Thurlby Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Thurlby Parish Council (Min 24-07) held on Wednesday the 4 December 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room

Present: **Councillors:** R Bill, N Bradley, S Broadbent, H Daines, (Presiding), L Day, P Haley, M Keene, and L Lowe,
Residents: Ben Gunner
Others: Bernard Champness – Clerk, County Cllr R Reid, J Brough

	Open Forum	
	Although there was a member of the public present there was no open forum	
	The meeting was formally opened at 19.30	
129.	**Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies & noting of resignations received**	
	129.1	Apologies were received from Cllr A Thomas (personal). **Resolved** that the apologies be accepted. District Cllr B Dobson had sent his apologies
130.	**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	
	130.1	No one declared any Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests on any matter on the agenda.
131.	**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 6 November 2024 (Min24-06)**	
	131.1	**Resolved**: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 6 November 2024 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.
132.	**To Co-opt a Councillor**	
	132.1	An application had been submitted by Ben Gunner which had been circulated in advance. Mr Gunner was present and addressed the council on why he wanted to become a Councillor. The Clerk asked the statutory questions about being an undischarged bankrupt or having a criminal record, He was able to say no to both. After further questions were asked it was **resolved** that he be co-opted onto the council The Clerk asked him to complete and sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was witnessed, and he was then given a Declaration of Pecuniary Interest form which he was asked to complete and return the Clerk within 7 days. He was also given a copy of the Code of conduct, a copy of the Standing orders and Financial Regulations. He was invited to take his seat on the council and to stay until the meeting finished.
133.	**To receive a report from the County and District Councillors on matters relating to Thurlby**	
	133.1	County Cllr R Reid had sent his report as follows: ***Highways.***

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		Albeit that District Councillor Barry Dobson is not with you this evening, we have had a conversation this week about the Pelican Crossing Yellow hatching, and he has offered to help you with supporting evidence for me to put forward to LCC.I look forward to receiving it in due course. He was advised that we had concluded that the zig zag lines by the crossing that extended beyond High Street and Church Street would prevent the hatched yellow lines being put in place. He was not sure that this was a criteria but he would check. Likewise, we made it clear that every crossing from Deeping to Bourne at hatching in place except the crossing at Thurlby. Shallow Hill/Swift way. Has the Parish Counsil as advised by LCC made any decision on whether they are going to financially support this request made by residents in that vicinity Yet? I look forward to learning of any way forward please. We advised him that we did not really want to get involved in paying the County but it would help if he was able to find out the cost and how much of that was expected from the Parish Council. No further updates on A15 Northorpe to Thurlby speed reduction 50/40 mph. I have chained this any awaiting an update. Cllr Reid was asked about the replacement of the damaged illuminated street sign at Northorpe crossroads. He would look into this. He was also asked if the road repairs in High Street were still going ahead in 2025-26. He confirmed that it was, and he thought it was set in stone and would be done. The work would include repairs from The Green to Station Road. Cllr Reid was also asked about the Youth Hostel and he said that there were no new developments but he would keep us informed.
	133.2	District Cllr B Dobson had sent his report as follows: 1. The new Customer Service Centre has been opened at the Picture House in Grantham. The reception area is a much-transformed welcome for visitors where they can register and wait to be called to one of the six consultation desks or in one of the private consultation rooms. 2. Changes in financial burdens on councils announced in the budget will require SKDC to review everything. No announcement has been made yet. 3. Ongoing improvements to the managing of homelessness and other duties such as burial ground maintenance. 4. SKDC will also be setting up new departments, such as a Cost-of-Living Team and a Welfare Team. I will report back on this as it develops. 5. Currently there are still a number of empty homes, despite the rise in Council Tax the longer they are empty. SKDC still has many families and individuals looking for suitable accommodation. SKDC has now set up a Homelessness Emergency Accommodation team. 6. SKDC has written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to reverse the decision on stopping the winter fuel payment for pensioners not in receipt of pension credits. It has been challenged but it now appears that the chancellor is unwilling to reverse her decision. 7. The Council also debated the issue of suicide with 14 lives lost in Lincolnshire this year alone. Less than a third of them showed any signs of their intent. It's perhaps not a huge number, but the motion was introduced at Full Council to make us all aware. Although suicide prevention is within the jurisdiction of the County Council, SKDC is available if help is required.

		8. The Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority is with us. This has now to be given Royal Assent, and an Establishment Order raised. This is expected to be delivered by the end of January. The elections will take place at the same time as LCC elections in May 2025. SKDC, like the other 7 district councils will become non-constituent members. The constituent members will be Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and Northeast Lincolnshire Council. The three constituent members will manage the £720 million that will be available in the coming 30 years to support planning and transport projects, economic development and the improvement of skills and education across the Greater Lincolnshire area. The seven non-constituent members will still have a voice to provide a mechanism for participation. Four of the non-constituent members will be nominated to be members of the MCCA's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Audit Committee. 9. To end on a bright note: Bourne Christmas Fayre is on 7th December from 11am – 6pm. 10. I wish you all a very merry and healthy Christmas and prosperous New Year.
134.	**Clerk's Report and correspondence received**	
	134.1	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. He had received the additional correspondence as follows: The following correspondence/matters were discussed:: 1. An email from Bourne Skip Hire with details of the Christmas collections. They wanted to know if the collection was still required on the 23 December and that they will assume that our collection is to remain as usual. However, if they attend for collection and are unable to gain access without prior notification, then a charge of the normal uplift fee will apply. It was agreed that we would like the collection of the waste bins to be undertaken on the 23 December. 2. One email that had been received was from S Holand about his attendance at the South Kesteven Design Code Workshop held at Bourne Corn Exchange on 27th November. This had been circulated in advance and he had suggested that should councillors wish to return the forms with their preferences and ideas related to Thurlby Parish, he would be pleased to offer to summarise these into a possible update of the existing Design Guidance for the Parish Council to discuss with SKDC Planning and update Thurlby Neighbourhood Plan. Various Councillors would complete their forms and submit them to the clerk who would forward them to Mr Holland. 3. Cambridgeshire SLCC has sent an email saying they wanted to make us aware of the government's consultation on enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings. Parish Councils are encouraged to reply to this consultation. This consultation closes at 11:59pm on 19 December 2024. The Clerk opened the consultation to start completing the same but the council then agreed we would not proceed any further
135.	**Planning applications:**	
	135.1	**To consider any Planning Applications received –** **S24/1800** - Proposal: Proposed erection of boundary fence at Ashfield Dairy, 98 High Street, Thurlby, **Response** extended to 5 December 2024. **Resolved:** that we had no objection to a fence being erected but 1.5.m was too low and 2.5m was too high. To be in keeping with the area we would suggest that the fence is no higher than 2m to be in keeping with the fence in front on the property the other side of High Street on the A15.

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		We would make it clear that the height of the fence must start at the same level as the footpath running beside the side of the house.
	135.1.1	It was considered appropriate that we should report that another planning application had been received **S24/1957** - Submission of details required by condition 6 (tree protection), 7 (sustainable building) and 9 (bat and bird boxes) of S24/0559 (New two storey detached dwelling) at The Barn 25 Crown Lane Thurlby. The Clerk wrote to the Planning Officer Hannah Noutch asking if we needed to comment on this application and she replied as follows "*I can confirm that we do not require the parish to comment on this application."*
	135.2	**To note Planning Applications approved:** there were none to note
	135.3	**To note any Planning Applications refused or withdrawn:** there were none to note
	135.4	**To note any Application appealed or any decision made regarding an appeal:** there were none to note
136.	**To confirm Expenditure** £40.00 – B M Champness (use of home as office) £556.73 – B M Champness (salary) £46.40 – Elaine Reynolds (salary) £244.80 -– Bourne Skip Hire (weekly bin collection charges x 4) £130.00. - Thurlby PCC (insert in Village Link) £49.56 – BT (broadband charges) (DD) £300.00 – St Firmins PCC (grant for Village Link) £1850.00 – T Sleight (grass cutting around village) **[ ]** *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*	
	136.1	**Resolved:** that the payments be approved after the Clerk explained that the correct figure for T Sleight was £1850.00 which included the grass cutting on The Green. It was agreed that we would ask Mr Sleight to invoice us on a quarterly basis rather than just once a year.
137.	**To discuss the accounts for November and for the bank reconciliation to be signed as a correct record**	
	137.1	The Clerk had circulated in advance details of the bank details showing income received and spent in November and a Bank Reconciliation for that month. **Resolved**: that the Chair sign the Bank Reconciliation for November 2024
138.	**To discuss the draft budget for 2025-26 and to set a Precept for that financial year**	
	138.1	The Clerk had prepared a budget/spreadsheet showing the expenditure in 2022/23 the budget for 2023/24, the expenditure for the first 6 months of this financial year and an estimate of the final spend by the end of the financial year. He was then able to show a projected budget for 2025/26.This was circulated in advance and the budget for the 2025-26 financial year was discussed at the meeting. The Clerk was asked to go through the budget item by item so it could be decided if the suggested amounts should be increased or decreased. The following should be noted: 1. The wage for the litter picker to be increased to £13 per hour as from 1 April 2025. This was above the national living wage.

		2. Ian Bratley was trying to cut back on this work on our website and whilst willing to continue to help he could not guarantee how long he would continue wis his support. The Clerk had looked at companies that provided websites for Parish Councils and they stated off at about £950 to set one up. On the other hand Lincs County Council were providing a website free but the Clerk explained that it was very difficult to understand and be able to place documents on. He knew that someone who was able to do the work who was not affiliated with LALC that could do the work. On the LALC website it explains that we could purchase his time and if we wanted 10 hours they would charge £180 and £90 for 5 hours and £54 for 3 hours. The Clerk felt those fees to be realistic and for the first year we would need 10 hours so that the new website could be set up and the data on the existing website transferred across. We also had a problem with email and that fact that we were not using a Gov.UK domain. The Clerk had made enquiries, and it seemed that most Parish Counsil should have a Gov.UK domain. It was more professional and was more secure that other domains and we would be able to control the accounts for Councillors. An application had been made to ascertain the cost but so far he did not have the information but understood there was a grant of £100 available to help. It was agreed we would go ahead with the new website, the use of LALC for support and obtaining a Gov.UK domain 3. We would remain paying T Sleight for cutting the grass verges around the entire village throughout the summer season and for Bourne Skip Hire to empty the 6 waste bins that we owned and were used by dog walkers 4. The budget would show that we were likely to spend £31,000.00 this financial year when we had only precepted for £19,992.00. We were able to spend the reserves that we have set aside for the possibility of having to pay for the crossing at Thurlby. Thankfully we did not have to pay for the crossing. It also seemed likely that we would spend in the next financial year £29,984.00 and we calculated that we would need to ask for almost £27000 for the Precept. We still had some reserves set aside so we could keep the Precept lower that that this year and increase it each year but a reasonable amount. As a result, it was **resolved** that we would increase the Precept by 6% to **£21,191.00**. This would equate to an increase in the payment made by a Band D property by **£25.78** a year. Last year when we precepted £19992 the increase to the Band D payment was **£24.21** per year, a difference of **£1.57** a year for 2025-26
		When the above discussion was finished the time was 10 minutes after the meeting should have finished. It was resolved to continue with the meeting until all items had been dealt with
139.	**To consider and approve any further expenditure for Silhouette Tommys and poppies from the funds we hold and if we should include having some in Obthorpe Lane.**	
	139.1	It was agreed that we would like to purchase two more Tommy silhouettes, one man and one woman in the next financial year. It was also agreed that we would place one of them in Obthorpe Lane.
140.	**To receive an update on the installing of the new noticeboard by the Post Office**	
	140.1	There was no update although the Clerk has written to Dave Collins asking when the noticeboard will be collected from his garage., Hr had replied saying that he could not store the noticeboard as he did not have room. Cllr Keene confirmed he would have the noticeboard put in his garage. Cllr Gunner said that he would collect it and transport it to

		Cllr Keene. Mr Collins was also unable to say when the noticeboard would be erected as he was very, very busy at the moment.
141.	**To consider the future of the Youth Hostel in Thurlby**	
	141.1	There was nothing further to note although the property was still on the market
142.	**To consider the data received from the reactive sign**	
	142.1	Cllr Bill had submitted before the meeting the data he had obtained from the Reactive Sign which was as follows: During November Data was recorded in Northorpe Lane for traffic travelling in a northbound direction. The results would indicate an average 17% decrease in traffic compared to last year. The average daily count is down 132 & 98 vehicles/day on the 5 & 7 day count however the peak counts both AM and PM remain very similar. There is a slight change in the peak PM time to 16.00 -17.00. The average speed has slightly increased to 21.8mph and there is a small increase in the % travelling above the speed limit but their speed remains similar to last year. The maximum speed of 54mph is the same as last year. Thanks to be recorded to Cllr Bill for undertaking this task every month.
143.	**To receive an update on the Cemetery to include grass cutting, maintenance and burial fees**	
	143.1	Cllr Thomas had contacted the Clerk to say he had been to the cemetery, and all seemed to be in order. He had nothing to report.
144.	**For any Councillor to produce a written report of any meeting that he/she has attended as representative of the Parish Council**	
	144.1	No Councillor attended any meetings and there was no report
145.	**To consider what information should be placed in the Village Link**	
	145.1	It was agreed that Cllr Broadbent would draft a report for the Village Link. This would be sent to all for approval before going to print. He was asked not to record in the Village Link that they were the minutes as they were not but simply notes of points of interest which took place at the meeting.
146.	**Members Questions -** *reminder only questions given to the clerk a week in advance will be answered.*	
	146.1	There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 21.50
147.	**The date of the next meeting –** to be held on **Wednesday 5 February 2025** at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room, Thurlby	