the lorries should enter/exit on the road east of Baston which is at present used by other lorries from other quarries in the area.</p> <p>S23/2133 - Proposal: Demolition of rear flat roof extension and side garage, erection of rear extension, garage and creation of new access at 102 Northorpe, Thurlby. Response by 20 December 2023. Resolved: that we have no comments.</p>
	128.2	<p>To note Planning Applications approved:</p> <p>S23/1695 - Proposal: Proposed demolition of dilapidated carport, erection of new carport, log store, garden store and re-roofing of existing garage at Earl House Farm 59 Northorpe</p> <p>S23/1777 - Proposal: Development for an EVC Hub and associated plant, new bin store and parking and associated works at Petrol Station Milestone Road Bourne</p>
	128.3	To note any Planning Applications refused or withdrawn: none to note
	128.4	To note any Application appealed or any decision made regarding an appeal: none to note
129.		<p>To confirm Expenditure</p> <p>£40.00 – B M Champness (use of home as office)</p> <p>£494.64 – B M Champness (salary)</p> <p>£20.00 – Elaine Reynolds (salary)</p> <p>£44.34 – BT (broadband charges)</p> <p>£232.80 – Bourne Skip Hire (4 bin collection charges)</p> <p>£10.00 – Alan Thomas (refreshments for meeting)</p> <p>£257.00 – Thurlby PCC (insert in Village Link) [] <i>denotes those payments paid between meetings, which have been approved by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Parish Council or at a previous meeting but not listed</i></p>
	129.1	Resolved: that the payments be approved.

	129.2	After the agenda was posted other invoices had been received: £80.00 - C S Harris (clear moss, sweep paths and cut grass) £170.00 – T Sleight (cut grass on The Green, Thurlby crossroads and Northorpe) Resolved: that these payments be approved.
130.	To discuss the accounts for October and November and for the bank reconciliations to be signed as a correct record	
	130.1	The Clerk was able to circulate in advance various reports from Scribe for October and November 2023 which showed the items purchased, money received, and bank balances at the end of the month. The bank reconciliation was circulated, and this was approved and then signed by the Chair
131.	To discuss the proposed salary, increase for the Clerk as suggested by the National Joint Council and for the increase to be backdated to 1 April 2023	
	131.1	Notice had been received that The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has been notified by the Local Government Association (LGA) that it has come to an agreement on the 2023/4 pay offer with the unions representing local government employees. The unions met and agreed to accept the offer. The terms of that agreement include the following: With effect from 1 April 2023, an increase of £1,925 on all NJC pay points 1 and above. This equates to an increase in £1 per hour so on a pro rata basis, the Clerk is earning £12.97 per hour working 11 hours a week so his salary is £7418.84. With the suggested pay rise this takes the hourly pay to £13.97 x 11 x 52 = £7990.84. The monthly increase would be £47.66, and the back pay for 9 months i.e., April – December, is £429 gross. Resolved: that the Clerk be granted the pay award and for it to be backdated to 1 April 2023
132.	To discuss making a donation to The Royal Life Saving Society and how much	
	132.1	Members of the Council had attended a defibrillator training event on the 14 November. This was presented free of charge by the Royal Life Saving Society. At the event they asked for donations and were told that we would bring this to council for a decision. It was resolved that we make a donation of £70.00
133.	To discuss the draft budget for 2024-25 and to set a Precept for that financial year.	
	133.1	The Clerk had circulated in advance the initial budget for the 2024-25 Precept. This document was considered in detail and each item was discussed and either approved or amended. The Clerk explained that the budget report contained information which would be of help to the Councillors when considering the budget for 2024-25. The report contained the actual expenditure for 2022-23 the budget for 2023-24, what we had spent to the end of September 2023 and what the Clerk estimated we would spend up until the end of March 2024. The final figures were the proposed expenditure for 2024-25. Those figures were to be discussed, and each item considered, and any adjustments were either not made or made whether it was by increasing or decreasing the sum set out in the budget. The Clerk had also circulated in advance a quote from C S Harris with the cost of cutting the grass in the cemetery as well as a quote from T Sleight with the cost of cutting the grass verges around the village. Also circulated were the grant requests from Lawrance Park, St Firmins Churchyard, St Firmins for the Village Link and from Odd Uns. The draft budget was gone through item by item and the ones to note were.

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Litter picker would have a pay rise to £12 per hour from 1 April 2024. This was reflected in the salary figures in the budget. 2. We would make a payment of £100 now to Odd Uns and include another £100 in the Precept for next year. 3. We would give a grant of £300 to St Firmins for the Village Link but we would make a concerted effort to reduce the size of the notes to be placed in the Village Link 4. The itemised payments for street furniture to be included under one heading of Street Furniture. 5. We would pay for the grass verges to be cut around the village in addition to the cuts done by both South Kesteven District Council and LCC <p>The total expenditure for the year would be £28743.00 but as we had a surplus we resolved to increase the Precept by 2% to £19992.00</p>
134.	To discuss overgrowth of bushes/shrubs onto the public highway	
	134.1	The Clerk explained that he had still not delivered the letter to the house at the end of High Street. Cllr Thomas said that if the letter was given to him he would deliver it. There was now no need to send a letter to the house in Chapel Lane.
135.	To discuss the proposed 40mph speed limit – Northorpe to Thurlby with response date to LCC by 12 January 2024	
	135.1	A letter had been received from Lincolnshire County Council with the proposal for the stretch of the A15 between Northorpe and Thurlby being reduced from 50 mph to 40 mph. Cllr Reid had already sent his consent to this suggestion in support of the Parish Council. Resolved: that we agree to the proposal,
136.	To receive an update on the crossing at Thurlby crossroads.	
	136.1	There was no other update other than which is included in Cllr Reid's report.
137.	To consider the future of the Youth Hostel in Thurlby	
	137.1	There was no update to give.
138.	To consider the data received from the reactive sign	
	138.1	<p>Cllr Bill had submitted a report of the data received from the reactive sign which is below:</p> <p>During November the radar unit was positioned on Northorpe Lane recording traffic in a northbound direction, i.e. away from The Green.</p> <p>Compared to last year's corrected data the daily, peak AM & PM counts are down up to 20% and very similar to 2021. However, those travelling above the speed limit have slightly increased to 5.94/5.80% for the 5/7-day period but the average speed above the limit is marginally down at 32.86/32.84mph. The average speed of 20mph is similar to last year however the maximum speed of 54mph is a concern but is slightly down from last year.</p> <p>Further details can be found on the Thurlby Parish Website.</p>

139.	To receive an update on the Cemetery to include grass cutting, maintenance and burial fees	
	139.1	The Clerk explained that there was a funeral on 14 December. He had been down to the Cemetery and noticed that the paths needed cleaning as all the leaves had now fallen from the trees and they were also slippery when wet. He had asked Mr Harris to give the paths a clean a day before the funeral, who had agreed to do so.
140.	For any Councillor to produce a written report of any meeting that he/she has attended as representatives of the Parish Council	
	140.1	There was no report from any Councillor
141.	To consider what information should be placed in the Village Link	
	141.1	Cllr Day would compile a report and once completed to send it around for approval of the council.
142.	Members Questions - <i>reminder only questions given to the clerk a week in advance will be answered.</i>	
	142.1	There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 21.24
143.	The date of the next meeting – to be held on Wednesday 7 February 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room, Thurlby	