

Thurlby Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Thurlby Parish Council (Min 21-09) held
on Wednesday the 2 February 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance
Park Hall Social Room

Present: **Councillors:** R Bill, N Bradley, S Broadbent, H Edwards (Presiding) P Haley, L Lowe, E Lunn, M Owen, M Reece, and A Thomas
Residents: S Holland, J Hunt, J Gornall & M T Rusling-Kopp
Others: Bernard Champness – Clerk, County Cllr Robert Reid

Open Forum	
J Hunt, J Gornall & M T Rusling-Kopp attended as they were very concerned about an application being made for a solar farm off Wood Lane. The Clerk explained that this was not on the agenda as we had not received a planning application at this time. We had received an application that was made by the prospective applicant for a request for an EIA Screening Opinion for a Solar Farm with a Battery Energy Storage Scheme. The Planning Officer had advised that they were writing to let us know of this request simply as a courtesy. It does not require any specific comment or response from the Parish Council. This was understood by the residents, but they were still very concerned that they were being kept in the dark as they had information that a report had been received and that screening was not necessary. The Chair explained that as and when we received an application this would be put on the agenda and that was the time to attend a meeting to voice these concerns, but this should not stop them writing direct to the Planning Officer voicing their concerns and objections. Cllr Reid said that as he had now heard these concerns he would do whatever he could to help them. Mr Holland said that he had written to the Planning Officer explaining that he was not of the view that an EIA screening report was not required and that if there were any objections they had until midnight today to voice them.	
The meeting was officially opened at 19.46	
147. Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies & noting of resignations received	
147.1	Apologies had been received from Cllr D White (health) Resolved: that the apologies be accepted. Apologies had also been received from District Cllr Barry Dobson
148. 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	
148.1	No one declared an interest in any item on the agenda.
149. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 1 December 2021 (Min21-08)	
149.1	Resolved: That the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 1 December 2021 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.
150. To receive a report from the County and District Councillors on matters relating to Thurlby	
150.1	County Cllr Robert Reid had sent a written report which is below Highways Following my meeting on the 23 January with the Highways Manager my update is as follows Pedestrian Crossing. Action /response by Jean Gibson,

I've investigated the above raised by Cllr Reid and a survey took place in 2019 and meets the criteria for a refuge. However, in accordance with our Pedestrian Crossing Policy we can upgrade to a Puffin based on site constraints/traffic flows, but this will need to be approved by the Planning & Regulation Committee. In the first instance I'll need to identify a suitable location for the crossing so a Stage 1 Safety Audit can be carried out. Will you be OK for me to contact Cllr Reid direct on this, saying you've raised it with me? Then I can check with him if there is a preference for the location of the crossing, either north or south of the crossroads.
Cllr Reid to Update Dan, Mar 22

Thurlby - High Street drainage

Survey works and some minor repairs completed, outfall is now running, we do have more substantial repairs to order when resources permit. Resurfacing NEXT YEAR 22

Repairs will be done prior any resurface - Update Dec 21

MW Jobs being completed by Highways South (With Graham) Next Update Mar 22 (DG)

Thurlby - Pumping Station, Church Street – Standing Water

This is still being dealt with by Kyra and you will be updated accordingly once she has made contact with the team at the Internal Drainage Board (IDB).

Karen Daft - Update No Further Information from Kyra

My Senior Highways Officer Will Take This On Update Feb 22

Next IDB Meeting Discussion Jan 22 (DG) Shared Area Whos IDB is it.

Enforcement of Riparian Rights - Update Feb 22

Thurlby - A15 Cycle/footway

Progressing as expected with the TRO team. Consultation period is finished, Now at the advert stage. Ownership by TRO Jeanne Gibson. Next Update is Feb 2022

Chapel Lane Thurlby

Water Filled Hole, AW were going to investigate - No Progress - Matt Moore AW

Next UPDATE IN Mar 22 - Re-Investigate with Joe Greeves It is possible AW may need to be Engaged (DG)

Northorpe - A15 drainage clearance

Dyke Crossing the Road and Gas Lines are in place. One side to be cleared by LH Graham - In Due Course. Deal dealing directly with the IDB main drain running down Fen Road Northorpe URGENT Meeting with IDB. Remain - Waiting on the IDB - Next Meeting Feb 22

Tiny Steps Petting Farm.

Having been in contact with the Highways department.

I understand dialog has taken place with Tracey Hall, and I have advised her, that in respect of the private road sign and the request for a tourist sign that I cannot help her further at this stage.

FOOTPATH UPGRADE.

Muddy Footpath via Elsea park Woods boundary to Bourne.

A request to see if there is any active travel funds are left to assist this project with the Footpaths officer. I have had acknowledgment that they are looking into different types of surfaces available! So at least LCC are looking sympathetically at our request.

Fix our roads and funds.

		<p>Thank for those who have lobbied! This is where we are... This has been shown in the strong response to our campaign, launched on 13 December, calling on government to 'Fix Our Funds To Fix Our Roads'. The campaign website has received numerous stories which highlight the need for fairer funding for Lincolnshire's roads.</p> <p>It is disappointing that the county council is yet to receive any commitment from Westminster to reinstate the £12m funding gap they have left us. However, we will continue to do whatever we can to keep Lincolnshire's roads in the best possible condition if government does not reverse this cut.</p> <p>We will also continue to work closely with our local MPs to get the decision-makers in Westminster to introduce a fairer way of sharing out the available highways funding, ensuring that areas like Lincolnshire are no longer left behind.</p> <p>Other LCC Updates</p> <p>We know this is also a difficult time for many families, with rising inflation and energy prices, so we are not currently proposing any increase in general council tax this year. However, we are proposing a 3% increase in our adult care precept to help cover an expected £13.5m increase in costs in 2022/23.</p> <p>Additionally, over the next four years, we expect to save around £25m through measures such as home working, increased use of digital technology, a reduction in administrative posts and the disposal of surplus buildings. This approach will allow us to maintain and invest in frontline services at a time when other councils are having to reduce theirs.</p> <p>Cllr Thomas explained that he had spoken to the owner of Elm Farm and that a dyke had been dug on the opposite side of the A15 to Car Dyke which would allow water to flow freely of the land at Elm Farm. The only concern was that after a heavy rainstorm there might be a problem if water was not flowing freely in Car Dyke.</p>
150.2		<p>District Cllr Barry Dobson although was not in attendance had submitted a report</p> <p>Mention was made of a pre planning application being lodged for screening that would be required if an application was made for a solar farm off Wood Lane</p> <p>We are now going out to the public for their opinion on the proposed conversion of the old Deepings Leisure Centre into a modern, fit-for-purpose fitness facility. We are pleased that we have been able to assist the Deepings Swim Club to get a new home at the Endowed Schools in Stamford and supported them financially. Also, we were quite surprised to find that we have many residents who are seeking to learn and develop gymnastic skills, perhaps as many or more who want to swim. We will incorporate this into our plans for the refurbished centre in the Deepings.</p> <p>If there is anybody you know who would like to train as a lifeguard, we regularly run courses at the Mere's Centre in Grantham, but we would be prepared to investigate running one of these courses at the Bourne or Stamford centres – please ask them to contact Michael Chester at our Grantham Mere's site.</p> <p>Since putting the bins in the Fens, we have noticed that these are being well used. However, alongside this we have seen a number of fly tipping incidents with people depositing carpets, used oil containers and other large pieces of rubbish alongside them. I'll put something in the VL next month to let people know that these are NOT collected by SKDC, and the fly-tipping is an offence and will incur a fixed penalty notice should the culprit be found. It's such a shame but, on the other hand, people are using them.</p>

151.	Clerk's Report and correspondence received	
151.1		<p>The Clerk's 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.</p> <p>The Clerk wanted to point out for discussion various e-mails that had been receive which were</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An email regarding the rubbish outside an address on Northorpe. Various items had been left outside the house on the hope that residents would take what they wanted. However, for weeks now items had remained, and it was apparent that no one wanted them, but the householder had not removed them, and it was now looking untidy. The Clerk asked if the Council agreed that a letter should be written to the owners asking them to remove the rubbish. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the owner advising them to remove the rubbish and if it was not this would be reported to South Kesteven District Council. 2. An email from Mr Holland asking about the decision that was made at the December meeting regarding Planning Application S21/2286 and which related to New single storey dwelling with garaging for proposed dwelling at number 22 The Green, Thurlby. The comments had been noted. <p>Further correspondence had been received as below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An email from Yvonne Scott requesting that the residents of Crown Lane be allowed to have a Street party to celebrate this Queens Platinum Jubilee on the 5th June on a time to be agreed. The Clerk was asked to write back saying that the Parish Council had no objections. They would have to get the consent from South Kesteven District Council to close the road not the Parish Council. Cllr Thomas explained that he had spoken to someone in Crown Lane and said that they could use the gardens of the Alms Houses to hold the party. 2. Two e-mails had been received from the resident of 3 Wood Lane regarding a proposed Solar Farm in Wood Lane. The first was asking what views the Parish Council had on the proposal. The Clerk had replied saying that the Council had not received an application, so the matter was not under discussion, and they had no views at this moment in time. However, he pointed out that he had received notice that the applicant had applied for pre planning advice regarding the suggested screening that would be expected of them and the District Council advised that they did not expect an answer from the Parish Council as it was for advice only. The second email was regarding whether or not planning permission had been approved for a solar farm at the told of Swallow Hill and included in the Parish Plan. Again, the Clerk had replied that the information was incorrect as no permission had been approved and it was not part of the t Parish plan. 3. An email from Alan Robinson Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer advising about virtual meetings and whether a Parish Council could revert back to having them. He advised that the current position is the same as it has been since May 2021. This means that there is no provision for the Parish Councils to make decisions without holding in person meetings which are quorate. Those who are not at the face-to-face meeting are not deemed to be present. 4. An e-mail from Cllr Robert Reid about flood prevention. He had attached two letters which contained an offer of help. To help reduce response times, and to encourage a spirit of community self-help, South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) would like to offer Town Councils the opportunity to hold and maintain a stock of sand and sandbags for use in their area. This means that local people will be able to protect their own properties quickly and effectively.

		<p>For Town Councils taking up the offer, SKDC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply one tonne of sand and 100 sandbags. • Conduct an annual survey to understand how much sand has been used and how beneficial the supply has been. <p>5. An email from LCC town and parish news about adding the town and parish council voice to the Fix our funds to fix our roads campaign.</p> <p>6. Simon Hall replied about his charges for cutting grass verges and says “I charge £30 per hour and can cut a lot of grass in that time. Waste obviously taken away, which I am registered to do”. It was agreed this would be an agenda item next month</p> <p>7. A copy of an email from Cllr Reid to the owner Tracey Hall, of Tiny Steps Petting Farm to say that as there are ongoing matters that have not been resolved he cannot give any update at this stage regarding the name of the road.</p>
152.	Planning applications: To consider any Planning Applications received	
152.1	<p>Although no plans had been received at the time the agenda was posted an application has been received since. It is S22/0159 - Proposal: Single storey rear extension at 2 The Covert, Thurlby. Response date 18 February 2022. Notice had been sent to all Councillors asking them to peruse the application on the South Kesteven District Council website. The Chair explained that if there was any Councillor who felt that the plan was contentious then we would have to call a special meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Planning Officer to say that the Council’s next meeting was not until 2 March, and we are therefore unable to comment unless they extend the deadline for a response. At this stage nine of the councillors did not consider the application contentious and did not intend to call a special meeting to discuss it.</p>	
152.2	<p>To note Planning Applications approved:</p> <p>S21/1970 - Proposed demolition and reconstruction of existing barn, garage and former flat roof extension, erection of first floor extension and two porches, and remodelling of existing elevations at Earl House Farm 59 Northorpe</p> <p>S21/2006: - Retrospective application for proposed works are to extend an existing patio area using the same matching sandstone slabs, to incorporate a central raised water feature with surround grass square areas with red brick edgings. Raised softwood planters are to be introduced, steps to access different levels of ground and an oak pergola within the patio area.at West Farm 13 Northorpe</p> <p>S21/2413 - Proposal: Portal frame building to be used as storage for garden centre and Christmas products. The building will be in our Goods In / warehouse storage area. The building will have forklift access through a roller shutter. It will also have a standard door. The site area mentioned in the previous section is for the build only. The overall site is approx. 4 hectares, at Waterside Garden Centre King Street</p> <p>S21/1546 - Proposal: Change of use to provide a community-based leisure business (Including a variety of miniature farm animals) (Use Class F2c).at Tiny Steps Petting Farm Park Wood Road</p>	
152.3	<p>To note any Planning Applications refused or withdrawn:</p> <p>S21/229 - Proposed New Bungalow with Garage and Parking at Manor Farm Wilsthorpe Road Obthorpe (Refused)</p> <p>S21/2286 - Proposal: New single storey dwelling with garaging for proposed dwelling and number 22 The Green at 22 The Green Thurlby (Refused)</p>	
134.4	<p>To note any Application appealed or any decision made regarding an appeal: there was none to note</p>	

153.	To confirm Expenditure [£40.00 – B M Champness (use of home as office December)] [£447.33 – B M Champness (salary) December] [£75.08 – Lorraine Cole (salary and expenses December)] [£17.82 – Elaine Reynolds (Salary December)] [£40.00 – B M Champness (use of home as office January)] [£447.33 – B M Champness (salary) January] [£74.88 – Lorraine Cole (salary and expenses January)] [£17.82 – Elaine Reynolds (Salary January)] £40.74 – BT (broadband charges December) DD £40.74 – BT (broadband charges January) DD [£120.00 – T Sleight (cutting grass verges)] [£411.80 – HMRC (PAYE)] [] 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	
	153.1	Resolved that the payments be approved. An invoice had also been received from Thurlby PCC for £72.00 for Village Link entry. Resolved that this invoice be paid.
154.	To consider if we wish to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee and if so what that would consist of and any costs involved.	
	154.1	Both Cllr Lowe and White had asked for this item to be included on the agenda as residents had asked them if anything was going to be organised. Cllr Thomas was asked if Lawrance Park were going to organise anything. He explained that this was discussed at their last meeting, and they agreed that they would not organise anything, but they would open the hall so that the toilets could be used on the hope that families would have a picnic in the park. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not organise anything but would put an item in the Village Link explaining that if anyone wanted to hold a street party that they should check SKDC website to see if they needed permission for a street party
155.	To discuss and approve the dairy of meeting for 2022-23 and agree a date for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council	
	155.1	The Clerk had prepared a calendar showing the meetings to be held from May 2022 to April 2023 and this had been circulated to all Councillors in advance. The calendar had been amended to show the correct bank holidays during that year. The Councillors approved the calendar which would be placed on the noticeboard and on the website at the end of March this year.
	151.1.2	Regarding the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual meeting of the Parish Council it was agreed that they would be held on the same evening. These would take place on Wednesday 18 May 2022. The Annual Parish Meeting would start at 7 p.m. and finish at 8 p.m with the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council starting at 8.15 p.m. The usual invitations would go out to those we wanted to speak and give a report at the Annual Meeting and the Clerk would book the main hall.
156.	To consider the sign as requested by District Cllr Barry Dobson advising people not to fly tip along Thurlby Fen	
	156.1	District Cllr Barry Dobson had written to say that he had noticed that people were fly tipping where the new waste bin had been placed on Thurlby Fen. He suggested that

		we had a sign put up pointing out that it was illegal to fly tip After discussion it was agreed that this was not really the responsibly of the Parish Council as we had no authority to take proceedings against any fly tipper and we were not able to remove the items that had been dumped. Instead, we would ask Cllr Dobson if he could get South Kesteven District Council to put up a notice as they had the authority to deal with offenders and to remove the rubbish
157. To discuss the report from Cllr Bill of the meeting with Highways and County Cllr Reid		
	157.1	Cllr Bill had attended a meeting with County Cllr Robert Reid and the Highways Manager to discuss a number of problems that existed in Thurlby and Northorpe. Following that meeting he had prepared a report, and this was circulated to all in advance. This report was included in the report from Cllr Reid and in which he deals with the present situation with most of the problems. Cllr Bill said that Dan Goodman was very good and respective nothing had happened on some of the easy fixes such as removing the road work signs that had been left after the work had been completed. It seemed from Cllr Reid's report that some matters will be discussed in the foreseeable future
158. To receive an update on the A15 crossing at Thurlby		
	158.1	This matter was dealt with in part under the report from Cllr Reid. It was agreed we were still looking for a pelican crossing. Before the matter could be progressed we needed to know if a report would be commissioned to see if that was feasible. If it was when then needed to know if it would be placed on the north or south side of the crossroads. We then needed to know the cost and if we were going to be responsible for the costs in their entirety. The Council then needed to assess the situation and involve the residents to see if there was total agreement that we should proceed and that they were happy with us paying the cost and how we would be obtaining funding to do so.
159. To consider the data received from the reactive sign		
	159.2	<p>Cllr Bill was able to report the following data received</p> <p>Over the past two months the unit has been positioned on Swallow Hill monitoring outgoing traffic during December and on Obthorpe Lane recording inbound traffic during January.</p> <p>On Swallow Hill during December the daily vehicle count was up 28% and 26% to 861 and 815 vehicles for the average 5- and 7-day result compared to the previous, January 2021 and slightly up on April 2019 pre covid. Likewise, the AM/PM counts are slightly increased over the previous. The spike in the 7day PM figure is the result of excessive traffic on 3rd December between 16.00 and midnight, presumably A15 diverted traffic. The peak PM time changes to 17.00 -18.00 hours while the AM time returns to a more expected 08.00 - 09.00 hour. The average speed was slightly higher at 26.5 mph than before but lower than pre covid.</p> <p>Those travelling above the limit have increased but again remain lower than the 2019 figures, the average speed above the limit at 34.13 mph has remained similar to both covid and pre covid figures.</p> <p>The January results for Obthorpe Lane indicates that the daily 5- and 7-day count during the period has increased 34% and 27% on the previous but is still 20-30% below pre covid figures. Peak times remain the same as the last survey with vehicle</p>

		<p>counts very similar. Both the average speed and maximum also remain similar. The average speed above the limit is marginally down at 34.42 mph with those travelling above the limit slightly higher at 23.26%, both figures are below pre covid.</p> <p>Cllr Bill asked if it was correct that another Council might have a reactive sign that they might want to sell. Cllr Thomas said that this was West Deeping Council, but he did not know if the sign was up for sale. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries.</p>
160.	To receive an update on the Cemetery to include grass cutting, maintenance and burial fees	
	160.1	<p>Cllr Thomas said there was little to report. He would between now and Easter remove some of the plastic Christmas wreaths. Mr Harris was considering cutting the grass soon as this needed to be undertaken. Other than these matters all seemed in order, but the up-to-date regulations needed to be placed in the noticeboard. The Clerk said that the regulations were long, and the noticeboard was too small to have every page put in it. Cllr Edwards asked that the Clerk send her the regulations and she would go through them to find what pages we could put in the noticeboard. Cllrs were reminded that in a few months' time we would have a visit to the cemetery 30 minutes before the meeting officially started so every Councillor was aware of the layout of the cemetery and the problems that existed,</p>
161.	For any Councillor to produce a written report of any meeting that he/she has attended as representatives of the Parish Council	
	161.1	<p>There were no reports of any meetings attended other than the meeting that Cllr Bill had attended and was dealt with under Item 157</p>
162.	To consider what information should be placed in the Village Link	
	162.1	<p>Cllr White would be sent a copy of the draft minutes so he could prepare a draft report of what was to be included in the Village Link, but he would send it out first to all Councillors to approve.</p>
163.	Members Questions - reminder only questions given to the clerk a week in advance will be answered.	
	163.1	<p>There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 20.49</p>
164.	The date of the next meeting – to be held on Wednesday 2 March 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room, Thurlby.	