Thurlby Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Thurlby Parish Council (Min 24-10) held on Wednesday the 26 March 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room

Present: **Councillors:** R Bill, N Bradley, H Daines, (Presiding), L Day, M Keene, and A Thomas
Residents:
Others: Bernard Champness – Clerk, District Cllr B Dobson

	Open Forum	
	There were no residents present and the was no open forum. The meeting was formally opened at 19.30	
192.	**Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies & noting of resignations received**	
	192.1	Apologies had been received from S Broadbent, (personal) L Lowe (personal) P Haley (personal) and B Gunner (personal) **Resolved:** that the apologies be accepted. County Cllr Reid had also sent his apologies as he was unable to attend for personal reasons.
193.	**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	
	193.1	No one declared any Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests on any matter on the agenda.
194.	**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 5 March 2025 (Min24-09)**	
	194.1	**Resolved**: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 5 March 2025 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.
195.	**To Co-opt a Councillor**	
	195.1	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 or until the vacancy was filled.
196.	**To receive a report from the County and District Councillors on matters relating to Thurlby**	
	196.1	County Cllr R Reid has sent his apologies but no report
	196.2	District Cllr B Dobson had sent the following report 1. SKDC continues to reduce its amount of carbon emissions with a Climate Change Reserve. The development of the Climate Action Plan is being constantly reviewed, and the Council has committed to accelerating the projects in the coming year: a. SKDC has reduced the dependence on fossil fuels for heating throughout. b. Adapting a low-carbon economy throughout. c. Introducing more low carbon vehicles to its fleet. d. Waste recycling has proven to be very efficient with paper and other recyclable waste increasing throughout the year to date.

		2. In my role as Deputy Leader and portfolio holder for Leisure, as a result of a safety report, I had to close the Deepings Leisure. A local company was set up last year to renovate and reopen the centre, but this has now been abandoned and the building handed over to the school. SKDC has now renewed equipment in its three remaining leisure centres: Grantham, Bourne and Stamford. 3. There have been a number of meetings concerning: a. Local Government Reorganisation in Lincolnshire. There were several options available, and we have had discussions before finally submitting the best one for the residents of SKDC. b. In my opinion, the best option would be to dissolve County Council and let all District Councils to take over and offer a more local point of contact for all. This option is unfortunately not available. c. The government has decreed that each new Unitary Council must have at least 500,000 people on the electoral role. Rural areas where this total number is not achievable will be considered. d. At SKDC we have considered all options and arrived at what we believe would be the best manageable option for us. He was able to share the information and the 3 options available. It was understood that South Kesteven District Council would remain in existence for the next three years at least.
197.	**Clerk's Report and correspondence received**	
	197.1	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 our MP Alicia Kearns stating that she will be holding a public meeting this Thursday to update residents of South Kesteven on the latest proposals for Local Council Re-Organisation. Details are Thursday 27th March: 5.30 - 7pm at the Stamford Arts Centre 2. Notice has been received from the External Auditors regarding the Audit of the 2024-25 accounts. They explain the following: Please note that our default submission deadline for the receipt of the approved AGAR and supporting documentation or the Certificate of Exemption (as appropriate) is **Tuesday 1 July 2025.** Non-submission by this date will lead to chargeable chaser letters being issued (£40 plus VAT for all financially active smaller authorities). Advertising the audit will commence on the 3 June 2025 until 14 July 2025
198.	**Planning applications:**	
	198.1	**To consider any Planning Applications received –**: **S25/0283** - Proposal: Conversion of agricultural buildings to provide 8.no dwellings at Fen Road, Northorpe Fen, Bourne. This is an application for Prior Approval of siting and design only. The Prior Approval arrangements do not impose full planning controls over the development, and we have until 27th March 2025 to respond. **Resolved:** that we would make the following comments: • The barns are a modern steel framed building which are being converted into residential dwellings • The buildings are in the open countryside and close to Car Dyke • The road to the buildings is insufficient as it is a single-track road in poor condition, Cars will have to cross over a small, old bridge. With 8 new dwellings the amount of traffic on this unsuitable road could be increased by 16 extra cars.

		• The school in the village is already full and would not be able to take extra pupils. • Sewerage is likely to be a problem as the present system is at full capacity between Northorpe and Bourne. • At this stage we would also mention Sec 106 money. In addition, where is the nearest open play area in the vicinity?
	198.2	**To note Planning Applications approved: S25/0072** - Installation of dropped kerb and driveway at 90 High Street Thurlby.
	198.3	**To note any Planning Applications refused or withdrawn:** After the agenda was posted notice of a **refusal** was received as follows: **S25/0031 LCC Ref. No. PL/0127/24** Particulars and location of development: To vary condition 13 of planning permission S20/1351 to allow the mineral development to commence but restricting the exportation of any minerals from the site until works have been carried out to widen King Street, Greatford at Land at King Street, Greatford.
	198.4	**To note any Application appealed or any decision made regarding an appeal:** there were none to note
199.	**To confirm Expenditure** £49.56 – BT (broadband charges) (DD) £114.50 - Thurlby PCC (insert in Village Link) £216.00 – LALC (Fees for work on new website payable after 1 April 2025) **[ ]** *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*	
	199.1	**Resolved:** that the payments be approved with the payments to Thurlby PCC and LALC payable after 1 April 2025
	199.2	After the agenda was posted two other invoices were received which were as follows: £48.50 - St Firmins Church (green bin sticker) £ 65.00 – C S Harris (cut grass in cemetery) **Resolved:** that these be paid but the green bin sticker to be paid after 1 April 2025
	199.3	Whilst talking about financial matters the Clerk wanted to discuss the present insurance cover we had. He went through the Asset Register in the Insurance document and wanted to know if we needed to increase the cover. It was agreed we would have the new noticeboard at the Post Office value increased to reflect the price we just paid for it. The Clerk also explained that the budget we had prepared in November 2023was accurate in that we were very close to having the money carried forward at the end of the year as we budgeted for. We would be even closer if HMRC had refunded the VAT he had submitted in February, and which had not as yet been dealt with.
200.	**To discuss and nominate a recipient for the Lawrance Park Cup**	
	200.1	The Clerk had received the form to complete, for a recipient for the Lawrance Park Cup 2025. After considering who to nominate it was **resolved** that the nomination would be the Planter Team for the work that they do in maintaining and looking after the tubs and planters around the village which are an asset to the look of the village
201.	**To discuss the draft public rights of way improvement plan**	

	201.1	An email has been received about the draft public rights of way, and which had been circulated in advance. It was agreed that the Clerk together with the Chair Cllr Daines complete the survey.
202.	**To discuss the change of email address to a Gov.Uk domain and the cost of doing so**	
	202.1	Following the last meeting the Clerk had been in touch with the company who was assisting him which obtaining a gov.uk domain and email address. A reply had been received and circulated. The Clerk then sent another email with further questions, and this had been replied to and circulated. The various emails were discussed, and consideration was given whether we wanted to accept the proposal that were being put forward.. It was though that the package was meant for much larger councils than ours and the cost was disproportionate. It was **resolved** that we would not upgrade to 365 Premium, and we would not have each councillor given a new email address using the gov.uk domain. We would not pay for an administrative fee, but we would want to get the licence for the new domain name which the Clerk would have for the council email address.
203.	**To receive an update on the Cemetery to include grass cutting, maintenance and burial fees**	
	203.1	Cllr Thomas said that the grass had been cut, and the paths swept. He had also removed Christmas Wreaths from graves. The Clerk reported that the green bin sticker had been ordered by the Church and there was going to be a funeral on the 8 April 2025.
204.	**For any Councillor to produce a written report of any meeting that he/she has attended as representative of the Parish Council**	
	204.1	Cllr Bill was able to report the following Councillor Richard Bill attended the Annual Meeting for the Thurlby Causeway Estate Charity on 18th March 2025. The main items discussed were approval of the previous meeting (10/09/24) minutes and the audited accounts for year ending 31/12/24, the appointment of chair and vice chair and the acting Feoffee for 2025. The condition of a property in Church Street was also discussed at length. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 16 September 2025 following property inspections
	204.2	Cllr Thomas was able to report his attendance at a Lawrance Park meeting. He reported that the lights in the social room and surrounding area would be changed to LED's. The installation of the new playground equipment would commence on 31 March 2025. The car park at Lawrance Park is being lined for parking bays. The committee would be looking for a new chair as the present chair would be moving from the village
205.	**To consider what information should be placed in the Village Link**	
	205.1	It was agreed that the Clerk would draft a report for the Village Link. This would be sent to all for approval before going to print.
206.	**Members Questions -** *reminder only questions given to the clerk a week in advance will be answered.*	
	206.1	There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 20.45

207.	**The date of the next meeting** – to be held on **Wednesday 7 May 2025** at 8.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room, Thurlby following the Annual Parish Meeting

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