Thurlby Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Thurlby Parish Council (Min 24-09) held on Wednesday the 5 March 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room

Present: **Councillors:** R Bill, N Bradley, H Daines, (Presiding), P Haley, B Gunner, M Keene, and A Thomas
Residents: E Lunn, C Walker and A Walker
Others: Bernard Champness – Clerk, District Cllr B Dobson

	Open Forum	
	E Lunn, C Walker and A Walker were present to talk about the problems they have been having with their neighbour. They had put in a planning application which was discussed at the last meeting. Their neighbour has objected to the application. On the South Kesteven District Council website there were 5 objections all sent from the same address. It appears they are all related to each other, but some do not live there. They complained about their neighbour's behaviour. They were asked what they wanted to council to do, and they accepted that there was not really anything that could be done.	
	The meeting was formally opened at 19.44	
172.	**Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies & noting of resignations received**	
	172.1	Apologies had been received from S Broadbent, (personal) L Lowe (personal) L Day (personal) **Resolved:** that the apologies be accepted. The Clerk asked Councillors to let him know the reason why the apologies were given as without this information the apologies could/would not be accepted.
173.	**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	
	173.1	No one declared any Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests on any matter on the agenda.
174.	**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 5 February 2025 (Min24-08)**	
	174.1	**Resolved**: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 5 February 2025 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.
175.	**To Co-opt a Councillor**	
	175.1	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
176.	**To receive a report from the County and District Councillors on matters relating to Thurlby**	
	176.1	County Cllr R Reid has sent his apologies but no report
	176.2	District Cllr B Dobson had sent the following report

		1. Fix My Street is now available through the SKDC portal. That is we can now report issues from street lights to fly tipping. This has proven to a much shorter response time. This will save you having to find me to action the resolution to the problem and get a much faster response from our SK team of that of the County Council. But please do contact me on 07855 309615 should you have any issues with the system. 2. I have been nominated as member to work in cooperation with the Rural Services Network which acts as a champion for rural services. They aim to influence decision makers and Parliamentarians to ensure that they understand the needs of rural communities. Currently, they are examining the huge disparities in Government funding per head between rural and urban councils. One of the items that they are now looking at is, of course, devolution. 3. Drains appear to be receiving more attention this year with drain clearance vehicles making regular trips through the villages. 4. Still no sensible reply from the County Council other than our LCC representative says that the zig-zag lines are standard. I did ask why the other three crossings on the A15 between the two roundabouts (Bourne South and Deepings) have box junctions; to which I received no reply. I have already noticed that some drivers on the A15 appear to appreciate the problem of vehicles exits from and to Church Street and High Street. I will continue to put pressure on Highways. With the election for LCC councillors and the Lincolnshire Mayor, I am hopeful that in the long-term at least we may get this changed. 5. Our Street Scene team has been working additional shifts, cleaning the rubbish on the A1. I know this isn't our particular issue, but I thought because of the unsocial hours they are working and the danger involved that it is worth noting. 6. SKDC are also trying to stimulate the markets in Bourne but there is little room for expansion. 7. Green waste collections have been extremely annoying for some residents where particularly Northorpe Lane has been collected a week later/before the rest of the village. I requested our green waste to be collected on the same day for the entire village. The issue resulted in some residents putting their bins out for collection where it was easiest for them. These were not collected because the address for that bin was on a different road and those bins were not collected. Instead, residents had to wheel the heavy bins out an fairly long way and to a position which in some cases blocked the footpath. This has now been resolved but I have now triggered a complete revamp of routes which I hope will be resolved before the end of this month. We will be updated on the new route plans soon. 8. There are some increases on the first green bin of £2 bringing this up to £53 for the year. All subsequent bins will also increase by £2 bringing this up to £44 per bin. a. Bulk waste collections remain the same to try and stop fly-tipping. b. Building Control has been delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and s151 officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning. c. Other discretionary charges will be in line with inflation. 9. The devolution scheme has affected SKDC on many counts and has limited the Council to zero increase in the General Fund support for local projects which is disappointing. I did attend a meeting in Stamford on possible grants for causes in SKDC. These can come from SKDC through the General Fund and also from other organisations, including the National Lottery. I am on the UKSPF board and I would be pleased to help any group based in Dole Wood Ward with an idea they have where funding would be of considerable help. 10. The appointment of Lead Member for Armed Services went to a vote. Two people stood for election which was won by Cllr Bridget Ley. This is at no extra cost. 11. Now that the election for County Council has been announced to run on 1st May, I have decided to take advantage of the fact that the seat for Bourne South and Thurlby will not be contested by the current incumbent and have, therefore, decided to contest the seat. I am strictly against our area being part of a huge Unitary Authority of a minimum

		of 500,000 residents. If we include NE and NW Lincolnshire authorities, we do have 1 million, but how to divide this? Services will become more remote, and the costs will be vast with new office buildings and chambers. The costs have not been calculated. Rutland will be unable with their 45,000 inhabitants to form a unitary authority and look to us in SKDC to join with them. Considering their fight to become a single authority, ie not associated with Leicestershire and this just 20 years or so ago, seems heartbreaking for them. My fellow councillors at SKDC are discussing this and we hope to be able to come to a better, more efficient and locally accessible authority. We will, as we do now, work with other districts. The current LCC group would like to be the authority for the whole of Lincolnshire. I have suggested that we do away with the County Council and let existing district councils, albeit combined authorities, cover all aspects. It would be cheaper, better organised and easier to get results. A question was asked about the land at the bottom of Lawrance Park being used as a car park Cllr Thomas had written on the 21 January but has not has a reply and he wanted to know if Cllr Dobson had an update. He said that he would chase this up on the hope an agreement could be reached. .
177.	**Clerk's Report and correspondence received**	
	177.1	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 Save a Life Sessions saying that we had been allocated a date for 20 May 2025. Timing for the session was for the room to be available 18:00 – 18:30hrs for set up and 18:30 – (approx.) 21:00hrs for the session. It was agreed this event would again be advertised on Facebook and in the Village Link 2. A letter had been received from Lincolnshire County Council regarding the application 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 explaining that planning application will be reported to the Planning and Regulation Committee on Monday 10 March 2025. The meeting will be held at County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL and is due to commence at 10:30am. 3. An email had been received from South Kesteven District Council about the purchase of sandbags and aqua bags. We did not need to purchase any, but we would advertise the offer and ask if anyone wanted us to place an order we could on the basis that they paid us back what we paid. 4. The bushes by the bus shelter at Northorpe were cut back on Monday 3 March
178.	**Planning applications:**	
	178.1	**To consider any Planning Applications received –** none to note at the time the agenda was posted but since then an application had been 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 25th March 2025 to respond. **Resolved:** That the clerk would try and get the rime for us to respond to the 27 March so we could deal with this at the next meeting.
	178.2	**To note Planning Applications approved:** none to note.

	178.3	**To note any Planning Applications refused or withdrawn:** there were none to note
	178.4	**To note any Application appealed or any decision made regarding an appeal:** there were none to note
179.	**To confirm Expenditure** £40.00 – B M Champness (use of home as office) £556.73 – B M Champness (salary) £46.60 – Elaine Reynolds (salary) £40.00 – B M Champness (use of home as office March) £556.73 – B M Champness (salary March) £46.40 – Elaine Reynolds (salary March) £244.80 -– Bourne Skip Hire (weekly bin collection Feb charges x 4) £244.80 -– Bourne Skip Hire (weekly bin collection Mar charges x 4) £114.50 - Thurlby PCC (insert in Village Link) £49.56 – BT (broadband charges) (DD) £65.00 – D Collins (fee to remove old and put up new noticeboard) £80.00 – T Hill (clean bus shelters) £414.72 – Scribe (Annual Account package fee payable after 1 April) £216.00 – Scribe (Annual Cemetery package fee payable after 1 April) £180.00 – DT Accountancy (payroll charges Oct – Mar) £452.00 – HMRC (PAYE) **[ ]** *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*	
	179.1	**Resolved:** that the payments be approved. Although the March payments for wages and HMRC were approved the actual payments would not be paid until late March
	179.2	Following on from the agenda being posted another invoice had been received. It was from D Collins £40.00 -for the purchase and applying the paint on the noticeboard legs It was **resolved** that this payment be approved as well
180.	**To discuss the accounts for February 2025 and for the bank reconciliation to be signed as a correct record**	
	156.1	The Clerk has prepared bank reconciliations for February 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.
181.	**To agree a date for the Annual Parish meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and who to invite to give a report**	
	181.1	It was explained that we had to fix a date for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Some years ago, we had these meetings on different days but recently we held them on the same evening. **Resolved:** that we hold both meetings on the same evening 7 May 2025 to be held in the Social Room of Lawrance Park. The Annual Parish Meeting would start at 7 p.m and finish by 8.15 pm with refreshments. We would invite the County and District Councillor, the Vicar of St Firmins Church, the organisers of the Open Gardens, Lawrance Park and the Minister of the Methodist Chapel, The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would start at 8.30 p.m and we would try and finish at 9.30

182.	**To agree a diary of council meetings for 2025-26**	
	182.1	A calendar of dates was agreed each year so this information can be placed on the website. It was agreed that we would continue to meet on the first Monday of each month except January and August. The dates would be: 7 May 2025 4 June 2025, 2 July 2025 20 August 2025 1 October 2025 29 October 2025 3 December 2025, 4 February 2026 4 March 2026 and 1 April 2026
183.	**To discuss the purchase of a new laptop and who to purchase it from**	
	159.1	The Clerk explained that we had agreed to purchase a new laptop which would be done after 1 April 2025. He could get a laptop from the computer shop in Bourne. Whilst he would be able to get help and support they were not VAT registered so this could not be reclaimed. Cllr Gunner said that he used ACR Computers in Stamford who were very competitive and would be able to offer help and guidance. The Clerk would contact them
184.	**To discuss the change of email address to a Gov.Uk domain**	
	184.1	The Clerk had asked many questions of a company who would help us obtain the domain of a gov.uk email. All the correspondence had been circulated. It was agreed that we should get the domain and for the Clerk to have for the council a gov,uk email . There were some questions that needed to be asked: 1, Why was it necessary to upgrade to a Premium licence as we had with our present licence all of the software such as Word, Excel, etc. 2. If we had to purchase a licence for 11 Councillors as well how much would that cost? 3. If we just had the domain name and a gov.uk for just the Clerk and they administered this for us what would their fees be?
185.	**To discuss the transfer to a new website and how and when we notify residents.**	
	185.1	The man assigned to preparing the new website had done so and the link to the site was submitted to all Councillors to consider. It was agreed that it looked good and was well laid out. The Clerk was asked to remove the councillors email addresses and to change Cllr Gunner name to Ben. The was also to ask that it is shown Cllr Daines was the Chair and Cllr Broadbent the Vice Chair. We would start to tell people of the new website which becomes live on 1 April 2025 and this should be placed in the Village Link. The Clerk would also ask Ian Bratley if it was possible to put a note of the existing website that we would have the new website and to see if that whilst we would not use that website after 1 April he could keep the website live for a few months.
186.	**To consider the data received from the reactive sign**	

	186.1	Cllr Bill had submitted before the meeting the data he had obtained from the Reactive Sign which was as follows: During February the traffic radar unit was positioned in Northorpe recording traffic in a westbound direction from 30/01/25 to 27/02/25. The results would indicate a drop of 16 & 15% in daily traffic for the 5/7 day periods compared to September last year although the peak counts both AM & PM remain very similar. The peak times are as expected - 08.00 - 09.00 & 15.00 -16.00. The average speed has slightly increased to 26.50mph and there is a small increase in the % travelling above the speed limit and their speed. The maximum speed of 63mph (@ 04.20hrs) is down 6mph on the last result. Further details can be found on the Thurlby Parish council website. 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
187.	**To receive an update on the Cemetery to include grass cutting, maintenance and burial fees**	
	187.1	Cllr Thomas said that the cemetery was looking very tidy, and he showed Councillors photographs he had taken. He also said that the eastern side was almost full, but we still had many available plots on the west side. The Clerk was asked to remind Mary Trumble about the green bin for the cemetery.
188.	**For any Councillor to produce a written report of any meeting that he/she has attended as representative of the Parish Council**	
	188.1	No Councillor had attended any meetings so here were no reports.
189.	**To consider what information should be placed in the Village Link**	
	190.1	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.
190.	**Members Questions -** *reminder only questions given to the clerk a week in advance will be answered.*	
	190.1	Cllr Gunner said that he had noticed that a drain on Northorpe near Elsea Drive was blocked. He also noticed that the tarmac around the edge had started to fall off. He notified the Council who came out and painted a yellow line around the damage but nothing else. He was disappointed with the response. There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 21.11
191.	**The date of the next meeting** – to be held on **Wednesday 26 March 2025** at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room, Thurlby	

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