

Thurlby Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Thurlby Parish Council (Min 20-09) held on Wednesday the 3rd March 2021 at 7.30 p.m. held remotely by video conference

Present: **Councillors:** R Bill (presiding) N Bradley, H Edwards, P Haley, 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
	Although a resident was present there was no open forum and the meeting was officially opened at 19.33
177.	Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies & noting of resignations received
	177.1 There were no apologies as all Councillors were present.
178.	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
	178.1 No one declared an interest in any item on the agenda.
179.	Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 3rd February 2021 (Min20-08)
	179.1 Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 3 rd February 2021 are to be signed by the Chair as a correct record as soon as conveniently possible.
180.	To receive a report from the County and District Councillors on matters relating to Thurlby
	180.1 County Cllr R Reid had submitted a written report as follows and which was taken as read: Highways. I understand that the gullies have had a cleaning visit, thankfully. 71 Northorpe Lane had received permission to make their dyke alteration including a drainage pipe installation condition. The Highways Manager for our area has extended an invitation for a Teams meeting to me to clear up some of the ongoing issues, I would like to extend the invitation to your Chairman Mr Richard Bill, to attend, upon his acceptance I will arrange the next available date. <i>Cllr Bill confirmed that he would be happy to be in attendance at any meeting to be arranged.</i> Church Street flooding near Anglian Water Pumping Station, the dyke's owners have an enforcement order from The Welland Drainage Board (IDB) now in place. Chapel Lane issues around surface water drainage, have been reported, but require further investigation as reported to be followed through. Northorpe Crossing/Fen Lane Culvert and dyke;

Further clarification has been forwarded, to stop heavy rainfall surface flooding on the A15.

Woodside Close /and the Adjacent Fields down to the A15 have been Inspected and the relevant Owners with clearance issues have been served Notices of Enforcement now by the IDB.

The Clerk confirmed that the householders had received letters and they have done the appropriate work and cleared the dyke. Cllr Reid said that the tenant farmer had also be sent a letter, but he had not as yet cleared the dyke on his land.

Cycle path extension from Northorpe to Thurlby as requested. Update of work scheduled outstanding. It was understood that this might be included in the next financial year.

Confirmation at long last ! Has been made that The A6121/A151 section of road will have Major Reconstruction Repairs done This June, please take note a traffic regulation order to close this section of the road is likely for a few days to undertake this Work. When questions where the actual work would be Cllr Reid said that it was from the junction of these two roads up to Toft Logs.

The Highways Maintenance Budget Deficiency abused by a cut to the Pothole Grant (£12m for Lincolnshire) has been able to be Topped up from LCC reserves of £50m collected over the last 4 years. So the same level of Repairs can be kept, and also Our County New Road major schemes also remain unaffected, such as the Grantham Southern relief Bypass to the A1; and the Lincoln Eastern Bypass.

Our MP, Gareth Davis continues to Lobby for The A1 link from Stamford North to be upgraded to 3 lanes, owing to the number of accidents and volume of traffic.

AMENITIES REFUSE TIP

I can report that this is now open as previously by appointment on "click and tip" you can take ANY permitted waste at the same time from 8th March

FLOODING

I promised an update from the LCC Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee Meeting Monday 22nd February.

The minutes will be on line as will the decision's

With reference request made to the extra £2m Capital Budget and what part of it is to benefit our local area.

I am able to report that the A151 at Pond Farm where the culvert has collapsed/damaged is to be repaired with a £80k allocation.

From the extra £200k to the Revenue Account. This will support LCC sandbags provision for all parishes and other new technology Water defence facility. These budget additions now have to be facilitated.

I re confirm our District Authority, SKDC have doubled their stock of sandbags in stock for future most unfortunate Downpours of rain and are working with LCC to develop a improved Emergency Response Action Plan. A useful link is Flood Alert Gov web site.

Other Issues I have been asked to report on,

Status of the Design Guidance.

This is the first draft of the document and we are seeking views on the style, format, usability and content of the document. The Design Guidance covers both Rutland County Council and South Kesteven District which is a large geographical area and the five-character areas have been evidenced by local authority level landscape character

assessments. Comments are being sought of local character areas and views are welcomed as part of the public consultation which is open until the 12th March 2021. As the Design Guidance is in draft form, following the consultation further work is to be undertaken in considering all responses and identify any changes to the document which may be required as a result of the responses. Once the Design Guidance has been finalised the document will then be adopted as Supplementary Planning Document by the Council later in 2021.

Pre application advice

Comments on preapplication advice are welcomed, as the points raised in terms of the process of pre application and not considering community views at this stage are valid concerns of how the planning system works in practice.

In response to how this works in practice, pre application engagement and frontloading is a requirement by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Paragraphs 39 to 42 of the NPPF refer to the role of preapplication advice in the decision making process, paragraph 40 and 41 state the following:

- 40 Local planning authorities have a key role to play in encouraging other parties to take maximum advantage of the pre-application stage. They cannot require that a developer engages with them before submitting a planning application, but they should encourage take-up of any pre-application services they offer. They should also, where they think this would be beneficial, encourage any applicants who are not already required to do so by law to engage with the local community and, where relevant, with statutory and non-statutory consultees, before submitting their applications.
- 41. The more issues that can be resolved at pre-application stage, including the need to deliver improvements in infrastructure and affordable housing, the greater the benefits. For their role in the planning system to be effective and positive, statutory planning consultees will need to take the same early, pro-active approach, and provide advice in a timely manner throughout the development process. This assists local planning authorities in issuing timely decisions, helping to ensure that applicants do not experience unnecessary delays and costs.

The focus on early engagement and pre application advice is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning system nationally to enable good quality development to come forward and enables better outcomes for communities, however the transparency of this process could be a considered further within the Design SPD and comments have been passed to the Planning Policy Team.

Fen Margin

The Design Guidance includes both Rutland and South Kesteven District covering a large geographical area and there has been not been possible to consider every settlement and character area at the local or parish level.

The Fen Margin area has been evidenced through the South Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment (2007) This can be found using the following link;<http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=2117&p=0>

The Design Guidance highlights five-character areas, pages 12 – 15 identify the Fen Margin area and also signposts applicants to consider the further detail contained within the South Kesteven Character Assessment, local character assessments and Neighbourhood Plans. Future planning applications will be assessed on their own merits and consider all local evidence.

The Thurlby with Northorpe Village Character Assessment prepared in February 2017 and the Thurlby Neighbourhood Plan will supplement the Design Guidance in

		<p>assessing individual applications and any further comments on the Design Guidance are encouraged to be submitted by the 12th March.</p> <p>Councillor Reid also confirmed that the work on the road from Manthorpe to Thurlby should be completed this year. He was reminded that it was hoped that the works would not take place when roads were being closed which would affect diverted traffic. He said he would follow this up.</p>
<p>180.2</p>		<p>District Cllr B Dobson had submitted a written report as follows and which was taken as read: : Refuse Collections</p> <p>SKDC bin men and women continue to work hard throughout and have not missed any of the 80,000 bins they empty each week, unless they have been unable to reach them during the inclement weather. However, they have always managed to get back and empty these the following day.</p> <p>2. Outdoor Leisure</p> <p>Of course, we have seen a surge in people walking around our beautiful area, but many who have left a trail of litter, so I hope that the ward grant of £500 will enable us to purchase to waste bins, one of which to be sited on the track leading up to the River Glen together with signs telling people not to drop litter, clear up dog mess and keep dogs on lead. There is a requirement for dog owners to have adequate number of leads for all the dogs with them; this includes dog walkers. I am also concerned about the number of dog owners ‘running’ their dogs behind their cars. They have no control of their dogs, it is harrowing for the dog who think that their owner is going to forget them, the dog doesn’t want to stop so leaves its mess on the run (so to speak). Perhaps the Parish Council could consider putting a sign-up informing people of these issues.</p> <p>There is a motion now to provide walkways and cycle-paths throughout the County.</p> <p>3. Indoor Leisure</p> <p>LeisureSK Ltd was formed at the beginning of the year and has taken over all four leisure centres in Grantham, Bourne, Stamford and Deeping. I am the chairman of what is a so-called arm’s length company. We have taken on all those staff that wanted to join us from 1-Life, the company that previously managed our centres. Most staff are still furloughed, but I have suggested we run an SK-Keep Fit course online. These are proving quite popular and are free but only to members at the moment. You can find details on our website. This week it’s Week 3</p> <p>Items 2 & 3. Reopening of Leisure Facilities</p> <p>Until we are able to open leisure centres fully, we are busily cleaning and renovating.</p> <p>However, we now have a schedule for reopening centres:</p> <p>Phase 1 – 29th March – outdoor sport can resume</p> <p>Phase 2 – 12th April – leisure centres can reopen</p> <p>Phase 3 – 17th May – indoor sports and group exercise can resume</p> <p>Phase 4 – 21st June – no legal limit on social contact; leisure centres can fully open</p> <p>4. Town Centres</p>

		<p>Bourne, is one of our once thriving market towns but we have sadly witnessed the closing of several well-known stores over the last year or so, and COVID-19 has not made it any easier. The devastating damage it has done to retail, pubs and other important businesses such as hairdressers and nail bars is evident everywhere we go. It is South Kesteven's Council that want to regenerate these important social hubs. I have just led the successful bid for the Grantham regeneration scheme. I now want to look at remodelling and regenerating our other market towns, especially Bourne. Gravitass is our arm's length housing company that built the Wherry's Lane in Bourne. They are superb flats and houses that are perfect for those living in the centre of the town. Some of these are on offer with a 20% in perpetuity discount. There is a great way for young people to start with their own property or for older people to downsize with easy access to the town centre. Very soon, as we have planned for Grantham, the empty rooms above the shops will gradually turn back into what they once were: living accommodation. These moves and a good mixed and evening economy will help return life to our towns.</p> <p>5. Improvements to Council Venues</p> <p>We have begun making improvements to the Bourne Corn Exchange, giving it a much needed and overdue facelift. We have moved the registry office to behind the library so that it is roomier and more accommodating. The venue area has been thoroughly cleaned, repainted and become much more appealing to the eye. We have also updated the Stamford Arts Centre internally and externally, including a much overdue repair to the roof</p> <p><i>The £500 grant was on its way although the Clerk said that we had not as yet received it. Cllr Dobson was also asked if funds could or would be available to widen the footpath/cycleway from Northorpe to Bourne as it was very narrow and not wide enough. Likewise, the grass needed to be cut back. He said that he would try and see if the Big Clean could undertake that work</i></p>
181.	To co-opt one (1) Councillor	
	181.1	No one had approached the Clerk so it was agreed that this matter would be left on the agenda until the post was filled.
182.	Clerks report and correspondence received.	
	182.1	<p>The Clerks Report was circulated in advance which the Clerk went through and there were no questions. The Clerk said that he had received 3 more items of correspondence and these were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk & Councils Direct • The ICCM update • An email from LCC regarding any changes in Bus routes throughout Lincolnshire.
183.	Planning applications:	
	183.1	To consider any Planning Applications received: S21/0264 - Erection of s/s rear extension at 15 The Kippings, Thurlby, Response by 5 th March 202. Resolved: no comment
	183.2	To note Planning Applications approved: S20/2042 - Approval of details reserved by conditions 7 (Boundary treatments) of planning approval S19/1855 at White House Nurseries 23 The Green
	183.3	To note any Planning Applications refused or withdrawn: there were none to note
	183.4	To note any Application appealed or any decision made regarding an appeal: there were none to note

184.	To consider the draft Response to Design Guidance for Rutland and South Kesteven as prepared by Stephen Holland and to approve the same	
	184.1	Stephen Holland had prepared a response on behalf of the Parish Council and which had been circulated in advance. He said that there were a number of points he would like to bring to the attention of the Council. The first was that it was being proposed that an Applicant should seek pre advice before submitting the application and this would also include discussion with local neighbours and residents. He felt that this could compromise the progress of an application. The other matter related to the Landscape assessment and referred to the Fen Margin which has also been addressed by Cllr Reid. The Fen Margin ran from Baston to North Kesteven, and the report mentioned every village between those points but there was no mention of either Thurlby or Northorpe. He felt that we should address that omission. It was agreed that Stephen Holland should draft our response to Design Statement and then send it to the Clerk who would send it to all Councillors to approve. This was agreed and we had until the 12th March to lodge our comments.
185.	The Neighbourhood Plan being two years old should this be reviewed and amended if felt appropriate.	
	185.1	Stephen Holland said that it was two year ago that the Neighbourhood Plan was adopted, and it had been agreed that the Plan would be considered an any appropriate amendments made to any changes that might have occurred at South Kesteven District Council and or any amendments to the Local Plan. It was agreed that Mr Holland would undertake the necessary review of the Neighbourhood Plan and report back at the next meeting. Mr Holland wanted to point out that on Page 43 of the Plan there were 7 points which the Parish Council were to concentrate on and he would address that aspect as well.
186.	To discuss the proposed/suggested alterations to the website and whether we wish the work to be undertaken and for any Councillor to suggest any other amendments and or additions to be included on the website	
	186.1	Following on from the last meeting the Clerk had spoken to Ian Bratley about up grading and or modernising the Parish Council website. He was told about the website which was being hosted by Lincolnshire County Council and he had looked at the website of Witham on the Hill Parish Council. In his opinion this was a good website and very modern and was using technology that allowed the website to be viewed on a computer, telephone or iPad which our site did not use. This was because the cost would be rather high and in Ian's opinion it would cost over £2000.00 to upgrade to that sort of site. He did feel that we could use some of the ideas from those sites and had prepared two different front pages showing what could be done and using the links from the other websites which would be very helpful for the residents of Thurlby. To undertake the necessary work, it would take between 4-5 hours and he would charge £20 per hour. Both drafts had been sent to the Councillors to consider prior to the meeting. Resolved that Ian Bratley spend up to £100 to improve the website
187.	To consider a proposal by a resident regarding litter picking around the village.	
	187.1	The Clerk explained that he had been approached by Cllr White who had been approached by a resident asking if we had any litter pickers that a voluntary group could use. They wanted to do a litter pick along the A15. The Clerk explained that we did not but advised that if this was going to happen he felt sure that they would need to be wearing hi viz jackets and have insurance in place just in case there was an incident, and someone was hurt. This information had been forwarded by Cllr White and it appeared that Cllr Owen had been in touch with South Kesteven District Council who were more than happy to loan litter pickers and hi viz jackets but they would have to sign a form agreeing to pay for any of the items that were damaged. They were also sent an information sheet and on considering both documents the group decided that they would not carry out the litter pick along the A15. Cllr

		Owen said that there was no request for assistance from the Parish Council and nothing further was needed from us.
188.	To consider a recipient for the Lawrance Cup 2021	
	188.1	The Clerk had received a nomination form from Lawrance Park, and this had been circulated. After discussion it was resolved that we would nominate the Covid Support Team. These were a group of volunteers who did shopping for the vulnerable during lockdown and generally made themselves useful to them. The Clerk would let Christine Gray know of our decision.
189.	To discuss a contingency plan in the event that the Clerk is unable to undertake his role as Clerk and RFO.	
	189.1	The Clerk explained that Cllr Bill had requested this matter to be placed on the agenda. He explained that some years ago this matter was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would complete a detailed note of the various codes he used to get into the laptop, internet banking and any other information that was required in the event of the Clerk becoming incapacitated. That note was placed in a sealed envelope and given to the Chair who could only open the seal if and when the Clerk was unable to work. The envelope would be handed back to the Clerk and given to the new Chair. He now had this envelope. He was asked if this could be updated, and a detailed explanation given on how to access the accounts package as well as the Cemetery package. He should also explain how to use the software for both matters. The Clerk said he would undertake this and give the sealed envelope to the present Chair.
190.	To receive an update on the problem of flooding in and around the Village since the last meeting	
	190.1	Because it had not rained for some time now the problem of flooding had abated but this was not to say the problems had been resolved. There was still a problem at the junction of High Street and Chapel Lane and Cllr Bill said that this had been reported on Fix My Street. The matter had been discussed and reported under Item 180.1 It was suggested that this matter go onto the April agenda.
191.	To appoint David Thornburn as the new Internal Auditor	
	191.1	Two references had been received from Mr Thornburn's customers which had been circulated in advance. In view of the fact that they spoke very highly of him it was resolved that David Thornburn be appointed Internal Auditor for the Parish Council
192.	To discuss the possibility of working in conjunction with Community Heartbeat to renovate the two old telephone kiosks in the village.	
	192.1	There was no update to give but the Clerk would chase the Community Heartbeat charity once again. Cllr Owen had taken photographs of the Northorpe kiosk showing how it was leaning and in need on decorating.
193.	To discuss whether or not we wish to join the Annual Training Scheme 21/22 with LALC at a yearly cost of £150.00 (including VAT)	
	193.1	LALC had sent details of the cost of joining the training scheme to the Clerk and this had been circulated in advance. Resolved: That we would join the training scheme at a cost of £125.00 plus VAT of £25 making a total of £150.00
194.	To consider the data received from the reactive sign	

	194.1	<p>Cllr Bill had submitted before the meeting the data he had obtained from the Reactive Sign positioned on Swallow Hill recording outbound traffic.</p> <p>The results cover the period 27/01/21 to 24/02/21. On analysing the data, it is evident that there was excessive traffic between midnight and 07.00hrs on both the 28/01/21 and 02/02/21 and possibly the result of a diversion on the A15. This increase in traffic was sufficient to affect the data to result in a peak AM time of between 01.00 and 02.00!!!! As a consequence, those two days were omitted, and a further report ran between 03/02/21 and 23/02/21. Comparing this data with the previous in 2019 and 2018 indicates a considerable reduction in traffic, 25% and 23% respectively. Obviously, lockdown may account for the difference. Compared with April 2019 results (September 2019 figures ignored as there was also a period of excessive traffic) the average speed is down 21% to 23.5mph. Those travelling above the speed limit are also down 35% to 32.27% but the average speed above the limit remains slightly down from 35mph to 33.94mph. The maximum speed of 63mph however, remains similar.</p> <p>There were no questions. Full details can be found on the website</p>
195.	To receive an update on the request for a crossing at Thurlby crossroads.	
	195.1	There was nothing to add except to reaffirm that the Parish Council did not want a pedestrian refuge but were insistent that they wanted a controlled crossing.
196.	To receive an update on the Greggs banners and landscaping at Milestone Road	
	196.1	There was no update to give but the Clerk would once again chase South Kesteven District Council and hopefully be able to report back at the next meeting
197.	To receive an update on the combined footway/cycleway Thurlby to Northorpe	
	197.1	There was nothing to add to what had already been disclosed by Cllr Reid
198.	To discuss the proposed new planters to be placed around the village	
	198.1	<p>Cllr White had sent out a few e-mails with designs and costings of proposed new planters. It was agreed that the wooden planters were the preferred ones. Cllr Thomas said that wood was being delivered to his house so once received he could start to process of building the planter to use around the Millennium sign, 7 planters would be required at a cost £250.00. The Clerks explained that we had £100 in this year's budget which was still not used, and we had the prize money from the Best Kept Village Competition. He advised that if this was going to go ahead then they should be purchased now and included in this year's accounts. This would mean that we had £100 set aside in the next financial year as well as the balance of the prize money and hopefully some funds from the grant from Cllr Dobson. Resolved that Cllr White proceed with the purchase of the 7 planters. He was asked to ensure that the accounts for payment were sent to the Clerk to be included in this year's accounts. Cllr Lunn wanted to address the council about his frustration that he had been actively involved in arranging for the existing planter to be obtained and had extensively worked with Mrs Cockerill about plants. He had also been actively involved with obtaining the noticeboard at the Post Office and also purchasing the first Christmas Tree, but no one had contacted him for help and or advice on any of these matters with the work simply being carried out and the work done.</p>
199.	To receive an update on the Cemetery to include grass cutting, maintenance and burial fees and the Clerk to explain the new programme we have for the Cemetery and how this works.	
	199.1	Cllr Thomas reported that he had removed the withered Christmas wreaths and placed others on the base of the headstone. He has asked Chris Harris to clean up the footpath and to put

		grass seed onto any bald spots after he had levelled the ground with new soil. There was nothing else to report other than he would try and arrange for the branches cut off the hedge to be burnt
	199.2	The Clerk said that the new software for the running of the cemetery was now working and was able to print off reports. Since the summer last year when the data was transferred from the old programme as well as putting on date from the large books that we had to keep there had been very few deaths which meant that is not possible to say that the programme was easy or hard to use and was working well. The reports were rather large but what the Clerk would do would be to rum off a small report just to show Councillors what can be obtained and once we were able to have face to face meetings he could show the Councillors how the programme worked.
200.	For any Councillor to produce a written report of any meeting that he/she has attended as representatives of the Parish Council	
	200.1	No meetings had been attended and there were no reports.
201.	To consider what information should be placed in the Village Link	
	201.1	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.
202.	To confirm Expenditure for February £447.33 – B M Champness (salary) £40.00 – B M Champness (use of home as office) £87.76 – Community Cleaner (salary and expenses) £14.39 – Zoom (monthly) £46.20 – BT (broadband)] DD [£36.00 – APS (payroll services for Oct, Nov and Dec)] £45.00 – Chris Harris (grass cutting in the cemetery) [] 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	
	202.1	Resolved: that the above payments be made
203.	Members Questions - reminder only questions given to the clerk a week in advance will be answered.	
	203.1	Cllr Lowe asked if it was known what was going to happen to the tree stumps that had been left following the felling of the oak tree at the Youth Hostel. No one knew what the answer was.
	203.2	The Clerk explained that he had read that the law allowing the Parish Council could meet remotely was due to come to an end he thought in May 2021. Unless there was any further changes to the law this would mean we would have our last remote meeting next month but he would keep the Council updated. Cllr Reid said that this had been discussed at the Bourne Town Council and they understood that the law was going to be extended to allow remote meetings to continue for a possible further 3 months.
	203.3	There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 21.37
204.	The date of the next meeting – to be held on Wednesday 7th April 2021 at 7.30 p.m. remotely by Video Link or in the Lawrance Park Social Room, Thurlby	