

Thurlby Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Thurlby Parish Council (Min 15-12) held
on Wednesday 13th April 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park
Social Room, Thurlby

Present: **Councillors:** N Bradley, E Lunn, M Reece, R Rose, B Sadler (presiding), S Samra, Y Scott, and A Thomas.
 Residents: Stephen Holland, John Spooner
 Others: Bernard Champness – Clerk, County Cllr Helen Powell,

Open Forum

Although there residents in attendance there was no Open Form and the meeting was formally opened at 19.30

216. Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies & noting of resignations received.

216.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Dobson (work) Cllr Derbyshire (work)

216.2 **Resolved:** that the apologies be accepted.

216.3 It was reported that Anthony Smith had resigned from the Council. We could now advertise for the vacancy and the Clerk had forms which he had completed from South Kesteven District Council and which would go into the notice boards tomorrow. Notice was already on the website.

217. 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

217.1 Cllrs Rose and Thomas declared an interest in Item 221 as both were representatives of the Parish Council on the Lawrance Park Management committee and Cllr Sadler declared an interest as his property was close to the intended placement of the container.

218. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 2nd March 2016 (Min15-11)

218.1 **Resolved:** That the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 2nd March 2016 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

219. Clerks report and correspondence received.

219.1 The Clerks Report had been circulated in advance. Cllr Rose said that he had only received the Report that evening and had, had little time to consider the contents. The Clerk explained that he was in a dilemma as he did not want to send out the report at the time the agenda was posted as there might be new correspondence that arrived between that time and the meeting. Alternatively he could deliver a report to Cllr Rose when delivering the agenda but this would or could be incomplete. Anything new he would be advised of at the meeting. He said he would prefer the latter and all were in agreement.

219.2 Before going through the report the clerk explained that on the 11th April he had received a telephone call from a resident complaining that there was a Tramp sleeping in the bus stop in front of her house. The bus stop was at Northorpe crossroads and on the west side of the road. The suggestion was that as we owned the shelter we could either take it down or get a court order asking him to vacate the shelter. Both suggestions would cost the Council money

and which we did not have. The lady felt that something should be done and wanted appropriate action taken. She was told the Clerk was not a Councillor and all he could do was to advise the Councillors of the problem and then get the council to make a decision. As this matter was not on the agenda he would bring this matter up under correspondence. She wanted to speak to a Councillor and she was advised that an individual councillor could not make a decision on his or her own and again it would have to be a decision of the full council. The Clerk was told that he did not appear sympathetic and replied that he was acting that way as he did not want to give the impression that he could do anything which could raise her expectations when the Council might not agree to that course of action. The Clerk went onto explain that he had been in touch with South Kesteven District Council who said that this man was known to them and they had been in touch with him as had a hostel in Grantham. They did not know that he was sleeping in the bus shelter but they would come and see him early in the morning. It was hoped that some good might come of this and he might be housed in the not too distant future. It was agreed that there was little if anything the Parish Council could do but we had tried to help in this situation.

- 219.3** With regard to the Clerks report a question was raised about what the Sec 137 level was and it was explained that this had increased to £7.42
Cllr Rose also explained that there was the Police Meeting which would take place in Lawrance Park on the 19th April.

220. To receive a report from the County Councillor and District Councillor on matters relating to Thurlby.

- 220.1** District Cllr Dobson had sent his apologies and had sent to Cllr Sadler a report which states:
1. Devolution was being discussed and it looked as though the Councils as we know them will remain although powers will possibly be different. It was likely that Greater Lincolnshire will be the name of the new set up. Possibly the new Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire will also have a dual role as Police Commissioner.
 2. It seemed likely that there would be a site visit at 223 The Green for the next planning meeting which would be the first Tuesday in May. He had looked at the positioning of the container in Lawrance Park and he felt it was ok and in a better place than before.
- 220.2** County Cllr Helen Powell had sent her apologies and if she could attend you would. She later attended and reported that she had asked for a site visit and although she was aware of the outcome of the recent crossing survey she felt further discussions were needed. Cllr Rose said that he was surprised to see that Lincolnshire were one of the best performing Highway Authorities and as a result they would be receiving an additional £1.7 million and he hoped this would be spend on improving the highways. He also handed her a newspaper cutting which reported that Norfolk had a major problem with the tarmac they had used on roads and hope that Lincolnshire County Council would not have the same problem. It was also explained that the new waste disposal site had moved and was now in South Fen Road. The signs were also very bad in sign posting where it was. Cllr Lunn said that he had calculated that information received in the Lincs News that all Councillors had received a substantial increase in their income. He was told that it was expenses and not salary. Cllr Powell asked for a copy of the minutes so she was aware of what she had promised to do and investigate.

221. Planning applications: To Approve:

- 221.1 S16/0590** – change of use of Agricultural Land to Domestic Garden at land to rear of 23 Church Street Thurlby. **Response** by 14th April 2016 agreed. **Resolved** no objections
- 221.2 S16/0542** – proposed siting of a container unit at Lawrance Park. **Response** by 14th April 2016 agreed. **Resolved** no objections

222. To discuss matters deferred from the last Council meeting.

222.1 There was nothing that was deferred from the last meeting.

223. To discuss village flooding issues and to decide what actions to take

223.1 Cllr Sadler had requested this item on the agenda and had submitted a report on the various problems that had occurred during a recent rain storm. The report had been circulated in advance. He explained that he had a discussion with Kevin Brumfield of LCC Highways regarding the problem on Swallow Hill. Mr Brumfield said that he would get a digger in to clear the area on the hope that this would resolve the problems further down the hill. There was also a problem with blocked drains in Water Lane and he had spoken to Mrs Crabb and said that he would take that matter up with Mr Brumfield. It was not clear who was responsible for keeping the dykes/drains clear and the expert in South Kesteven District Council had left in December 2015. It was agreed that Cllr Sadler could continue his discussions with Mr Brumfield on the hope that some results could be obtained to resolve the problem of flooding every time it rained heavy. Cllr Rose said he would like to congratulate Cllr Sadler for his efforts in compiling the report and taken time to go around the village to see the problems that existed.

224. To nominate for the Lawrance cup – Round 2.

224.1 The choice was between Mary Trumble and the Thurlby Crossing Action Group. **Resolved** that we would nominate Mary Trumble.

225. To discuss whether or not we wish to become members of CPRE

225.1 The organisers of the Best Kept Village Competition had suggested that a Parish Council becomes a member of CPRE as we would have a free entry into the competition. The Clerk did not know the actual cost but it was **resolved** that we would become a member if the Annual fee was £25 or less.

226. To discuss responses received in relation to notices being sent in respect of overhanging bushes.

226.1 The reason why this was on the agenda was because two residents had complained that they had received the notice asking them to cut back the bushes at their property. It appeared that both residents were upset as they had already cut back the bushes and to cut them back further would ruin them and as far as they were concerned the bushes/vegetation was not encroaching on the footpath. It seemed that both had members of their family who were ill and the notice would make them feel worse and would not aid their recovery. One of the residents Cllr Sadler would go and see on the hope the matter could be resolved. With regard to the other resident, that wrote to the Council, Cllr Sadler produced photographs showing how far the bushes encroached the footpath. Whilst the resident felt that the cut the bushes back could cause them to die it was felt that if the work was done properly the bushes would not look good for a year but the following year they would recover and start to grow again. **Resolved:** that a letter be sent advising that we were going to ask the matter to be dealt with by Highways and if they cut back the bushes they would recover the cost from the resident.

227. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Planning process and to discuss the offer for professional Consultancy Services for Neighbourhood Development Plan and to discuss the proposal from Charisma Spatial Planning Ltd trading as Ann Skippers Planning

227.1 The meeting was closed at 20.44 to allow Stephen Holland to address the Council and give

an update with regard to the progress in the Neighbourhood Plan. The grant had been approved and he was holding a built character assessment workshop on the 20th April at 12.30 – 17.30. He was hoping that we would agreed to the Chair signing the contract which had been included in the grant. The Consultant wanted the contract signing before he agreed to come to this workshop.

Mr Holland explained that there were three vacancies on the workshop so if anyone wanted to attend they could.

He also explained that he was going to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on the 4th May and wanted to know if he could use the display that had been used on the Saturday. He was told that if he was given a talk it was down to him if he wanted to use the display. He said that he would be preparing notices and was going to place something in the Stamford Mercury advertising the meeting.

Mr Holland explained that on the 9th April they held another open meeting which was well attended but it seemed that there was an age group they were not engaging with and that was under 48's but was hoping this would be addressed.

Thanks were once again expressed to Mr Holland for the sterling work he had undertaken to date.

- 227.2** The meeting was re-opened at 20.54 and it was resolved that Cllr Sadler sign the contract which would be sent back the next morning.

228. To discuss the survey result priorities and what action is necessary to deal with them.

- 228.1** Cllr Sadler said that the Clerk had sent out to all a copy of the survey results and showing what ones had been completed and what work was needed to be done on others.
1. Now that Cllr Smith had resigned we needed someone to continue the discussion with Delaine Buses. Cllr Lunn said that he would take on this role.
 2. South Kesteven had now replied and requested that the Parish Council approach the householders and ask them to cut back the offending tree branches that were restricting the lights. The problem with the trees could be dealt with together with the bushes already being addressed under Item 226.

229. To discuss and resolve the necessary action to be taken in relation to signing the Lawrence Park footpath rights of way protection documentation

- 229.1** It was explained that John Spooner had sent the Clerk details of what was required and why they needed someone to sign the above document. It was explained that it was for the footpaths in Lawrance Park. Apparently agreement had been reached 10 years ago and this was shortly to come to an end. The new document would last for 20 years. **Resolved:** that Cllr Sadler sign the document. Which he did and hand to Mr Spooner.

230. To receive an update on the request for a defibrillator

- 230.1** The Clerk was able to report that the defibrillator had been delivered to his house and he had been in touch with Cllr Thomas as the supplier wanted a photograph of where it would be sited. They also wanted some more information about the electricity supply. Cllr Thomas had been in contact with John Spooner with the information needed for his approval. Mr Spooner had approved everything and Cllr Thomas had replied so all we were waiting for was the electrician to call to fit the defibrillator. Now that the defibrillator was soon to be in place we needed the training. The Clerk explained that he had already written to the person who held the training at Carby but as yet he had not replied. A reminder would be sent as training was important.

231. To discuss the proposition that land is acquired on Lawrance Park.

- 231.1** This matter was on the agenda as it was raised by Cllr Dobson at the last meeting. As it was

not then on the agenda there was no agreement on what if anything we could do. Lawrance Park had sent the Clerk a letter explaining the history behind this matter. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Lucy Youles at SKDC to enquire whether or not there was any likelihood of the land being handed over to the Parish Council. He would also try and find out if there would be any restrictions on what we could do with the land and whether it was expected that we would have to purchase the land rather than it being handed over to us.

232. To receive an update on the crossing at Thurlby

232.1 Cllr Sadler explained that he had sent a number of documents to the Clerk which he had hoped would be circulated. The Clerk thought that he had done this but during the meeting he was able to send it to the Councillors. Cllr Sadler said that he had spoken to Mr Brumfield about the results and it appeared that the survey did not support the need for a crossing. It appears that not enough people were attempting to cross the road and that we only got the crossing at Northorpe because of the accident. The outcome was very frustrating. It was explained that even if we agreed to fund the crossing the County Council would not agree to it as the survey did not support the need for a crossing. As it appeared that the Councillors did not receive the report it was agreed that this matter go onto the next agenda.

233. To discuss possible training in line with the Training Policy

233.1 Cllr Sadler said that he and Cllr Dobson had attended a recent Clerks Training day and both found it very informative and helpful. The Clerk pointed out that as a Council we had signed up to a Training Policy and as a result every Councillor should undertake training. Whilst it might not be feasible to travel to Lincoln some training events were fairly local. Cllr Sadler said that he was hoping to attend another training day relating to employer responsibilities and if anyone else wanted to attend they were most welcome to go with him.

234. To receive an update from Cllr Smith on the website offered by South Kesteven District Council.

234.1 Although Cllr Smith had resigned from the Council he had sent a report and this had been circulated in advance. It was apparent that if we were going to make any progress with this matter we needed someone to spend time in keeping the website up to date. As no one was at this stage willing to do this it was agreed that this matter would be put onto the agenda for the June meeting.

235. To receive an update on the list of potholes and the state of the footpaths in and around Thurlby/Northorpe

235.1 It was agreed that this matter should come off the future agendas as if there were any problems they should be reported direct with the County Council.

236. To discuss the cemetery to include grass cutting, condition of graves and headstones, state of paths and hedges

236.1 The green bin license had been renewed and the sticker had arrived and was handed to Cllr Thomas to put onto the bin.

237.2 Cllr Thomas said that he had noticed a memorial had been removed and the Clerk said that he had recently approved the request for an additional inscription being put on and that it should be replaced soon. The regulations were still not up to date. It was explained that the Clerk had sent the amended regulations to Cllr Thomas for approval which he had done. If the Clerk was to give him a printed copy he would put them in the noticeboard in the cemetery. Cllr Thomas asked if he could now remove the small wooden crosses that had been placed

on the war memorial in November. They looked past their best now. It was agreed that they could be removed.

237. For any Councillor to produce a written report of any meeting that he/she has attended as representatives of the Parish Council

237.1 Any reports were included in the Clerks Report.

238. To confirm Expenditure

£421.84 – LALC (Annual Subscription and LCR) £357.20 + £64.64 VAT

£411.24 - B M Champness Salary and use of home as office)

£340.83 – Community Lincs (Insurance Premium)

£15.00 – LALC (2 lunches for training day)

£74.00 – Lawrance Park Community Hall (hire of hall by TNPG)

£90.00 - ICCM (Annual subscription)

340.50 – B Dobson (travel expenses to training day)

£20.00 – CPRE (entry fee to best kept village competition)

£135.89 – Toni Montero (cleaning bus shelters)

£33.00 SKDC (Green waste license for cemetery) PAID by card

[] 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

238.1 Resolved: that the above payments be made after the Clerk explained that there were two minor errors. His salary and use of home as an office should be £461.11 and the expenses for Cllr Dobson £40.50

239. Members Questions - reminder only questions given to the clerk a week in advance will be answered.

215.1 Cllr Thomas asked where the village photographs were as they might be needed in the future. The Clerk said that he did not have them and the last time they were required was when they were being looked after by Thomas Murphy. Enquiries would be made.

215.2 Cllr Rose said that he thought it was a good idea if we advertised the Annual Parish Meeting now rather than wait until the required 7 days before the meeting. Mr Holland said that he would like to advertise the fact that there was going to be a discussion/talk about the Neighbourhood Plan and he would draft an appropriate notice.

215.3 There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 21.46

240. The date of the next meeting – to be held on Wednesday 4th May 2016 at 8.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room, Thurlby, this being the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.