

**Thurlby Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Thurlby Parish Council (Min 17-07) held**  
**on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Hall,**  
**Thurlby**

**Present:**

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

**Residents:** Stephen Holland, Dave White (Village Link Editor)

**Others:** Bernard Champness – Clerk, Cllr Robert Reid (County Councillor)

**Open Forum**

Dave White the Editor of the Village Link introduced himself to the Councillors. He said that the Village link would see what he hoped was some improvements. It was going from an 8-page document to 12 pages. It was also going to be in colour. If the Parish Council wanted to have any article with colour in it then we should simply ask. He said that he wondered if the Parish wanted to start telling residents about what was going on as he had no idea of some of the work we were doing until he attended a meeting. He wondered as well if we wanted to profile the individual Councillors with a brief history about them what they did on the Council and any other interesting facts. It might be a photograph could be useful, but we could spread this over the entire year. He was asked if by being in colour whether this would mean we would be charged more for an article. He said that the charges would remain the same. He said that the magazine was always being run at a loss and the shortfall was met by St Firmins Church and the Methodist Chapel. He was hoping to get more revenue from larger advertisements. If anyone needed his help or advice, we could either telephone or e-mail him.

The meeting was formally opened at 19.43. There was a one-minute silence held in remembrance of Guy Salmon who was once a Parish Councillor and who had recently died.

**115. Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies & noting of resignations received**

**115.1** Apologies were received from Cllr B Dobson (personal)

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

**116. 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**

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

**117. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (Min17-06)**

**117.1 Resolved:** That the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 be signed by the Chair as a correct record

**118. Clerks Report and correspondence received**

**118.1** The clerks report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Clerk explained that since the agenda had been sent out more e-mails had been received. Instead of adding these to the report he would include them in the December report.

There were two letters that had been received in response to the pre-submission statement, one had been circulated to all before the meeting and the other would be sent to Mr Holland.

The budget spreadsheet was circulated to show what money had been received and spent up to the end of October. A few questions were asked and answered.

The Clerk formally handed to Cllr Sadler a sealed envelope with the access codes needed to ensure the Council could function should the Clerk be unable to carry on.

The Clerk also pointed out she had asked Toni Montero to clean the bus shelters.

Cllr Sadler said that he would like confirmation that he could go ahead and purchase a Christmas tree which would be put in place early December. This was agreed.

It was agreed we would make a donation to the Royal British Legion of £40 for a poppy wreath.

## 119. Report from the District and County Councillors

119.2 District Cllr Dobson who was not present had sent a report a copy of which was circulated. The report is as follows:

### **SKDC Big Clean:**

The first stage of the Big Clean has now been completed and the Council has received considerable praise for the result. It will now continue but with fewer teams. As funding is restricted, residents are encouraged to do as much as they can, especially cleaning up in front of their own properties. Of course, there is always the usual cry for litter louts and dog walkers to follow the same rules and use the bins provided.

### **Waste Bins:**

I attended the end of the Big Clean meeting on Friday and had the chance to speak to Keith Rowe who is in charge of the cleaning teams and refuse collection. I am pleased to report that there are bins available for us. They are currently being repaired where necessary. If we want some more, I would suggest we get in quickly. For siting of these, I would suggest at least the lay-by opposite the McDonald's.

### **InvestSK:**

With the reduction in Regional Support Grant which will reach zero in 2019, the Council has had to begin thinking like a business. SKDC announced InvestSK at a recent launch at Stoke Rochford Hall. In attendance were many business leaders in the district and members of the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership), GCGPLEP (Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnerships). This will result in SKDC working with businesses to energise commercial activity in the District. I have been elected as Chairman of the Shareholder Overview and Scrutiny Committee which assists the actions of the Council's newly formed company, Gravitas Housing. We will be building not only residential accommodation but also commercial properties for profit which will be ploughed back into the Council in order to provide valuable services as central government funding declines.

### **Street Market:**

SKDC has seen the need to improve the street markets and the Bourne Market will now move to West Street which will be closed on market days. It is hoped that this will attract visitors to the town and benefit shops as well.

### **Planning matters:**

There have been considerable objections raised to the building of an oversized stable at 3 Obthorpe Lane by a resident. The building is indeed larger than approved (S16/2466) in both footprint and height. I have discussed this with the SKDC enforcement officer who is dealing with it.

However, the new application (S17/0261) is an application for a dormer window. The original application was to be 'rebuilt on original footprint' - this is not the case and it is definitely larger

and higher. The residents fear that this will be used as a dwelling, especially now that permission for an upper level window has been applied for.

**119.2** County Councillor Robert Reid was present and said that if he could answer any questions that might be asked on the above report he would try and do so as he and Cllr Dobson had a good relationship and worked closely together for the benefit of Thurlby. There were several questions:

- The street market was being moved was there a date. Cllr Reid said that he did not know

Relating to County Matters Cllr Reid said that he did not like being summoned to a meeting he would prefer to be invited. The Clerk pointed out that he was only included in the e-mail that was sent to the Parish Councillors so that he was not forgotten and that he was aware when the meeting was taking place. Cllr Reid also said that he did not like to receive e-mail that went into quarantine. He was asked to explain what he meant by this and said that the e-mail that was sent out with the draft minutes he never received as it was treated by the County as a spam. The Clerk said that he did not do this on purpose and asked if he received the e-mail with the agenda, which he did. He still wanted the Clerk to use the same e-mail address, but all the Clerk could think of was that one e-mail had a Word attachment when the other had a pdf.

Cllr Reid said that after the last meeting he had received a letter from the Clerk regarding the matters discussed at the October meeting. He made it clear that he was more than willing to help where he could and all we had to do was to ask for his assistance. He understood there was a cluster meeting at the Methodist Chapel on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November which he was going to attend. He had already had a meeting with Rowan Smith and understood that a survey of the drainage problems was being undertaken. Cllr Sadler pointed out that this did not happen. Now that he knew this he could take the matter further. Cllr Reid said that we needed to keep up a good relationship with Rowan but even if we could not talk to him direct we could do so through him. He accepted that many Councils are unhappy with the present set up of trying to talk to someone, but he understood that a new system will be in place by January 2018. If it was not, he would want answers.

He was on the case about the A15 and the volume of traffic. No funding was available, but he was of the view it was worth chipping away about the problem

Cllr Sadler pointed out the difficulties we had experienced both with the crossing at Thurlby and flooding around the entire village. Cllr Reid said that he would like a letter prioritising what actions we needed seeing to and a brief history of what we had done to date to rectify these matters.

It was resolved that Cllr Sadler could would closely with Cllr Reid to try and get these outstanding matters resolved.

**120. Planning applications:** there were no planning applications to consider.

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

**121.1** The meeting was formally closed at 20.41 to allow Mr Holland to address the meeting. He hoped that everyone had seen the report he had sent the Clerk. The pre-submission process was in progress for a 7-week period. We had already received 2 responses, one from Anglian Water and the other from National Grid. He had not had time to process them, but he would not make a decision until the next meeting. The next Saturday morning meetings would be on the 4<sup>th</sup> November, the 18<sup>th</sup> November and 9<sup>th</sup> December.

**121.2** The meeting was re-opened at 20.47

**122. To discuss what matters might be included within the Precept request for 2018/19**

**122.1** The Clerk explained that we would have to consider the budget next month to work out how much we need to be asking for by way of a Precept. The Clerk suggested that we might want to consider setting aside funds for any request for grants during the year rather than asking applications for grants to be submitted by the end of November. Cllr Rose said that he would like to know before the December meeting what services Lincolnshire County Council would be stopping and asking us to take over. The Clerk pointed out that if this was under the Localism Act any services to be taken over must still be run by the Council and not outsourced to a contractor. Likewise, if they were stopping a service then he would expect the Council tax to be reduced accordingly as otherwise it would be a double hit for residents in that they continued to pay the County and our precept would be increased to pay for providing that service. His advice was that if we set the budget and a few months later asked us to take on a service we simply tell them we do not have the funds to do so. Although we might have ideas and suggestions we should continue to think about them, so they could be discussed at the December meeting.

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

**123.1** Since the last meeting the Clerk had been in touch with BT and they require a Contract to be signed and completed which had been placed in the Clerks report. We could do one of two things. Every Councillor to read the contract and within the next 7 days let the Clerk know if there was any problem with him or the Chair signing the papers. The other alternative was to leave the matter for the December meeting. **Resolved** the matter to be dealt with at the December meeting.

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

**124.1** Cllr Bill said that the battery had been replaced as the old one was faulty and always had been. The old one lasted 3 days before it went flat but this one has been running now for 7 days and was still working. At the moment it is on Swallow Hill and would be moved in a day or two to Obthorpe Lane. There was a rota in place for the sign to be moved from site to site every 7 days. It was felt that we needed to get more data from the A15 if it was going to help us get a crossing at Thurlby.

**125. To receive an update on where we can locate the 2 extra rubbish bins.**

**125.1** At the last meeting Cllr Dobson was going to have a word with Highways and Cllr Lunn was to discuss the matter with members from the Methodist Chapel. Cllr Lunn explained that the Methodist Chapel did not want a bin placed on their car park. There was no news from Cllr Dobson. As a result, it was **resolved** that we would simply place the bins in the following sites and if there were complaints they would be removed and placed elsewhere. One to be placed on Swallow Hill near the post box at the junction of Swift Way and the other on the piece of grass at the corner of Tudor Close and Chapel Lane

**125.2** Cllr Dobson in his report said that we could have other bins and it was resolved that the Clerk should try and obtain extra bins and the suggestion of a bin being placed in the lay-by near McDonalds was considered a good site.

**126. To consider any items to be placed in the Village Link**

**126.1** It was suggested that the following should be added:

1. A donation to the Royal British Legion for a Poppy Wreath
2. That the sped sign was now working and would be placed in various locations around the village on a regular basis.

3. Grants are available from the Parish Council and we would like applications in before the end of November.

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

**127.1** Cllr Thomas reported that all was in order and hopefully we now had the grass cut for the last time this year.

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

**128.1** No written report was given but Cllr Sadler reported that he had attended an Ann Fisher Charity Meeting At that meeting Cllr Dobson had raised the matter of parking at Almond Court and that people parked their cars on the grass. This was not really a matter for the Parish Council, but we should note the position.

**129. To confirm Expenditure**

[£2000.00 Lawrance Park (balance of Grant)]

[£112.00 – C S Harris (cemetery maintenance)]

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

£429.69 – B M Champness (salary)

£57.54 – litter picker

£254.72 – BT (broadband charges) Paid by Direct Debit

[ ] 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

**129.1 Resolved:** that the above payments be made after the Clerk pointed out that the correct payment to the litter picker was £58.09

The Clerk said that he had checked the bank statement and it appeared we paid £10 to Cllr Sadler in May but we had not paid his expenses to go to Corby to get items for the re-active sign. He said he would check his records.

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

**130.1** Cllr Thomas pointed out that whilst he trusted the Clerk the Council should check to ensure that the information on the spreadsheet was accurate. This would be an easy task now that we were able to access the account on line.

**130.2** There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 21.31

**131. The date of the next meeting** – to be held on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017** at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room, Thurlby.