

Thurlby Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Thurlby Parish Council (Min 17-06) held on the 4th October 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Hall, Thurlby

Present:

Councillors: R Bill, N Bradley, B Dobson, L Lowe, E Lunn, M Reece, R Rose, B Sadler(presiding), S Samra, Y Scott and A Thomas

Residents: Stephen Holland,

Others: Bernard Champness – Clerk,

Open Forum

Although a member of the public was present there was no open forum and the meeting was formally opened at 19.30. A minute's silence was held in remembrance of John Cappitt who had recently died and who had been a Parish Councillor for many years

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

97.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Robert Reid

98. 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

98.1 No one declared an interest in any matter on the agenda.

99. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 6th September 2017 (Min17-05)

99.1 **Resolved:** That the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 6th September 2017 be signed by the Chair as a correct record after Item 80.2 was amended to remove the words "make money" with "creating income".

100. Clerks Report and correspondence received

100.1 The clerks report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Clerk did apologise for the error which had prevented the report being opened. This had been rectified earlier that evening. The problem was now that we were running Office 365 and was able to save documents in One Drive the Clerk had hoped he could save the documents in there as well. It transpired that the programmes were incompatible. On the basis that no one had seen the report he had printed copies for all councillors. A few questions were asked and replied to. The Clerk was also able to confirm that we held in the Cemetery Account £6199.22, in the Cheque Account £349.81 and in the Deposit Account £17,654.39. He would arrange for a copy of the spreadsheet to be prepared and circulated.

101. Report from the District and County Councillors

101.1 District Cllr Dobson said that he would give reports on both the County Council and District Council. He had chaired the Growth and Overview Committee that afternoon and the Local Plan was raised. It now appeared that the number of houses to be built in South Kesteven was now 785 per year. It seemed that house prices in that area were rising faster than in London.

Regarding the meetings regarding the Local Plan it appeared that 400 people attended at Bourne whereas only 150 people attended in Grantham.

There would be another Cluster meeting that he attended on the 26th September with Cllrs Sadler & Rose.

It will have been noted that the A15 was closed from the 2nd to the 5th October at night for resurfacing and new white lines painted.

County were forming a new company which would invest in land to build houses or care homes.

A resident had been in touch with him asking to be re-located to Bourne and he was seeing what he could do to help.

There had been a problem with potholes as limestone hardcore had been used instead of tarmac but rather than improving the position it made it worse. Tarmac was now going to be used in future.

A number of questions were asked about the recycling centre in Bourne. The first related to whether or not other outlets were opened 4 days a week or was Bourne the only one. It was pointed out that all outlets were open 4 days a week. The other question related to what was to be considered dangerous. On some of the bins was a yellow pallet on which one had to stand on throw rubbish in. This was rather narrow and it was easy to fall off and be injured. Cllr Dobson could not answer that point but suggested the Clerk write to LCC regarding this matter and see if they would arrange for larger pallets to be installed. This was agreed

102. Planning applications: there were no planning applications to consider.

103. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Planning (Stephen Holland)

103.1 The meeting was formally closed at 19.35 to allow Mr Holland to address the Council. He explained that he had asked the Clerk to circulate a report he had compiled. The group were close to the pre-submission stage now and that the meeting to be held on the 10th October would hopefully be the last. He had obtained an extension from Locality on the grant until the 31st March 2018. This would be very useful. We still held £2700 from the £4000 grant which was made up of £1000 for the Consultant, £217 for the Saturday meetings, £180 for publicity, and £1000 for printing. There was also £200 to use for the website. Regarding publicity he wanted to reach as many residents as possible by many ways such as leaving copies of the pre-submission document in the Post Office, the Horseshoe Public House, Methodist Chapel, Vets, in the Dr's surgeries in Bourne and on the local Facebook page.

103.2 The meeting was re-opened at 19.42.

104. To discuss where the two extra bins should be sited.

104.1 The Clerk explained that we now had two extra bins which were delivered to his house last week and were in his garage. He wanted to know where they would or should be sited around the village. Cllr Dobson said that he would have a word with Rowan Smith of Lincolnshire County Council to see if we could put one of the bins on the corner of Swallow Hill and Swift Way. Cllr Lunn said that he would have a word with someone from the Methodist Chapel if we could place a bin in the car park by the junction of Tudor Close.

105. To discuss the problem of overhanging bushes on footpaths.

105.1 There was still a problem with the trees at 10 Crown Lane. They had not been cut back and the street light had been damaged by someone trying to bend the top half away from the trees. This did not improve the lighting and in fact made it worse. It was reported that the street light in front of 9 Northorpe Lane was not working properly. There was also a problem with the passageway between Viking Way and The Causeway.

The hedges were very overgrown. There was a similar problem at the corner of High Street and Obthorpe Lane. It was suggested the Clerk write to Cllr Moseley to ask if when they came back to Thurlby to do The Big Clean that this work is included as well as Northorpe and Woodside East and Woodside Close.

It was suggested that rather than write to Lincolnshire County Council or South Kesteven District Council regarding the lights this is reported on line or by telephone. Cllr Scott said that she would do this.

The card to be delivered to a resident who had an overhanging tree or shrubs was discussed and clarification was needed on whether a Councillor needed authority from the Council before this was delivered. It was agreed that if this was to be done they should send an e-mail to all Councillors giving them notice of this and to notify the Clerk as well. This would ensure the Council were aware of what was being done and there was no duplication by another Councillor doing the same thing. Cllr Thomas said that under Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980 the Local Authority had to cut back the overhanging vegetation and if they did they would send an account for that work to the householder. We should take this matter up with the Council if a resident ignored our request to cut back the offending vegetation.

106. To discuss suggestions made regarding what we do with the newly acquired red telephone boxes.

106.1 We had not heard from BT that the telephone boxes were now formally ours so this would be chased and the matter adjourned to next month. The Clerk was asked if we had them insured but he said that he had not as they did not belong to us but as soon as the transfer of ownership took place they would be added to the Insurance. The Clerk asked Cllr Thomas what he thought the value of each telephone box was as this would be needed by the Insurance Company. He said he thought they were worth £1000 each.

107. To discuss the speed data obtained and what action if necessary we can take to try and obtain a crossing at Thurlby Crossroads.

107.1 Cllr Bill explained that he had been looking after the speed sign but there was an issue with the battery. The Contractor who supplied the sign will be coming out later this week to either fix or replace the battery. Mounting plates had been installed throughout the village. There was one spare. Hopefully once the battery problem was resolved a full survey of the entire village would be taken. Regarding the data obtained on the A15 and whether we could use that to get a crossing at Thurlby will be discussed at item 111

108. To discuss Content and frequency of the Parish Council newsletter given our current Council Quality standard

108.1 Cllr Sadler explained that we had agreed that we would cut down on the numbers of Newsletters we sent out and use the Village Link as and when there was news to put in. We had not for some time now produced any Newsletters and as we were no longer involved in the Quality Council scheme, as it did not exist anymore. He wanted to know the frequency of Newsletters and usage of the Village Link. Cllr Scott said that she had recently spoken to the new Editor of the Village Link who was hoping to change the document from a 8 page black and white document to a 12 page coloured one. If we wanted to put in an article we would be charged £20 per page. Cllr Rose said that he was disappointed that we had not produced an Annual report or Newsletter and it mattered not whether we were a Quality Council. We should be keeping residents fully up to date with what was going on and how we calculated the Precept and how we spent the income. He was keen to see that we returned to producing Newsletters and an Annual report as we had previously done. Every Councillor was given the opportunity of expressing their own opinion on whether accepted what Cllr Rose was asking, used the Village Link for other news items. Following on from that it was **Resolved** that we do an Annual return after each Annual Parish Meeting and then put news articles in the Village

Link and pay for that. It was further **resolved** that we do the annual Report as soon as possible and start to put items in the Village Link. Cllr Scott said that she was still happy to produce articles which was accepted. It was thought that in each edition we should have the names of all Parish Councillors and their telephone numbers. An item would go onto the agenda each month for suggestions as to what should go into the Village Link. Cllr Scott was asked to put together an article which could include suggestions as to what we could do with the telephone boxes, explain that we had a Defibrillator, that we employed a litter picker and that we had taken ownership of 4 litter bins and where they would be located.

109. To decide whether or not we wish to apply for the Local Council Award Scheme

109.1 The Clerk explained that the Quality Council scheme was no longer running and had been replaced by the Local Council Award Scheme. There were three level being Intermediate, Quality and Gold. There would be a one-off fee of £50 and a yearly subscription of £80. The Clerk explained that we could obtain the first tier without too many problems. Cllr Thomas proposed that the Clerk be given the go ahead to try and obtain the Award and this was seconded by Cllr Lunn. A vote was taken which resulted in there being 5 for and 6 against so the resolution was not carried.

110. To receive an update on the Cemetery to include grass cutting and maintenance

110.1 Cllr Thomas said that he had nothing to report as all was in order. The Clerk pointed out that he had received an invoice that afternoon from Chris Harris who had cut the grass, sprayed the path and cut the hedge,

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

111.1 Cllr Sadler had produces a written report of the meeting that he Cllr Dobson and Rose had attended at the Highways depot in Station Road. This had been circulated to all Councillors. He did not want to go through the report as he hoped all had read it. What was apparent was that it was now virtually impossible to speak to someone face to face. To make matters worse the County Council website was not working. Cllr Sadler thought this was just not good enough and wondered who we could report this too. It was suggested that Lincolnshire County Council were only interested in people reporting matters to their call centre. After discussion it was **resolved** that Cllr Sadler would draft a letter for the Clerk to send off on letter headed paper to County Cllr R Reid. All our concerns relating to all the issues we had and which were unresolved should be set out and seeking his help and support in getting a solution. If that did not happen then we would have to take our complaint higher.

111.2 Cllr Rose gave a verbal report on the recent Police Forum which took place in Lawrance Park Unfortunately this was very poorly attended. We now only had 1 PCSO in our division but it was hoped they would recruit someone else in the New Year. It was suggested that we might put details of the PCSO in the Village Link but Cllr Rose was unable to give his telephone details as this was not known.

112. To confirm Expenditure

£40.00 – B M Champness (use of home as office)

£429.69 – B M Champness (salary)

£57.54 – litter picker

[] 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

112.1 Resolved: that the above payments be made. It was also agreed that we could pay C Harris for work done in the cemetery and pay the balance of the money to Lawrance Park now that

we had received the balance of the Precept. Although they will be paid they will appear in the agenda for the November meeting.

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

113.1 The matter of making broadband accessible to the general public was discussed with Lawrance Park They had reservations about this and would prefer if just the users of the hall was given the password to use broadband would be sensible. All agreed to this suggestion. Cllr Sadler said that he would change the SID (Security Identifier) so it would have the name Lawrance Park

113.2 There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 21.29

114. The date of the next meeting – to be held on **Wednesday 1st November 2017** at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room, Thurlby.

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