

Thurlby Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Thurlby Parish Council (Min 22-09) held
on Wednesday the 14 December 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance
Park Social Room

Present: **Councillors:** R Bill, N Bradley, S Broadbent, P Haley, L Lowe, E Lunn, M Owen, A Thomas, (Presiding), and D White
Residents: M Keene
Others: Bernard Champness – Clerk, County Cllr R Reid, District Cllr B Dobson,

	Open Forum
	There were no members of the public and there was no Open Form The meeting was formally opened at 19.30
153.	Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies & noting of resignations received
	153.1 Apologies were received from M Reece (work) Resolved that the apologies be accepted.
154.	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
	154.1 No one delated a Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests in any matter on the agenda.
155.	Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 23 November 2022 (Min22-08)
	155.1 Resolved: That the minutes of the special meeting held on the 23 November 2022 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.
156.	To co-opt a Councillor
	156.1 Although Barry Dobson had applied to become a Councillor he was happy to withdraw his application as there was another candidate. The other candidate who wished to be considered for co-option onto the Council was Martin Keene. He had completed an application form, and this had been circulated in advance.. Martin Keene briefly addressed the Council. The Clerk explained that he would have to ask the usual questions about being an undeclared bankrupt or having a criminal record. Mr Keene was able to reply no to both. A vote was taken, and it was resolved Martin Keene be co-opted onto the Council. He completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the Clerk. He was handed a copy of the Code of Conduct and a Register of Members Interest form. He was told to complete this within the next 14 days and return it to the Clerk.
157.	To receive a report from the County and District Councillors on matters relating to Thurlby
	157.1 County Councillor Robert Reid was able to report the following: He would keep his report short and would follow this up with a written report. He had hoped that the meeting with Highways would have taken place on the 12 December, but it was postponed because of the weather and would take place soon.

	<p>He had arranged a meeting with Highways and Richard Davies from LCC in February with Elsea Park and asked if Cllr Bill could attend on behalf of the Parish Council. It was agreed that he could, and he agreed to attend.</p> <p>There was no further news on the crossing at Thurlby, but he was aware of this and was chasing matters up</p> <p>There was also no further news on the Youth Hostel, but he was aware that the YHA and LCC were in discussions about the Lease and if it could be possible to rescind the lease and what condition the property would be in if that happened</p> <p>There was a spate of burglaries in the area, and he asked for residents to be vigilant.</p> <p>Cllr Reid was asked if Dan Adams was part of Highways. He was and had just joined the Council and should have been at the meeting on Monday</p>
157.2	<p>District Councillor Barry Dobson had prepared a written report as below</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With our current situation of rising prices, particularly fuel poverty, it's hard for many to get into the spirit of Christmas. There are places for people to contact: Citizens' Advice South on 0808 278 7996 SKDC Helpline on 01476 406170 during office hours or 01476 590044 out of hours. All other information is available at www.entitledto.co.uk. 2. Talking to the Police and Crime Commissioner the other evening, the question or rather subject arose as to why PCSOs were not visiting Parish Council Meetings. He said that it was vital in the fight about crime for PCSOs to get to know the issues in parishes around SKDC. 3. During the last few months, we lost the services of two of our long-serving district councillors in Bourne and Grantham. Following the elections, these two seats are now filled with equally enthusiastic councillors. 4. With finances for businesses also at full stretch, it is important to support our local enterprises. SKDC has launched a new website where local business are the focus: Hello SK. 5. Two new officers have now been recruited by SKDC to help with the prevention of homelessness. 6. November was Men's Health Awareness Month with International Men's Day falling on November 19th just in case anyone missed it! Earlier this year I visited 'Don't Lose Hope' in Bourne. I didn't realise how many men were suffering for various reasons that perhaps many of us don't appreciate. 7. Almond Court now has a new stair lift and the garage door had been fixed and a new lock fitted on one of the doors <p>So, on that note, I'd better end and wish you all a great Christmas and trust that things will look brighter in the New Year.</p>
158.	Clerk's Report and correspondence received
158.1	<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. Since the agenda was sent out the following have been received</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An open letter from the Chair of NALC to all Parish Councils. This had been circulated. 2. An email from Cllr Thomas stating that BT and UPP contractors had left a mess in building a box for UPP on the Thurlby crossroads. This area was nice grass and mowed on a regular basis and at the entrance to the village, it now looks a mess and needs sorting. It was agreed that this should be reported on Fix my Street as well as with BT and UPP 3. Stamford Town & rural newsletter from the local PCSO

		<p>4. The Clerk wished to point out the email from Cllr Bradley about a resident asking for the bus shelter at the Northorpe Crossroads, on the Bourne side, being moved forward. At the moment anyone in the shelter could not see the bus coming from Peterborough. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Delaines stating that whilst we appreciated bus drivers slowing down when they approached this bus stop but sometimes this did not happen and left the without picking up the passenger.</p> <p>5. The Clerk was able to report that he and Cllr Thomas had discussed the possible purchase of the piece of land by the woods on the A15 south of Thurlby for an allotment. Between them a letter was drafted and sent to Stephen Knipe advising him that if no one put in a bid we would like him to consider a bid from Thurlby Parish Council. We could not put a bid in now as we did not have the money and the process of getting the money could take some time. It was explained that if the land was sold we would like him to note out interest so if any land in the area became vacant we could consider whether or not we wished to purchase it. Mr Knipe acknowledged the request and said he would let us know. It now seems the land was sold.</p>
159.	Planning applications:	
159.1	To consider any Planning Applications received – none to note	
159.2	To note Planning Applications approved: S22/1792 - Proposal: Install six solar footpath lighting columns at 6 meters in height at Lawrance Park Crown Lane, Thurlby	
159.3	To note any Planning Applications refused: none to note	
159.4	To note any Application appealed or any decision made regarding an appeal: none to note	
160.	<p>To confirm Expenditure £40.00 – B M Champness (use of home as office) £456.37 – B M Champness (salary) £149.50 – Elaine Reynolds (salary) £40.74 – BT (Broadband services) DD £50.00 – Alan Thomas (new Christmas tree lights) £50.00 – Alan Thomas (Christmas tree) £90.00 – Thurlby PCC (insert in December Village Link) £75.00 – Royal British Legion (donation) £6.99 – B M Champness (printer cable) [] 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</p>	
160.1	<p>Resolved: that the payments be approved. The Clerk explained that the invoice from PCC showed that the money due was for May not December. This was pointed out and they had replied that i=e was a typing error and should be December. A copy of the email would be attached to the invoice for auditing purposes. T D Sleight had sent an invoice for £120.00 for cutting the grass on The Green. Resolved: that this payment be approved as well It was also agreed that £13.00 be paid to A Thomas for refreshments at the meeting.</p>	
161.	To discuss the accounts and for the bank reconciliation to be signed	
161.1	The Clerk was able to circulate in advance various reports from Scribe for November 2022 which showed the items purchased, money received, and bank balances at the end of the	

		month. The bank reconciliation was circulated, and this was approved and then signed by the Chair.
162.	To discuss the proposed salary, increase for the Clerk as suggested by the National Joint Council and for the increase to be backdated to 1 April 2022	
162.1	<p>Notice had been received that The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has been notified by the Local Government Association (LGA) that it has come to an agreement on the 2022/23 pay offer with the unions representing local government employees. The unions met on 1 November 2022 and agreed to accept the offer. The terms of that agreement include the following: With effect from 1 April 2022, an increase of £1,925 on all NJC pay points 1 and above. With effect from 1 April 2023, an increase of one day to all employees' annual leave entitlement.</p> <p>This equates to an increase in £1 per hour so on a pro rata basis, the Clerk is earning £11.97 per hour working 11 hours a week so his salary is £6846.84. With the suggested pay rise this takes the hourly pay to £12.97 x 11 x 52 = £7418.84. The monthly increase would be £47.66, and the back pay for 9 months i.e. April – December, is £429 gross.</p> <p>Resolved: that the Clerk be granted the pay award and for it to be backdated to 1 April 2022</p> <p>A question was asked whether the litter picker should also receive the same increase. The Clerk pointed out that she was not as her income was not governed by the same rules. The Clerks salary was dealt with by the National Joint Council and was agreed by Government. The Council had the control over the scale of pay of the litter picker.</p>	
163.	To discuss the draft budget for 2023-24 and to set a Precept for that financial year.	
163.1	<p>The Clerk had circulated in advance the initial budget for the 2023-24 Precept. This document was considered in detail and each item was discussed and either approved or amended. The Clerk explained that the budget report contained information which would be of help to the Councillors when considering the budget for 2023-24. The report contained the actual expenditure for 2021-22 the budget for 2022-23, what we had spent to the end of September 2022 and what the Clerk estimated we would spend up until the end of March 2023. The final figures were the proposed expenditure for 2023-24. Those figures were discussed, and each item was considered, and adjustments were either not made or made whether it was by increasing or decreasing the sum set out in the budget. The major amendments related to the following</p> <p>Lawrance Park. They requested £4000 but this was reduced to £3000 to reflect that this year we had paid approx. £1400 for new bins in the park, and we wanted to reflect this by reducing that we paid this year.,</p> <p>The sum for noticeboards was increased to reflect that we would purchase a new noticeboard by replacing the existing noticeboard in Elsea Drive.</p> <p>Postage was also increased to reflect the postage for the above.</p> <p>Included in the item for grants /sec 137 was the sum of £150 for the Open Gardens</p> <p>The item for British Legion wreath was amended by removing the word wreath and increased. We would pay £75 for a wreath for Remembrance Day and that was increased to reflect that we would like to purchase a Unknown Tommy Statue which at the moment cost £175. If we had funds we would like to purchase another statue and poppies to put on lampposts.</p> <p>After recalculating the income and outgoings it was resolved that the Precept for 2023-24 would be set at £19600.00 a slight reduction from this year.</p>	
164.	To discuss LIVES urgent funding request and whether we make a donation.	

	164.1	A request had been received from LIVES asking if we could consider donating due to the present cost of living crisis. The cost of our life-saving consumables is skyrocketing, and their charitable income is struggling. They are writing for our help. Resolved: that we would not make a donation although we appreciated the work that the charity did.
165.	To discuss the Ownership and clearance of Thurlby ditch south of council garages, 'Lawrence Park'	
	165.1	This item had been requested by Cllr Bill as the ditch behind the garages is all overgrown and has not been cleaned out for years, you cannot see the outlet pipe. Whose responsibility is this? Apparently it takes all the drainage from Swallow Hill and land at the back of Northorpe Lane. It was not clear who owned the ditch, but it was thought that the water was being piped and that no water was actually flowing in that part of the ditch. So it mattered not who it belonged to or who should maintain it.
166.	To receive an update on the distribution of leaflets regarding overhanging vegetation and to decide future action.	
	166.1	Cllr Reid said that he had hoped to take this matter up at the meeting with Highways and would do so when that meeting was reconvened.
167.	To discuss the proposals for the future of the Youth Hostel	
	167.1	There was nothing further to add as this was dealt with earlier by Cllr Reid.
168.	To receive an update on the crossing at Thurlby crossroads.	
	168.1	There was nothing further to add as this was dealt with earlier by Cllr Reid.
169.	To consider the data received from the reactive sign	
	169.1	Due to an error with the radar unit no data was available this month.
170.	To receive an update on the Cemetery to include grass cutting, maintenance and burial fees	
	170.1	<p>Cllr Thomas was able to report that that he was still hoping that Chris Harris would do the work in the cremated remains area. Unfortunately, the weather had not been kind which has meant that he has not been able to do the work.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that he had now paced the regulations into the noticeboard in the cemetery.</p> <p>The Clerk also confirmed that whilst he was away he had received an email from Set in Stone for a memorial, and this had been approved as it conformed to the regulations. However, on his return he started to work loading the details into Scribe when he realised that the headstone related to a residents cremated remains which had been buried in a relative's grave. The headstone would not fit if there was already one erected. And thought that it was more appropriate for there to be a tablet rather than a headstone, He took this matter up with Set in Stone, but it transpired that the headstone had already been erected. Apparently a memorial had been erected which was in the shape of an open book and which was placed on one grave rather than in the middle and the new headstone was placed next to that. The Clerk pointed out to them that this could cause a problem in later years as someone might believe that this person was buried in that plot when in fact it was someone else and it was only his ashes. The Clerk said that we needed to change the regulations to show that if cremated remains were to be buried in a grave then we would</p>

		only allow a tablet to be placed on the grave. It was resolved that the Clerk would make the necessary amendments to the regulations.
171.	To consider if there is anything we need to report to the Neighbourhood Policing Priority Setting Meetings	
	171.1	There was nothing to be reported at this time.
172.	For any Councillor to produce a written report of any meeting that he/she has attended as representatives of the Parish Council	
	172.1	<p>Although Cllr White was not representing the Council at this meeting it was felt appropriate for his report to be shown in the minutes under this Item.</p> <p>Report of meeting between Cllr David White and Lizzie Baggot (Thurlby Scout Group) - 11th Nov 2022</p> <p>This meeting came about following an enquiry to the Village Link regarding how the Scout Group could become more involved with the community and possibly to help with the Best Kept Village Competition.</p> <p>I picked up on this and arranged to meet with Lizzie and other Leaders to discuss how they could implement this and incorporate any activity into badge work. Obviously there are a wide range of ages and capabilities within the Group, and it was felt that Beavers could clear winter plants and bulbs from planters closest to the hall i.e. The Green, Maple Avenue and Wood Lane. The Cubs (of which there are about 30) could do the same for Elsea Drive and the A15 opposite the pub. They could also top up the planters with compost and manure and replant. The Scouts would be keen to take on something wider ranging to benefit the community, possibly with a gardening connotation. My thoughts were that there might be some involving Almond Court, and this would be explored further. Also, a project involving a survey of all the footpaths around the Parish with a report on condition and possible remedial work.</p> <p>I promised to report this meeting to the Parish Council and feedback any comments/suggestions. A further meeting with the Group would be arranged nearer the time when the planters need clearing. Obviously the date of any meeting would be dependent on weather and the durability of the existing plants.</p>
173.	To consider what information should be placed in the Village Link	
	173.1	It was agreed that Cllr White would prepare an item for the Village Link and send that to all Councillors for approval.
174.	Members Questions - reminder only questions given to the clerk a week in advance will be answered.	
	174.1	There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 21.25 with the Chair Cllr Thomas wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year. He reminded Councillors if any planning application which was contentious was received then we would have to call a special meeting.
175.	The date of the next meeting – to be held on Wednesday 1 February 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room, Thurlby	