

Thurlby Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Thurlby Parish Council (Min 20-05) held on Wednesday the 7th October 2020 at 7.30 p.m. held remotely by video conference

Present: **Councillors:** P Barnett, R Bill (presiding) N Bradley, H Edwards, L Lowe, E Lunn, M Owen, M Reece, A Thomas and D White
Residents: Stephen Holland,
Others: Bernard Champness – Clerk, County Cllr R Reid, and District Cllr B Dobson.

	Open Forum
	The meeting started at 19.30 and there was no Open Forum
78.	Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies & noting of resignations received
	78.1 No apologies were received as all Councillors were present.
79.	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
	79.1 No one declared an interest in any item on the agenda.
80.	Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 2nd September 2020 (Min20-04)
	80.1 Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 2 nd September 2020 were to be signed by the Chair as a correct record as soon as conveniently possible.
81.	To receive a report from the County and District Councillors on matters relating to Thurlby
	81.1 County Cllr R Reid had submitted a written report as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding that there is No way forward on the pedestrian Crossing/A15, as a decision from the last meeting for the moment. • Local Government Reorganisation Nationally seems to be delayed long term, well at least 2021, and county elections will take place next May! • With Autumn here and winter approaching ,Highways issues will rise, should you identify any that are reported on the updated Fix my Street LCC website, or connectivity issues through your clerk please identify them for me to follow up. • Additionally, any flooding issues not resolved or new ones please ask, and I will do my best to resolve them. • I was pleased the Annual General Meeting for Lawrance Park has been successful. Other issues, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence with Joyce Stevenson and South Kesteven District Council Planning has been successful, without IT communication. She had sent three planning applications to me with her concerns, so I was able to talk with the Planning Officer and it was acknowledged that they had been received, acknowledged and taken into account. This was good news as Joyce did not have access to a computer

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consultation survey for Almond Courts parking has started for residents. <p>There were a number of matters and questions that needed clarifying which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The crossing on the A15. Cllr Reid understood that if the development was to take place at Elm Farm then there should be sufficient money from Sec 106 monies to pay for a crossing. In any event if any work other than the crossing was going to be done Highways had indicated that this would not be until 2022 • Cllr Reid was asked to keep on putting pressure on for a controlled crossing not an island refuge. He was also asked to see if the speed limit could be reduced from 40 mph to 30 mph • Cllr Reid was asked about the continued flooding on The Green by the Post Office and what was happening. He was unaware of the recent ongoing problems, but Councillors informed him of the recent flooding, and he agreed to take this matter further • Cllr Reid was asked about our request for the footpath from Thurlby to Northorpe being made into a cycleway/footway. He did not recall this matter being discussed but he would certainly take this matter up for us. • Cllr Reid said that he was pursuing the flooding issue to gardens of 11 & 13 Main Road from the adjacent field. • Cllr Reid wanted to thank Stephen Holland as his efforts were appreciated and his support valued in relation to matter for discussion at Item 85 • Cllr Lunn asked a number of matters relating to the Butterfield Centre which Cllr Reid was able to answer.
81.2		<p>District Cllr B Dobson had submitted a written report as follows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COVID-19 has, of course, been on our agenda for 6 months now and we can still not see the 'end of the tunnel'. SKDC has policed the opening of shops and other public venues for the maintaining of social distancing and wearing of the appropriate safety apparel. This has been very successful. We have seen a fairly good recovery of both retail, pubs and restaurants. However, it is still not sure whether we, as a nation let alone district will be able to maintain this. Confusion on how many people, where and how often continues. 2. Uppermost on our agenda, outside of keeping everyone safe, is the ability to keep people employed and able to meet their commitments in everyday life. In order to help businesses, SKDC has issued some £30million of grants on top of the furlough scheme which ends this month. There will be a reduced scheme brought in to take over from this scheme, but it will involve businesses bearing more of the burden. This will inevitably see many jobs no longer available. 3. Alongside all of this, Government is pushing for improved health by providing more cycle and walking paths. At SKDC, we are actively trying to improve the leisure offer by renewing the existing leisure centres and completely renewing the facility at the Deepings. We have the opportunity to build an 8-lane pool with fitness suites and a venue for shows off Linchfield Road in Deeping St James. It's been a difficult journey, but we hope that we are nearly there with land agreements being signed off very soon after we reached approval from the DSJ PC, LCC and the Anthem Trust (School). 4. The Council has continued to operate our full schedule of 80,000 bins per week. We have kept the crews in a social bubble, i.e. all related throughout that has allowed us to keep the teams up and running. In my opinion, they have done a superb job. 5. Our plan is also to reduce carbon emissions by working towards building an electric fleet of vehicles, but it is going to be difficult with trucks, such as our waste vehicles, to be fitted with electric drives as the battery component could be as heavy as the load each truck can carry. Developments are taking place all the time. Last week, I took part in an energy consortium where hydrogen fuelled vehicles were proposed. However, to date 80% of hydrogen is produced by fossil fuels. There is a lot more to

		<p>do and we are in constant discussions with energy suppliers. A recent visit together with our CEX to Beeswax Dyson was particularly interesting. There, they have an anaerobic digester which provides power to the complete complex, including 6 Ha of covered strawberry production and still with residual to feed back into the grid.</p> <p>6. We are currently restructuring our arm's length companies: InvestSK and Gravitass.</p> <p>a. Invest SK has a new structure in place, and we are working hard to help companies, especially smaller ones, to recover from Covid-19 as the furlough scheme comes to an end at the end of this month.</p> <p>b. Gravitass built the flats and houses in Wherry's Lane, Bourne and these have been shortlisted for the best development of affordable housing.</p> <p>c. There is a third company, in which I am directly involved, LeisureSK. We have re-opened the swimming at all four leisure centres. However, we are planning to build a completely new centre on the sports field at Deeping St James. This will include an 8-lane, 25m pool as well as fitness suites, court sports and sauna. It will also have a decent café and the court area will convert into a venue for shows, etc. We plan to have this completed in 2022.</p> <p>There was a discussion about Leisure Centres in the District and what the Council were hoping to do with them</p> <p>Cllr Dobson also explained that a resident had contacted him about a development in Thurlby and the soakaways were being directed to a ditch. He had taken this matter up and proper soakaways were going to be installed.</p>
82.	To co-opt one (1) Councillor	
	82.1	No one had applied to be co-opted so it was agreed this would remain on the agenda until the post was filled,
83.	Clerks report and correspondence received.	
	83.1	The Clerks Report was circulated, after he explained that he had kept the report to only what was important. If any Councillor wished to see the e-mails from NALC and various playground equipment companies they should ask the clerk and he would forward them on. There were no questions. He did explain that he had added more correspondence to the report that day and went through them. One in particular was from LALC who were looking for someone to be on the on the Associations County Committee. There were 4 vacancies. No one put their name forward. The rest were either matters relating to the items on the agenda or for noting purposes only
84.	Planning applications:	
	84.1	To consider any Planning Applications received: no plans had been received to consider at the time that the agenda was posted. However, an application had been received which was: S20/1607 - First floor extension to be built over existing double garage at 18 Swift Way, Thurlby. We had until the 26 th October to respond. The Clerk explained that he could call a special meeting, or the Council could consider it tonight and give him delegated authority to respond. Resolved: that the council would deal with the planning application that evening and the Clerk to be given delegated authority to respond. When responding the Clerk was to say that we had no comments to the application.
	84.2	To note Planning Applications approved:

		<p>a) S19/1965 - Erection of single dwelling along with detached double garage and log store at The Willows Swallow Hill</p> <p>b) S20/1238 - Demolish garage and construction of single storey extension and loft conversion at Casa Sala 8 Lawrance Way, Thurlby (this notice was received after the agenda was posted)</p> <p>c) S19/0178 - Installation of 1no. 5 m lighting column in overflow car park area with LED streetlight heads. To only be lit when church is in use. (Ref to planning permission received 2017 S17/0207) at Land Adjacent St Firmin's Church Fen Road, Thurlby, (this notice was received after the agenda was posted)</p>
	84.3	<p>To note any Planning Applications refused:</p> <p>a) S20/1264 - Proposal: Outline planning permission for erection of two dwellings with all matters reserved at 22 The Green</p>
	65.4	<p>To note any Application appealed or any decision made regarding an appeal:</p> <p>there were none to note</p>
85.	To discuss the Government Planning Policy and to submit any comments to South Kesteven District Council	
	85.1	<p>Prior to the meeting the Clerk had sent to every Councillor copies of e-mails passing between Stephen Holland and Roger Ransome at South Kesteven District Council. R Holland was asked to give a brief resume on what was his understanding of the present situation and what he wanted the Parish Council to do. Mr Holland gave a very precise breakdown of his understanding of the present situation which Cllr Reid was able to confirm was correct. His main concern was the lack of democracy in the proposals and that the Neighbourhood Plan would be diminished as would the Local Plan. Local concerns and comments would be meaningless. He understood that the Cabinet at South Kesteven District Council were meeting on the 13th October to discuss this matter and to formulate their response to send to Government. He felt that we should wait until that meeting and we had a chance to see their comments before we lodged our concerns or verifying our agreement to their comments. This was subsequently proposed and resolved that we would do that on the basis that Cllr Reid would ensure the Mr Holland was able to see their comments as soon as possible after the meeting so he could advise the Parish Council accordingly</p>
86.	To consider the results of this year's Best Kept Village Competition and to decide what we should do with the prize money and how we can improve in 2021.	
	86.1	<p>Official notice had new been received that Thurlby had won third prize in the Best Kept Village Competition and that we would receive a prize of £200.00. Cllr White had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda last month but there was insufficient time to deal with it. Cllr White wanted to know how we could spend that money and what we could do to try and win the competition in 2021. Cllr White said that from what he had gathered from other Councils it was unusual for just one person to be responsible for maintaining and looking after the plants around the village. In other villages a committee was set up and he thought that this should happen in Thurlby. It was agreed that an article be placed in the Village Link ,requesting suggested ideas, but before that Cllr Lunn to have a word with Mrs Cockerill to explain what we intended to do and to make sure she was not offended with the suggestion. It was again to be recorded that the Council would like to give their thanks to Mrs Cockerill for the wonderful work she had done and they were sure we would not have got third place if it was not for the hard work she put in on a voluntary basis. Cllr White wondered if more could be done in the centre of the village especially around The Green</p>

87.	To appoint a representative to attend the presentation of the certificate and to receive the prize for coming third in the Best Kept Village Competition.
87.1	South Kesteven District Council had written advising that they would very like to invite a representative from the parish council to come in person to receive a commemorative certificate, and the prize cheque. They recommend only one representative to comply with current COVID guidelines. The proposed date was Friday 23 October Resolved: that instead of someone attending at Grantham the certificate and prize money be collected by Cllr Dobson and the presentation to be in Thurlby on a date to be agreed.
88.	To consider a proposal by a resident regarding litter around the village.
88.1	This item was on the agenda last month but there had been insufficient time to consider the suggestion. The resident was suggesting that we ask residents if they would be interested in setting up Thurlby Wombles who would go out on a voluntary basis to pick up litter. The Parish Council would supply litter pickers, bags and hi viz waistcoats. We would also be responsible for providing insurance cover for them. This idea was discussed and was considered one that might catch the imagination of residents. It was suggested that an article be placed in the Village Link but before this the Clerk should have a word with the Community Cleaner to see if she would take offence and this or feel they were taking away her work.
89.	To consider whether to purchase for the Community Cleaner evidence/clothing to show that she works for the Parish Council
89.1	Last month it was reported that the Community Cleaner had been verbally abused and accused of fly tipping. Cllr Bradley had suggested this matter be placed on the agenda as if we could supply some proof that the Cleaner was employed by the Parish Council this would hopefully prevent any further problems arising. Resolved: that we purchase a high viz waist coat for the summer and a waterproof high viz jacket for winter with Thurlby Parish Council printed on the back of both articles.
90.	To discuss the NHS Test and Trace launched – Thursday 24 September and steps we need to take if we start face to face meetings.
90.1	An e-mail had been received from LCC advising that there was the launch of the NHS Covid19 App. This had been circulated in advance, but the e-mail also gave details of what organisations could or should do in the event of reopening premises or holding meetings. A similar e-mail had so been received from LALC. It was agreed that this matter be left in abeyance until such time we were given the all clear to start using Lawrance Park Social Room again. Then we would have to follow the advice given at that time.
91.	To consider the data received from the reactive sign
91.1	Cllr Bill had submitted before the meeting the data he had obtained from the Reactive Sign positioned in High Street for Westbound traffic during September. The data indicates the average overall daily count (1001) is down 10% compared with the previous figure, July 2019, but is similar if you take the average of the previous three sets of results. The average speed of 25.4mph remains similar with a very slight increase of 0.7mph to 32.5mph as average speed above the limit however the data indicates a reduction of 27.5% to 13.6% in speeds above this limit. During the period of data collection, the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP) also carried out a survey (16/09/20 -

		22/09/20) and their data indicated similar results. Full details can be found on the website. There were no questions.'
92.	To consider the purchase and installation of a Defibrillator either at the Horseshoe Public House or in that vicinity.	
92.1	Cllr Lowe said that she had spoken to the manager at the Horseshoe Public House who said that he would give permission for the defibrillator being installed on the walls of the building but would prefer it to be by the side entrance facing the car park. She was asked if this was in writing and said that it was not. It was felt that it should be so the Clerk was asked to write to the manager for this to be put in writing and at the same time explain that the defibrillator had to be connected to an electrical socket. Cllr Thomas said that this was not to charge the battery so the actual cost would be minimal. Once this was in writing the Clerk to write to the Causeway Charity asking if they could give us a grant for the purchase of the defibrillator.	
93.	To receive an update on the combined footway/cycleway Thurlby to Northorpe	
93.1	This matter had been discussed under Item 81.1 when Cllr Reid said that he would check whether this was possible or not.	
94.	To receive an update on the Cemetery to include grass cutting, maintenance and burial fees	
94.1	Cllr Thomas reported that the hedge had been cut by the farmer and Chris Harris was asked to tidy up and also clear the footpath as it was covered in fallen leaves. Cllr Thomas had destroyed the two wasp nests. He suggested that there should be a meeting in the cemetery as people were placing plastic vases and other items on graves and it was difficult to know what grave they should be on. The Clerk suggested that as the software had now been upgraded for the cemetery that he and Cllr Thomas use the programme to and carry out an inspection of the headstones and what memorabilia was on each grave. This could then be reported back to Council for a decision as to what should be done.	
94.2	The Clerk asked if consideration could be given to whether or not an agreement could be reached regarding payment of burial fees for Parish Councillors. They gave their time up freely as a Councillor and it was felt that in recognition of this that they might be given a discount for the purchase of a plot or payment of a burial fee. It was agreed that this would be considered at the same time the Council considered the burial fees which was usually at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council	
95.3	Cllr Thomas said that one of the posts by the war memorial was in need of replacing as it was rotten. The grass and surrounding area need to be cut and cleaned up before the 11 th November. He usually did this but wondered if someone else could deal with this this year. Cllr Bill asked if Cllr Thomas had a problem carrying out the work he would do it but he would need to meet him in the Cemetery so he could then understand what was needed to be undertaken.	
95.	For any Councillor to produce a written report of any meeting that he/she has attended as representatives of the Parish Council	
95.1	Cllr Thomas said that he had attended the Lawrance Park AGM and gave a brief outline of what was discussed.	
96.	That we purchase a new battery for the defibrillator at Lawrance Park as we have been advised that it is now 4 years old and out of warranty	

	96.1	The Clerk had received an e-mail from Wel Medical saying that we have now had our iPad SP1 AED for more than 4 years and the disposable Battery that powers the device was now out of Warranty. They strongly recommend that if we have not replaced our Battery recently, that we replace it with a new one as soon as possible. The energy capacity levels in all makes of AED Batteries depreciate quickly and at unpredictable reduction levels at their end of life, especially when challenged with changeable environmental conditions. The cost of a new battery was £160.00 plus VAT and if we ordered before the end of December 2020 we would not have to pay carriage and we get a 5% reduction.. Resolved that the Clerk purchase a new battery, Cllr Thomas said that he would fit it. There was a discussion regarding pads as Wel Medical were again offering a discount. Cllr Thomas said that this was not necessary as he still had spare pads which had not been used and were in good repair.
	97.	To discuss whether to pay for the Clerk to become a member of the SLCC
	97.1	The Clerk had circulated a flyer from the SLCC in advance of the meeting showing the reasons why the Clerk should become a member and the actual cost. The Clerk explained that whilst he was employed as a Clerk at Bretton Parish Council he was a member of the Association and Bretton paid the fees, but the membership had recently lapsed. He had found being a member very helpful as he had attended conferences and training sessions which he had been able to share with the Council. He was asked if being Clerk to Witham Council would increase the membership fees and he confirmed that it would not.. Resolved that the Clerk become a member and the membership fees of £126.00 would be paid by the Council
	98.	To discuss and approve the pay increase for the Clerk in line with the agreement reached between the National Employers and the NJC Union on rates applicable from 1st April 2020
	98.1	The Clerk had prepared a report for the Councillors to consider and this was circulated in advance. The report was discussed, and it was resolved that the Clerk would receive the pay increase and for that to be back dated to the 1 st April 2020.
	99.	To consider what information should be placed in the Village Link
	99.1	It was agreed that Cllr White would draft a note of what was to go into the next edition of the Village Link, and he would send this around for approval.
	100.	To confirm Expenditure for September £429.49 – B M Champness (salary) £40.00 – B M Champness (use of home as office) £109.70 – Community Cleaner (salary and expenses) £352.20 – HMRC (PAYE) £35.00 – LALC (LCR Review fee) £14.39 – Zoom (monthly licence fee) £46.20 – BT (broadband)] DD [] 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
	100.1	Resolved: that the above payments be made. The Clerk was asked if there was any news on the refund from BT. He said that no one was replying. It was suggested that an e-mail be sent to the top man at BT and Cllr Thomas would give the Clerk details of who to write to.

	100.2	The Clerk explained that since the agenda was posted he had received two more invoices £9.00 – LALC (LALC News hard copy) £270.00 - Village Link (inserts in Village Link for July/Aug, September, October, and November) It was resolved that they could be paid now.
101.	Members Questions - reminder only questions given to the clerk a week in advance will be answered.	
	101.1	County Cllr Reid said that he had sent an email to the Clerk during the meeting about funding for a defibrillator which he could consider.
	101.2	Cllr Bill asked Robert Reid about the long-standing temporary traffic lights on the Thurlby to Manthorpe Road. He said it was the result of subsidence from badgers digging under the road and he understood the road would be repaired soon. Cllr. Bill asked if not could a 'badger tunnel' be installed as this had happened before and he said he would ask the question.
	101.3	There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 21.22
102.	The date of the next meeting – to be held on Wednesday 4th November 2020 at 7.30 p.m. remotely by Video Link or in the Lawrance Park Social Room, Thurlby	