Thurlby Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Thurlby Parish Council (Min 24-08) held on Wednesday the 5 February 2025 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, B Gunner, M Keene, L Lowe, and A Thomas
Residents: M Owen, J Stone
Others: Bernard Champness – Clerk,

	Open Forum	
	Mandy Owen was present and wanted to discuss the planning application S24/2201 as she lived at the adjacent property and the right of way was cross her land She then proceeded to give a lengthy explanation of how the property was purchased and the difficulties she had been having with her neighbours. She produced a number of documents which she claimed proved that she was right, and that the planning application should be refused. When asked if the people who owned the listed building were objecting she said that they were not and were in support of the application. This question was asked as in support of her objections she stated that the property could be subject to damage by heavy vehicles passing by the property. She had spent a large sum of money on solicitors and a barrister who she stated supported her claim that the present application was wrong on many levels. She also wanted our support in contacting South Kesteven District Council about her neighbour's daughter and husband living in a caravan next to the Applicants house which was sited on agricultural land without planning permission.	
	Joanne Stone wanted to discuss the possibility of buses coming through the village as at the moment anyone wanting to use the bus had to get to the A15 at either Northorpe or Thurlby which could prove difficult. She explained that all she was doing was to get the support of the council and she would do the work to try and get what she wanted which was for the benefit of others in the village. Cllr Thomas explained that this request has been raised quite a few times during his 30+ years on the council. Each time we had written to Delaines and asked them to support this request but each time they declined. Their reasoning was that they had a tight timetable to keep to and going through the village would almost make each journey impossible to keep to. Likewise, they felt that it would not be profitable to them as they were of the opinion the service would not be used by many. There was also the problem of the cars parked in Northorpe Lane which would almost make it impossible for a bus or coach to get through. It was explained that we would support her claim and we would write to Delaines to see if they would reconsider their decision but she might want to approach Blands to see if they could provide a service through the village and maybe Baston and Langtoft as well.	
	The meeting was formally opened at 20.00	
148.	**Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies & noting of resignations received**	
	148.1	As all Councillors were present no apologies were received.. County Cllr R Reid had sent his apologies as had District Cllr B Dobson
149.	**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	

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	149.1	No one declared any Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests on any matter on the agenda.
150.	**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 4 December 2024 (Min24-07)**	
	150.1	**Resolved**: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 4 December 2024 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.
151.	**To Co-opt a Councillor**	
	151.1	Although the vacancy had been advertised both on the noticeboard and website no one had come forward to be co-opted. It was agreed this matter be dealt with next month
152.	**To receive a report from the County and District Councillors on matters relating to Thurlby**	
	152.1	County Cllr R Reid has sent his apologies and had nothing to report although he had replied to an email from Cllr Dobson regarding the request for a hashed box at the Thurlby crossroads. It was agreed we would not take the matter any further. The Clerk was to ask him if he had heard what it would cost to keep the lights on on Swallow Hill at the junction of Swift Way
	152.2	District Cllr B Dobson had sent his apologies and the following report 1. We have had issues with some properties owned by SKDC where fences have been blown over in the storms. These have now been dealt with although the responsibility of fences is apparently that of the tenant. If you know of anyone with any difficulties, please let me know. 2. Luckily this year, we did not suffer too much with flooding. Some houses in Greatford were flooded for the second year in a row. A lot of this is down to our increased cleaning of culverts and drains. 3. The government has now caused panic for councils. It would seem that within the next two years, SKDC and other district councils in Lincolnshire, as well las LCC and the two Unitary Councils at the northern end of the county will no longer exist. This was a Conservative proposal which has been adopted seemingly completely by the current government. I think it is a very short time period, is overly expensive, unsuitable and comes with a huge amount of work: a. The new councils will be divided up to cover areas with 500,000 people. There is a possible revision on this to reduce the number to 300,000. b. This may reduce as it has to be the boundary commission that sorts this out although many fellow councillors have tried creating boundaries. It isn't easy and the areas could, and probably will, be extremely diverse in nature and character. c. Several of my colleagues have spent hours trying to work this out. Rutland County was so pleased to have its boundary and county back after years of fighting will now more than likely become part of some parts of Lincolnshire, but the numbers still won't add up. I will be pleased to go into this in more detail on Wednesday – if you wish to!! 4. I have also successfully taken a course at 'Level 2 – Mental Health'. This is to help protect individuals who have concerns for their mental environment. I will be working with Don't Lose Hope on any matters that arise, but please do contact me if you know of anyone needing help. 5. I wrote to LCC asking for the zig-zag lines to be replaced with a box junction. Councillor Reid told me that the zig-zag lines are standard procedure. However, all the others are along the stretch of the A15 from Bourne Road to Market Deeping have box junctions making it safer and easier to exit and enter side roads from and to the A15. However, this request has been rejected.

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153.	**Clerk's Report and correspondence received**	
	153.1	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. Two emails had been received one from a firm of Solicitors which related to whether or not the Parish Council were responsible for the shorter fence which goes around the perimeter of the park, attached to the property's fence. (3 Pinfold Close) The other was from the proposed purchaser wanting a map of the village and if there was any general info or publications for residents. 2. A resident had contacted Cllr Thomas about the overgrown hedge at 3 Crown Lane and wished to know if the Parish Council could do anything about it. He was advised to report this under FixMyStreet. He has since done this and it has been acknowledged by Highways. 3. Reference was also made about the emails from S Holland and B Dobson regarding the Local Plan and housing allocations 4. Whilst not correspondence the Clerk explained that the man who was going to put up the new noticeboard by the Post Office was coming on Thursday to measure the noticeboard and remove it from the Clerks garage. It was hoped the noticeboard would soon be in place.
154.	**Planning applications:**	
	154.1	**To consider any Planning Applications received –** **PL/0127/24 -** development: to vary condition 13 of planning permission S20/1351/ackaac to allow the mineral development to commence prior to the widening of King Street. Location: land at King Street, Greatford grid reference: 510254 312712, **Response** extended to 6 February 2025. **Resolved:** we object to the application. We could not see that when the original plan had been approved certain conditions were put in place one being that work would not take place on the quarry until Kind Street had been widened. Nothing had changed and this condition should remain. There was a strong possibility that once work had started there would be little if any incentive to carry out the road widening. We should also mention that King Street was not on the gritting route and that this should be included once work starts, and the road has been widened. Some work had already taken place on parts of King Street, and all this has done is to allow car drivers to drive extremely fast down the road without having to drive in the middle of the road. **S24/2201 -** Change of use of land from agricultural use to mixed agricultural and equine use, and the erection of a new tractor shed to replace a small shelter previously sited on the land. at The Stables 50 High Street Thurlby. **Response** by 10 February 2025, **Resolved:** no comment or objections but we should contact the enforcement officer to say that the matter of the caravan has been brought to out attention and would they check if planning permission had been given **S25/0072** - Proposal: Installation of dropped kerb and driveway.at 90 High Street, Thurlby. **Response** by 13 February 2025. **Resolved:** no comments.
	154.2	**To note Planning Applications approved: S24/1800** - Proposal: Proposed erection of boundary fence Location: 98 High Street Thurlby After the agenda was posted another plan had been approved which is: **S24/1910** - Proposal: Submission of details in relation to Conditions 3 - Sustainable Building Techniques, Condition 4 - Surface and Foul Drainage, Condition 5 - External

		Lighting, Condition 6 - Construction Management Plan and Condition 7 - Hard and Soft Landscaping of Planning Permission S23/2329 Location: Fentons Of Bourne Ltd Kates Bridge
	154.3	**To note any Planning Applications refused or withdrawn:** there were none to note
	154.4	**To note any Application appealed or any decision made regarding an appeal:** there were none to note
155.	**To confirm Expenditure** £40.00 – B M Champness (use of home as office Dec) £556.73 – B M Champness (salary Dec) £46.40 – Elaine Reynolds (salary Dec) £40.00 – B M Champness (use of home as office Jan) £556.73 – B M Champness (salary Jan) £46.40 – Elaine Reynolds (salary Jan) £244.80 -– Bourne Skip Hire (weekly bin collection Dec charges x 4) £244.80 -– Bourne Skip Hire (weekly bin collection Jan charges x 4) £130.00. - Thurlby PCC (insert in Village Link) £49.56 – BT (broadband charges Dec) (DD) £49.56 – BT (broadband charges Jan) (DD) £192.00 – LALC (Annual training fee Pay 1/4/25) £499.06 - LALC (Annual fees pay 1/4/25) £39.90 – B M Champness (black bin liners for BSH) £3.50 – B M Champness (postage) £114.50 – St Firmins PCC (insert in Village Link) £45.00 – C S Harris (general tidy up in Cemetery) **[ ]** *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*	
	155.1	**Resolved:** that the payments be approved.
156.	**To discuss the accounts for December 2024 and January 2025 and for the bank reconciliations to be signed as a correct record**	
	156.1	The Clerk has prepared bank reconciliations for December 2024 and January 2025 which had been circulated in advance. He also sent reports from Scribe showing what money had been spent or received as well as a budget report. **Resolved:** that the bank reconciliations be signed by the Chair as a correct record.
157.	**To discuss whether we approve the payment of £90 to have the new website developed with payment being made on 1 April 2025**	
	157.1	After the December meeting the Clerk contacted LCC about us acquiring a new website through the Council. They very quickly developed a website for us which would have to be completed with council business. The Clerk also asked LALC if they could assist us with putting the data onto the website as we had been informed by them at the last meeting the cost of purchasing hours for their man to do the work. It seemed that LCC had also been discussing the website with them. LALC said that we would need 5 hours to get the website up and running at a cost of £90.00. The Clerk had asked if the work could be done now and for an invoice to be sent after 1 April. They said that this was possible provided we had it in the minutes that we would agree to pay the £90.00 on the 1st of April 2025. **Resolved:** That we get the work started now so the website could go live on 1 April 2025 and that we would pay the fee of £90.00 on the 1 April to LALC.

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158.	**To discuss how we deal with correspondence/emails once we have the new website up and running.**	
	158.1	The Clerk explained that he wanted assistance in knowing what needed to be done when dealing with correspondence, once the new website was up and running. At the moment we dealt with correspondence by having it placed in the clerk's report. This service would not be available with the new website. It was considered that all we needed was a shared drive where all emails received could be sent to and all councillors would have access to them. The Clerk ws asked to see if this was possible when he wrote regarding the matter discussed in Item 157.1
159.	**To discuss whether the date for the meeting scheduled for the 2 April 2025 be changed to 26 March 2025**	
	159.1	The Clerk explained that there was a problem with the meeting set for 2nd April 2025. We had a number of options one being to have the Clerk prepare all the paperwork before the meeting and for a counsellor to act as Clerk for the evening. The other alternative was to have the meeting held either before or after 2nd of April. He had checked if the room was available on the 26 March which it was. **Resolved:** that the meeting set for the 2 April be cancelled and held on the 26 March. The Clerk was asked if we could discuss the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at the next meeting.
160.	**To discuss the distribution of sandbags to residents of Thurlby**	
	160.1	A resident had responded to an article which we placed on Facebook about having sandbags available for residents in the event of possible flooding. A resident had replied asking for a considerable number of bags which was declined as we did not have may bags to distribute. As a result, it was thought that if such requests came in again we should have a plan in place as to how many we would give out to each resident. After discussing the matter we would have an agreement in place that we would only give out sandbags in an emergency and at first limit each person who needed them to five (5) sandbags each. No bags would be given out if requests were made if there was no threat of flooding.
161.	**To discuss the request for a grant from Open Gardens**	
	161.1	The new people who had taken over organising the Open Gardens had approached the Parish Council for a grant. They had not initially asked for a specific sum but then replied saying that the total outlay would be around £300.00 and would be grateful to whatever sum we agreed to pay. **Resolved:** we woud agree to assist them up to the sum of £300 on the basis that they send us the invoices so we could reclaim the VAT
162.	**To discuss the overhanging vegetation by the bus stop at Northorpe**	
	162.1	Cllr Bradley had written to the Clerk advising that she had been approached by a resident asking if there anything we could do to cut back the overhanging bushes by the bus stop at Northorpe (western side) The Clerk had asked her to ascertain if it was the bushes at the back of the bus stop of the bush at the entrance to the driveway. The reason being was that after looking at the problem he thought it was the bust at th entrance. The Clerk had also been in touch with a former councillor asking if he could have a word with the owner to se if she would agree to the buses being cut back. He had replied saying he would but suggested if we were to agree to this request we let

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		him know who was doing the work and when so he could advise the homeowner. **Resolved:** that Tim Sleight be asked to cut back the vegetation around the bus shelter and to let us know when he was going to do the work so we could give the householder notice of the work being done.
163.	**To discuss and if agreed to arrange another FREE Adult CPR and Defibrillator Training - March - May 2025**	
	163.1	We had received notice that another Adult CPR and Defibrillator training was being organised, and the Spring 2025 sessions were between from mid-March and finishing in early May 2025. The Clerk was wondering if we wanted to book another session. **Resolved:** that we write back confirming we would like to book a session but would prefer this to be in May which would allow us time to advertise the event.
164.	**To discuss and complete the National Highways & Transport (NHT) survey**	
	164.1	Cllr Davies at LCC has sent a letter asking if we could complete the National Highways and Transport survey The survey was sent to all Councillors to enable them to set out the answers to the questions which the Clerk would collate and submit to LCC. **Resolved:** that the Chair and Clerk meet to complete the survey on behalf of the Council
165.	**To consider the future of the Youth Hostel in Thurlby**	
	165.1	There was nothing further to note as we had not received any update other than the building had been sold. Now that the property had been sold it was agreed that this item be removed from future agendas
166.	**To consider the data received from the reactive sign**	
	166.1	Cllr Bill had submitted before the meeting the data he had obtained from the Reactive Sign which was as follows: During December the unit was positioned on Swallow Hill recording outbound traffic. The results would indicate a large drop off of 21% of daily traffic compared to last year however, last year's figures did indicate a higher count than the last five year average. It is also possible that the overgrown hedge at the radar location may have affected the signal. Despite the daily reduction in traffic both AM and PM counts remain very similar with no change in the times. The average speed has slightly increased to 27.8mph 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 60mph is down 3mph on last year. During January the unit was positioned in Obthorpe Lane recording inbound traffic. The results would indicate a drop of 11 & 16% in daily traffic for the 5/7 day periods compared to last year. The AM peak time has returned to an expected time of 09.00 to 10.00 however, the peak count is down with more traffic spread over several hours. The M peak count is slightly down but the time remains the same. The average speed has slightly increased to 25.60mph and there is a small increase in the % travelling above the speed limit but their speed is slightly down compared to last year. The maximum speed of 63mph is down 3mph on last year remains similar to last year. The maximum speed of 54mph is the same as last year.

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		Thanks to be recorded to Cllr Bill for undertaking this task every month**.** The Clerk was asked to find out how much new back boards would cost
167.	**To receive an update on the Cemetery to include grass cutting, maintenance and burial fees**	
	167.1	Cllr Thomas said that Chris Harris had been working in the cemetery to tidy it up. The hedge had been cut. In view of the rainy weather some newly dug graves and sunk and needed work to be done to fill in the slippage. He had a word with the grave digger who had agreed to place any excess soil in a pile at the bottom of the cemetery rather than put it in the dyke so it could be used to level the graves
168.	**For any Councillor to produce a written report of any meeting that he/she has attended as representative of the Parish Council**	
	168.1	Cllr Thomas explained that he had attended a recent meeting of Lawrance Park and as a result he had sent a history of Lawrance park to the Clerk which had been circulated. It was agreed that this would be attached to these minutes for prosperity and hopefully would give residents a better understanding of how the park was acquired and the Lawrance Park committee established. There was some discussion regarding the accounts but it was agreed that the proper time for this discussion was when we discussed the Precept on November 2025
169.	**To consider what information should be placed in the Village Link**	
	169.1	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.
170.	**Members Questions -** *reminder only questions given to the clerk a week in advance will be answered.*	
	170.1	There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 21.25
171.	**The date of the next meeting –** to be held on **Wednesday 5 March 2025** at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room, Thurlby	

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