

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 1 May 2024 at 7.00 p.m. in Lawrance Park Social Room, Thurlby

Present:

Councillors: R Bill, N Bradley, S Broadbent, H Daines, L Day, M Keene, L Lowe, M Owen, and A Thomas (presiding)

Residents: see attached list

Others: B M Champness (clerk). County Cllr Reid, District Cllr B Dobson

	Councillor Thomas welcomed 9 Parishioners, 9 Parish Councillors, County Cllr Reid, and District Cllr Dobson who together with the Clerk who was in attendance totalled 21
1	Apologies for absence.
1.1	Apologies were received from Cllrs Haley and Harrison
2	Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 10 May 2023
2.1	Resolved: The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 10 May 2023 as circulated be signed by the Chair as a correct record
3	To receive the report of the Past Years Activities from the Chairman of Thurlby Parish Council.
3.1	The Chairman, Cllr Thomas read a full and detailed report of the Parish Council's activities over the past 12 months. A copy of that report is attached. There were a number of questions about the minutes from last year's meeting and in particular Para 3. Each point in that paragraph was answered where possible but not if it did not involve the Council or have control over.
4	To receive the annual report of Thurlby Parish Council's Responsible Financial Officer
4.1	The Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer Mr B Champness gave a report on the Parish Council's finances and handed out a copy of a spreadsheet showing what money was received and spent during the year, a copy of which is attached. Robert Rose asked if something like the report could go into the Village Link.
5.	Reports from various organisations within the Village of their activities for the last year
5.1	Rev C Bailey representing St Firmin's Church gave a report on the activities of St Firmens Church a copy of which is attached.
5.2	Colin Murrant Treasurer from the Lawrance Park Community Association gave a report of the activities of Lawrance Park over the last year. A copy of that report is attached.
5.3	County Councillor Robert Reid gave a report on the activities of the County Council which was verbal rather than written. He explained: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Youth Hostel was up for sale and some interest had been shown in the purchase. 2. Flooding continued to be a problem, but he was working hard on behalf of the village to get the matter resolved. The underground culverts had been jet washed and were now clear

		<p>3. He would like to thank the Rev Carolyn Bailey for her help and support throughout last year in his capacity of Leader of the Council.</p> <p>4. He would not be standing in the election next year, but he would continue until that time to support the Village.</p> <p>A number of questions were put to Cllr Reid about the prospect of a Mayor of Lincoln, and the boundary changes regarding the MP. He was supportive of a mayor and devolution and that the next MP was going to be from Rutland as we were now within that constitutional boundary.</p>
	5.4	District Cllr Barry Dobson gave his report of the activities of South Kesteven District Council during the last year as well as updating the meeting with what was happening now. A copy of this report is attached. He answered questions on the change of leadership of the council, the Deeping Leisure centre and the Local Plan.
		The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and hoped they found the meeting interesting. There being no further business the meeting was formally closed at 20.06
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5.2		Colin Muntant Treasurer from the Lawrence Park Community Association gave a report of the activities of Lawrence Park over the last year. A copy of that report is attached.
5.3		County Councillor Robert Reid gave a report on the activities of the County Council which was verbal rather than written. He explained: <p>1. The Youth Hostel was up for sale and some interest had been shown in the purchase.</p> <p>2. Flooding continued to be a problem, but he was working hard on behalf of the village to get the matter resolved. The underground culverts had been jet washed and were now clear</p>

Chairman's Report at the Annual Parish Meeting, 1 May 2024

I am Alan Thomas, and I am Chair of the Parish Council.. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the Councillors for their help and support throughout the year.

Thank you for coming here tonight and I hope you ask questions on any matter that we dealt with over the last year.

We held 10 ordinary meetings during the year and did not have to call any special meetings to deal with planning applications.

Talking of planning matters it seems that people have been commenting locally and on social media that we are suddenly going to have two sites in the village where development is going to take place. No one has contacted the Council about this matter. We have had this matter on the agenda when only one resident attended with comments of concern. So let me explain. South Kesteven District Council are in the process of preparing a Local Plan for South Kesteven allocating houses in the area between 2026 and 2041. They have highlighted 2 sites in the village for potential development. We, as a Parish Council have discussed this Plan and have made certain comments and objections to both sites when the infrastructure is in such a poor state. Both sites are prone to flooding and vehicle access to and from the sites will either be in High Street or Obthorpe Lane.

Our council meetings are generally held on the first Wednesday of the month with the exception of January and August when we take a break unless a special meeting is called for urgent matters that call for our immediate consideration, such as planning permissions. Any member of the public can attend our meetings and there is an open forum of fifteen minutes duration prior to the council session. Last year we had people taking an active part in voicing their concerns about items ranging from sewerage, flooding, the crossing at Thurlby crossroads through to planning permissions.

Our County Councillor Robert Reid has again been very proactive on our behalf and is talking with the Highways Manager to try and speed matters along but sadly it all takes time. With his help we have at last been told that there will be a crossing at the crossroads on the A15 in Thurlby. This has taken over 10 years to achieve. In addition, District Councillor Barry Dobson has also been very proactive with his support on many matters we have to deal with through South Kesteven District Council..

This year we are pleased to have been able to support and help the Coronation Fun Day. This was a great success, and we would like to thank Cllr Lisa Lowe and her committee for arranging and organising the event. With the money raised we have been able to purchase 6 Tommy silhouettes which were on display on Remembrance Sunday.

We have learnt that the Youth Hostel in High Street is up for sale although we have an assurance that the gardens will be looked after until the sale as will the property.

The litter bins around the village that South Kesteven District Council will not collect and empty as they belong to us have been emptied by the litter picker that we employ. Unfortunately, the bags are very heavy as thankfully they are being used by dog owners, but the litter picker has decided she cannot continue with that task. As a result, as we could not find anyone to take over this task we have had to employ Bourne Skip Hire to do the work. This is costing us more but between the litter picker and Bourne Skip Hire the village is being kept clean and tidy.

We are still concerned about the speed of vehicles both cars and lorries passing through the village. Every month Cllr Richard Bill collects data from the reactive sign which he places around the village at different locations throughout the year. The data is reported to the Council and details are placed on our website.

The Christmas tree was up and shining brightly. We hope it gives everyone a welcome as they approach the heart of the village during December.

I would like to record my thanks to all my fellow Councillors for giving up their time and attending the meetings during the year. I would also like to thank our Clerk for his help and support.

Alan Thomas

INCUMBENT'S REPORT

REV. CAROLYN BAILEY

St Firmins has been a part of village life for centuries and although it is on the edge of the village it is a privilege to minister in a church where so many of our local families have celebrated significant events there whether joyful or sorrowful.

This year has been a year of ups and downs, but then perhaps every year is like that. Last Christmas felt like the first time we had celebrated that wonderful festival in the way we had before Covid with more people coming through our doors. This is only possible because of the small but generous group of people who have supported the church in helping in so many ways, through giving time and gifts, in running our many activities that have encouraged others to see this church as a place to be on any day, not only Sundays.

The numbers of people who have been coming through our doors has increased hugely due to the success of our community events such as the Refresh and Repair cafes. This has been recognised with the group running the Refresh Café receiving the Lawrence Park Cup. These events have pulled people into our church family while providing support and community to many. I feel really encouraged because this is what being church is about.

Last year I wrote that it had been a difficult year because of the war in the Ukraine and it is so sad that this war has now been raging for two years with no sign that it will come to an end anytime in the near future. Again, the church and this community have been proactive and have supported Richard Astle in his efforts to provide supplies to the communities in the Ukraine. Thank you for all who have donated, collated, packed and loaded our many donations onto the vans heading off to the Ukraine border.

The group has had celebrations with weddings and baptisms and it was lovely to have such a great Easter celebration with people coming into our churches to celebrate the resurrection after a lovely holy week where each service had been attended by a small number of people but again more than last year.

During this year we had Rev Michael Howard retire, which has had a large impact on the ministry team and on the LMP ministry team. We have valued his wise and gentle ministry, and also his leadership as our Rural Dean, but we are hopeful that when his six months of rest and reflection are up, he will participate again in the ministry of the Ness Group under the Bishops' Permission to Officiate (PTO) license. We do continue to give thanks for the ministry of Rev Mostyn Davis who continues to support me and the parish with his ministry.

I continue to be thankful for all the ministry team, lay and ordained, who offer a diverse and rich ministry across all our churches and demonstrate to others that working as a team enriches all our experiences and supports the ministers on a day

to day basis. The ministry team would not be able to minister without the people who sit on our PCC', or do the many unseen roles, cleaning, changing and washing linens, flowers, cake and soup makers, safeguarding, unlocking and locking, bell ringing to name but a few. I would like to thank all of them for what they do, because while the saying goes, 'It takes a village to raise a child', it takes quite a lot in the village to be a church.

LMP: Local Mission Partnership

Ministry in Lincolnshire has changed and there are no longer the traditional parish priests but a group of ministers who work within a Local Mission Partnership.

Our LMP includes the parishes of Market Deeping, Deeping St James, Deeping St Nicholas, the Ness Group and Crowland. The LMP is becoming well established and the church members are getting to know each other better and are beginning to work in creative ways across the LMP.

While there have been a lot of positives, with us becoming more familiar with members of the churches in our partnership, that doesn't mean it has been without challenges.

Mission and Outreach

I am so proud of how much our group have done and especially in supporting mission and outreach here in Thurlby and beyond.

If you are wondering what that may be then let me just give you a taste. We support MAF the Mission Aviation Fellowship, a huge organisation bringing mission and faith to inaccessible parts of our world.

We have supported children in Third World countries through our sponsorship scheme.

I am sure you are saying that we have been doing this for years and indeed we have, but what we have also done is support people in the village who have been struggling in the present economic crisis with the community larder in our church porch which has been generously filled countless times as those who have a need have been able to access some foodstuffs and toiletries, although sadly this had to be discontinued..

We have also been very active in supporting refugees and those still in the Ukraine. I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of people who have continued to offer supplies to be taken on the regular trips down through Poland and into the Ukraine. We have sent food, clothing, medical supplies and much more. This has been gratefully received, not just the actual supplies, but the kindness and the message that we have not forgotten those caught up in this awful war.

On top of this, we have run regular events that have provided safe places for people to come and get used to being out and about, as well as the Naturehood project that has transformed our outdoor space into something diverse and vibrant and showing that it with team work we can encourage biodiversity in small areas and the land around our church is an ideal place to see what has been lying dormant for decades if not centuries..

This is along with the work that goes on in the schools and with other church communities so there is a lot happening!

What does the church do? Well, still quite a lot and if you think you would like to be involved, come along and say hello!

We have continued to support the feel of community with the Village Link and also through our group Facebook page and the naturehood Facebook page.

Looking forward we are excited about the work being done within our church to improve the facilities so that it becomes a greater resource for the village and with the continued hope of the crossing it will become much more accessible.

This does mean though that we are going to lose the church hall as I am sure those of you who have visited or passed the building have seen what a sorry state of affairs it has become needing, needing repairs that would total nearly one hundred thousand pounds to bring it up to a sustainably good standard.

We are grateful for the support we have received from the village, the Causeway Charity and the Parish council.

Lawrance Park Recreation Ground and Community Association 52 AGM

Good evening and a very warm welcome to you all.

Lawrance Park Committee has had a busy year in terms of activity and spending money, other people's money as well as our own. I will explain as we go along.

This year the solar lights along the footpath to Chapel Lane, funded by Causeway Estates Charity were finished and adopted by SKDC.

Tree stumps remaining from previous tree removal were ground out. The four new saplings planted during the previous winter had water reservoirs attached to ensure their survival over the first couple of years. They have been doing very well until one of the silver birches had its crown snapped off during the Easter holidays. This may need replacing although the remaining trunk is alive. Nothing wrong with small things though!

While on the subject of trees- more have had to be felled. The ongoing problem with non drainage on the Park View side of the park has led to the slow decline of several trees. Before they became dangerous two were removed. The drainage issue is to be dealt with by specialists, hopefully before more trees are affected.

You have probably realised that maintenance of the park is quite an expense. We are very grateful that Thurlby Parish Council were again very generous in including Lawrance Park in their precept providing money to cover some of our field expenses. They also provided new litter bins for the park.

We have had a netball team wishing to use the MUGA for training and possibly games. The netball posts we had were not suitable so a set have been purchased and hopefully the netball will continue. You never know- Thurlby Tigers started small- could be the start of Thurlby Kangaroos,

Before we move indoors a mention needs to be made of the continuing problem of dogs fouling on the field and the pavement outside school. How ignorant are the owners? We allow dog waste to be placed in our bins so there's no excuse for such bad behaviour.

This is the 52nd Lawrance Park AGM so as with most things after 50 years things begin to wear out, break down or need replacing. That was the case with the toilets and showers here in the hall. The showers haven't been used for years and were troublesome before that. Compliance with Legionella rules was another problem. Plans had been made to remove the showers and refurbish the toilets in the near future but we became aware of accessible funding from the SKDC Prosperity Grant. Removing the showers would give us an extra toilet in the ladies and a unisex toilet accessible from outside by rearranging the male toilets. Trying to get an answer as to whether or not we were to get funding was nail biting. We had to book builders in during the Christmas holidays to minimise disruption to school without the go ahead but eventually we heard we had been successful. Of course there was a hiccup in that the funding only covered the cost of our cheapest quote. No consideration was given to the fact that our chosen firm were prepared work around the school holidays. We were grateful that once again The Causeway Charity stepped in to cover our shortfall. The external accessible toilet is now available when the park or MUGA are being used without having to disrupt any hirers using the indoor space.

Since COVID our bookings for the hall have fallen due to classes no longer being held, less people having 'dos' and probably the cost of living increases. We do still have varied list of groups which regularly use the facilities; Kids Club, Tae Kwan Do, Pilates, Smart Fit, Beavers and Scout and Thurlby Tigers. Plus there has been a very successful Bingo Evening run on behalf of Lawrance Park which we hope to repeat. Despite all this activity there are still infilled slots in the booking schedule. The committee felt that our overcomplicated charging model for the hire of the hall was very confusing therefore a new system has been introduced with the hire rates reduced by 25% for parishioners. It's still a common misconception that the hall belongs to the school so we've rebranded and now have a new logo based on the roofline of Lawrance Park and a new Facebook page detailing hiring rates. We hope it will lead to an increase in enquires and usage.

As I've mentioned we have been financially assisted during the year by Thurlby Parish Council and The Causeway Charity with a donation from Thurlby Runs but we have also raised money by our own efforts to support upkeep on the estate.

During the football season members of the committee provide drinks and refreshments on Saturday mornings for Thurlby Tigers' games. Very few people carry real money around these days and we were losing custom as we were cash only so at the start of the season we purchased a card machine. This has been a great help and considerably increased our takings making the effort of turning out and almost freezing to death on some occasions feel worthwhile.

Our big event is always Bonfire Night. Always held on November 5, which was a Sunday this year. Because of the dreadful rain which didn't want to stop, one of the other local firework displays was cancelled which probably increased our attendance. The evening follows a well practiced formula which works well especially if somebody has remembered we need barbecues in order to cook sausages. The fireworks and bonfire were as brilliant as ever, thanks to the pyrotechnic team and many thanks to the army of volunteers who give up their time to help us to collect entrance donations, cook and sell food and drink and glow bands. With their help we raised over £6000.

We continue to work with Thurlby Academy to ensure the environment is safe and secure.

Keeping this hall and the grounds working would not be possible without the continued input of the committee, some members more than others but everyone giving up valuable time freely to attend meetings, make decisions and get involved. Most members are trustees because of their involvement with other organisations using the facilities so are crucial in many village activities and help keep them thriving. Difficult decisions need to be taken at times but we hope we are maintaining Lawrance Park for the benefit of our local community. Without it village life would be poorer. I personally would like to thank Colin, our treasurer, Jane the secretary, and Alan, who knows how almost everything works and if he doesn't he knows somebody who does. An invaluable team to be surrounded by.

Annual Report to Thurlby Parish Council on 1 May 2024 by District Councillor Barry Dobson

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7. Change of Leadership

- a. Last year, the majority of minor (in number) groups united and became the lead group. Cllr Richard Cleaver from Stamford was voted in as Leader. A previous arrangement saw the leadership pass to Cllr Ashley Baxter from the Deepings. This was accepted by a vote that was held at Full Council in February where councillors Jeal and Baxter were the two candidates. Cllr Baxter received the most votes and was elected as Leader of SKDC.
- b. So far this year, we have already had 4 full council meetings, generally the number of full councils held in a year.

8. Bin Issues

- a. A new sheet issued after requests for clarification on what goes in which bin can be found on the SKDC website.