

**Thurlby Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Thurlby Parish Council (Min 21-10) held on Wednesday the 2 March 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Hall Social Room**

**Present:**       **Councillors:** R Bill, N Bradley, H Edwards (Presiding) P Haley, E Lunn, M Owen, A Thomas and D White  
**Residents:** S Holland, H Daines, B Bevan, M Keene, M Harrison, G Foot, K Oglesbee, C Houghton, M Rusling-Kopp, J Gornall, A Cappitt, D Gray, J Hunt  
**Others:** Bernard Champness – Clerk, District Cllr Barry Dobson

	<b>Open Forum</b>
	<p>The residents attending wanted to discuss two matters. One was the proposed solar farm off Wood Lane and the other was the planning application dealt with under Item 170.1. The Chair explained that the Solar Farm was not on the agenda and was not going to be discussed at the meeting. However, if anyone had anything they would like to discuss then they would be welcome to address the Council. They explained that they had seen this matter had been mentioned in the agenda and wondered if there were any further developments. It was explained that the item on the agenda was just to note that an Environmental Impact Assessment was NOT required. There was no further news</p> <p>The remaining residents that were present wanted to discuss the planning application and the Chair asked if there was one spokesman who could speak on everyone's behalf. M Harrison was the spokesman and pointed out that they all opposed the application. It was felt that the application did not conform to the Neighbourhood Plan in that it was back building, did not fulfil a housing need, and was being built in the open countryside. There would be a loss of privacy, the dwelling was twice the size of the house in Northorpe. The septic tank would be close to the properties in Beck Way. The plan states it would be a 3 bedroomed property, but it also states it could have 3,4 or 5 bedrooms. The land on which the property would be built on was already waterlogged and with the property being built it could cause water to drain into the gardens of the properties in Beck Way. The access /exit to the site was very narrow and there would be difficulties for emergency vehicles getting to or from the dwelling.</p> <p>It was confirmed that most of the people present had written to the Planning Officer objecting to the proposal.</p>
	The meeting was officially opened at 19.49
<b>165.</b>	<b>Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies &amp; noting of resignations received</b>
<b>165.1</b>	Apologies had been received from M Reece (personal) L Lowe (personal), S Broadbent, (work) <b>Resolved:</b> that the apologies be accepted. County Cllr Robert Reid had also sent his apologies
<b>166.</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest –</b> 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
<b>166.1</b>	No one declared an interest in any item on the agenda.
<b>167.</b>	<b>Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 2 February 2022 (Min21-09)</b>

	<b>167.1</b>	<b>Resolved:</b> That the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 2 February 2022 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.
<b>168. To receive a report from the County and District Councillors on matters relating to Thurlby</b>		
	<b>168.1</b>	<p>County Cllr Robert Reid, although having sent his apologies had sent a written report as below</p> <p>Highways concerns have moved on with some jobs completed, however my next meeting is not until the 17th March for me to get an update with our divisional highways manager, so I will report on progress in April.</p> <p>Updates on outstanding issues will be followed through, Including the smaller ones raised that had not been included from his visit with Councillor Richard Bill present.</p> <p>Dialog on the footpath raised by Councillor David White, and The Car dykes flow and drainage raised by Councillor Alan Thomas are not forgotten in the mix of highways issues.</p> <p>It is my duty to remind you of the taxation levy for 2022/23 that has been derived at County Level</p> <p>Despite the council facing significant financial challenges and an estimated shortfall of £22m over the next four years. This has primarily been caused by increased costs. In response to an estimated £13.5m increase in adult care costs for 2022/23 we have increased our adult care precept by 3 per cent.</p> <p>We have also had to respond to the government not re-instating a 25 per cent cut to our highway's maintenance budget, despite our lobbying on the issue. Without this funding our roads would see 25 per cent fewer repairs. So, to help make up the shortfall, the general council tax rate has increased by 2 per cent.</p> <p>I keep a watchful eye on planning current issues with Barry district wise ,in particular the Solar application near the Lodge ,Northorpe and the detriment to your ward this would cause as presented during Public Forum last month.</p>
	<b>168.2</b>	<p>District Cllr Barry Dobson had sent a written report</p> <p><b>1. New Foot- and Cycleways</b></p> <p>There are some new footpaths and cycle ways in Stamford. I did mention this in my report of December 2020, but we may still be able to get something if there is anything remaining in the pot. Perhaps we could request an improvement to the footpath from Northorpe to Bourne? Ideas for pavement widening new cycleways or road closures online at <a href="http://www.widenmypath.com">www.widenmypath.com</a>.</p> <p><b>2. Leisure</b></p> <p>At the Full Council in January, it was unanimously agreed to refurbish the leisure centre at the Deepings to plan 'C' which is a £10.7 million project. We hope to be able to open the centre late 2024 or early 2025. With the continued debate on the project and demands from a minority, the whole project has unfortunately been held back. We are fortunate in SKDC to have 3 leisure centres currently open, including the national water polo championship venue at Grantham. Our fourth centre is the one at the Deepings which is for everyone, not just residents of the Deepings. When we took over the running of the centres in January 2021, we were initially hampered by the lockdown that started on the very day we did so. However, we can now report that users of the centres are returning, and classes are now generally full.</p> <p><b>3. Service Station at Langtoft/Deeping</b></p> <p>It's over two years ago that I held meetings with BP who were then the developers. As you have probably seen, work has commenced on this site.</p>

		<p><b>4. General Inconsiderate Parking</b> I have had comments from various residents as to inconsiderate parking on our roads. There is an app: <a href="http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/nuisanceparking">www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/nuisanceparking</a> where you can register and request action. It is sometimes considered a good thing to park by driving onto the footpath, but although this is possibly advantageous for traffic, enabling more room to pass, it often blocks the use of the pavement by pedestrians, especially those with children or those using mobility aids.</p> <p><b>5. Sport and Physical Activity</b> Leisure SK are running encouraging activities on market days this week and I encourage those who are about or want to find out more to visit us at the following venues and times: 2nd March: 8 -12 at Market Deeping Market 3rd March: 8 – 4 at Bourne Market 4th March: 8 – 4 at Stamford Market 5th March: 8 – 4 at Grantham Market</p> <p><b>6. PV Solar Farms</b> The solar farm that runs from Northorpe up to Elsea Park is of a size that can be determined by SKDC planning committee. I sit on the GLLEP Energy Panel and at a meeting held last week, I offered my thoughts on this proposal. It was stated during the meeting that the grid is already at capacity.</p>
<b>169.</b>		<b>Clerk's Report and correspondence received</b>
	<b>169.1</b>	<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"> <li>1. South Kesteven District Council Local Plan Review notification - Issues and Options Consultation Statement</li> <li>2. Lincolnshire County Council is working with Voluntary Centre Services and Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service to make sure communities are aware of the advice, support and funding that will be available. There will be a new dedicated web page with information and advice about local and national funding opportunities, how to apply for funding, links to relevant local county strategies, and the Lincolnshire Funding Ready training programme.</li> <li>3. A resident had written stating "I have heard (whether it's a rumour or not I'm unsure) that the field behind Woodside East leading to Elsea Woods is going up for sale with the potential to be developed on" The Clerk replied stating that he had not heard anything and asked the resident to keep him informed if anything else was heard</li> <li>4. An email from Cllr Robert Reid about Thurlby parish grass cutting. He had received an email from Keith Duly who lives in the village saying he had read in the Village Link we were looking for someone to cut the grass verges. He also stated "I am also part of the LCC cyclic maintenance team and am aware that no request for a parish agreement has been sought in order to allow this to happen, I wondered if you could have a quiet word to explain that they Should not proceed with that arrangement to cut Highway verge without the permission of LCC Highways. They have been provided information previously explaining the option for entering into a parish agreement for legal and safety reasons. If they are prepared to cut the highway verge throughout the village,</li> </ol>

		<p>LCC will provide a contribution. It would certainly help the Parish to fund the cutting. Please ask them to Contact LCC, MMT &amp; Cyclic team if they need further information or for someone to explain what a parish Agreement entails”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. A letter from Ligna Consultancy regarding their services for Tree Safety Management</li> <li>6. Cllr Bill had contacted the clerk to ask if he had heard about the Proposed Parliamentary Boundary Changes which was in the consultation process with comments to be made by the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Cllr Dobson said that he knew a colleague that was up to date with what was happening and what would happen and what if the any changes it would have for the residents. He would see if he could see if this person could attend a meeting or send a detailed report to the Clerk. It was felt a report was more appropriate as we could then decide if we wanted to comment and call a special meeting to discuss the proposals.</li> <li>7. That afternoon an email had ben received from LALC advising that agreement had just been reached on a salary increase for Clerks and this was to be back dated to 1 April 2021. Final details would be sent out shortly.</li> </ol>
<b>170.</b>	<b>Planning applications: To consider any Planning Applications received</b>	
<b>170.1</b>	<p><b>S22/0234/FULL /STEPHE/PC1</b> - Proposal: Construction of new single storey dwelling with associated parking at Land To Rear Of 60-76 Northorpe. Resolved that we would object most strongly to this application and ask that the matter be called in for determination by the Planning Committee. The reason for the objections were as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Thurlby Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies would not support the planning application. We would refer you to <b>TNP09</b>. This states that Applications for individual dwellings on infill and redevelopment sites which fill a gap in the continuity of existing frontage buildings or are within the built-up area of the village and closely surrounded by buildings, will be supported subject to proposals being of high quality and meeting all relevant requirements set out in other policies in the development plan where such a development: Will not involve the outward extension of the village into areas of open countryside the development is not considered to be unneighbourly development that results in: the use of an unsuitable access, a reduction in privacy of adjacent properties, an increase in noise fumes and/or pollution, development that would be inconsistent with the character and existing pattern of development. This application would result in all these points being met.</li> <li>2. <b>TNP10</b> - Meeting the Housing Need for the Community New Development will be supported within the village where: It meets an identified local housing need. It is within the existing village curtilage of Thurlby and Northorpe</li> <li>3. This development does not meet an identified housing need and is not within the village curtilage</li> <li>4. The building line along the southern side of Northorpe is linear in development and there are no properties which are built beyond the existing curtilage.</li> <li>5. The proximity of the access to the proposed site to neighbouring dwellings at No. 70 to the east and the property immediately to the west would result in additional nuisance and noise from traffic.</li> <li>6. The access/exit site is onto an already busy road near a sharp bend in the road and more traffic would only exacerbate the problem</li> <li>7. The drive to the site is narrow and there would be a problem for emergency vehicles exiting or entering the site</li> </ol>	

		<p>8. The present site is already waterlogged and building a dwelling will only make matters worse with water draining off into neighbouring gardens</p> <p>9. There is a major concern of where the proposed septic tank will be sited. It will be very close to the houses in Beck Way</p> <p>10. The application mentions the property having 3 bedrooms but also suggests that it will have 4 or 5 bedrooms. What is the number of bedrooms?</p> <p>11. If allowed then it is anticipated that there will be further applications for further development.</p>
	<b>170.2</b>	<b>To note Planning Applications approved:</b> none to note
	<b>1720.2.1</b>	Notice had been received that an Environmental Impact Assessment is NOT required for <b>S22/0033</b> – which was a request for an EIA Screening Opinion for a Solar Farm with a Battery Energy Storage Scheme at Land North-west off Wood Lane, Thurlby.
	<b>170.3</b>	<b>To note any Planning Applications refused or withdrawn:</b> there were none to note
	<b>170.4</b>	<b>To note any Application appealed or any decision made regarding an appeal:</b> there was none to note
<b>171.</b>	<b>To discuss a request from the owner of land at the end of Obthorpe Lane on how we would deal with a request to change the use of the land from a paddock to residential which we would have one mobile home on, an allotment and a few chickens</b>	
	<b>171.1</b>	The owner of the paddock at the end of the building line in Obthorpe Lane on the western side had written to the Clerk stating that he had approached the Planning Officer at Grantham for advice on applying to have the land change from a paddock to residential. The Planning Officer had advised that he speak to the Parish Council first. He had been told by the Clerk that this would be an agenda item and he had intended to be present at the meeting to discuss his proposal. Unfortunately he did not attend and it was felt that without him being present and putting his case we would not be in a position to consider or discuss the matter
<b>172.</b>	<b>To confirm Expenditure</b> [£40.00 – B M Champness (use of home as office February)] [£447.33 – B M Champness (salary) February] [£75.08 – Lorraine Cole (salary and expenses February)] [£17.82 – Elaine Reynolds (Salary February)] £40.00 – B M Champness (use of home as office March) £447.33 – B M Champness (salary) March} £93.80 – Lorraine Cole (salary and expenses March) £17.82 – Elaine Reynolds (Salary March) £411.80 – HMRC (PAYE) £40.74 – BT (broadband charges February) DD [£36.00 – APS (payroll services for Oct, Nov, and December 2021)] £36.00 – APS (payroll services Jan, Feb, and March 2022) £1.83 – B M Champness (postage to HMRC) £108.00 – St Firmins PCC (village Link entry for March) <i>[ ] 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</i>	

	<b>172.1</b>	The Clerk pointed out that the financial year end was on the 31 March 2022 and the next meeting was on the 6 April, which was in the new financial year. He wanted to ensure that all payments to be made in the financial year were paid and approved. <b>Resolved</b> that the payments be approved.. The Clerk explained that he had received an invoice from C Harris for grass cutting in the cemetery and sweeping the path for £56.00. The Clerk had also spent a further £0.66p on postage. <b>Resolved</b> that these extra payments be approved.
	<b>173. To consider whether to increase the hours of the litter picker by another 2 hours per month and to discuss advertising for a new litter picker</b>	
	<b>173.1</b>	The lady who walks around the village picking up litter only does so around the main route of the village. She does not go into the new estate as she does not have time. She would be prepared to include all areas in the village but to do so she would need to increase her hours by 2 hours a month or working for 1 hour each week. <b>Resolved</b> that this be agreed and the hours to increase after 1 April 2022
	<b>173.2</b>	The lady who worked 2 hours a week emptying the various waste bins around the village had given notice that she was going to leave on the 31 March 2022. The Clerk had thanked her on behalf of the Council for the good job that she had done over the last few years. This meant we needed a replacement and the Clerk explained that his wife was prepared to do the work subject to the Council approving. <b>Resolved</b> that Mrs Champness be appointed and to commence the work on the 1 April 2022
	<b>174. To discuss the possibility of a Councillor training session by LALC being held in Thurlby, and if so when and if we wish to subscribe to paying an annual fee to LALC.</b>	
	<b>174.1</b>	It was explained that LALC would be prepared to undertake a training session for Councillors at Thurlby and the cost of this would be met in the annual fee we pay. Notification of the cost had been received which was £162.00. <b>Resolved:</b> that the Clerk arrange a training session preferably in the evening.
	<b>175. To agree that David Thornburn be appointed Internal Auditor this year and to prepare the accounts for Audit</b>	
	<b>175.1</b>	The Clerk had contacted David Thornburn to see if he would be interested in being the Internal auditor and he had replied that he would be happy to do this. <b>Resolved;</b> that David Thornburn be appointed Internal auditor
	<b>176. To receive an update on the replacement of the noticeboard in Chapel Lane.</b>	
	<b>176.1</b>	Cllr White apologised for not dealing with this matter before, but he had been unable to do so because of personal reasons. He had been in touch with a local firm as discussed in December but the noticeboards whilst being advertised for use outside they were not waterproof. He had made further enquiries and circulated details of a lockable tamper proof outdoor noticeboard made of mitred anodised aluminium at a cost of £57.48 inc VAT. This was not considered to be suitable and wondered if he could find a larger one and possibly made out of recycled plastic. The Clerk would also look at any leaflets he received about noticeboards.
	<b>177. To nominate a recipient for the Lawrance Cup 2022</b>	

	<b>171.1</b>	We received the notification from Lawrance Park asking for a nomination for a recipient of the Lawrance Cup 2022. Cllr Thomas proposed Ann Hedger for the many years she had spent organising for St Firmins church the 150 club. It was <b>resolved</b> that Ann Hedger be our nomination.
<b>178. To receive an update on Highway matters</b>		
	<b>178.1</b>	<p>Cllr Bill was concerned that matters dealt with in his report but not discussed by County Cllr Reid were not included in the minutes and residents might be concerned that they were being overlooked. He wanted the following to be recorded which related to Items from the meeting with Highways 29/12/21 and not previously minuted were discussed to include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapel Lane 'Car Parking' - During Lawrance Park events many vehicles park along Chapel Lane causing disruption to local residents. Highways explained that you would need to put double yellow lines down both sides of the road to prevent parking which would be a bigger issue for residents the majority of time. They would not support traffic restrictions.</li> <li>• Park View 'Garden Flooding' – although both Highways and Anglian Water had previously visited the site no action had taken place. To move this forward, although not a Highways issue, they would include it at the proposed 'Drainage/Flood meeting' to ascertain course of action/responsibility etc.</li> <li>• The Lawrance Park lighting column brought down by a tree branch (31/10/21) is owned by Lawrance Park and maintained by SKDC. Lawrance Park are chasing its reinstatement.</li> <li>• Water Lane/Northorpe Lane flooding - Cllr Reid is discussing maintaining the water courses in adjacent fields with IDB as part of his role in flood prevention.</li> <li>• A15 40mph Consultation - Highways confirmed that the proposed reduction in speed limit to 40mph was for the section between Northorpe and McDonalds roundabout and not between Thurlby and Northorpe.</li> </ul> <p>The following had not been addressed by Cllr Reid in his report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of numerous temporary road signs left on the verge at various locations.</li> <li>• Proposals for footpath repairs to various sections of High Street and Northorpe.</li> <li>• Proposals to prevent surface water from Church Street discharging into and flooding the Vicarage driveway.</li> <li>• Installation of dropped kerbs to Northorpe at the Beck Way footpath connection</li> </ul> <p>The Clerk was asked to remind him that these matters needed to be addressed and we were to be updated at the April meeting.</p>
<b>179. To receive an update on the A15 crossing at Thurlby</b>		
	<b>179.1</b>	There was no further update from Cllr Reid, but the Clerk would remind him to give an update at the April meeting.
<b>180. To consider the data received from the reactive sign</b>		
	<b>180.2</b>	Cllr Bill was able to report the following: During February, the unit was positioned on Northorpe recording traffic in an eastbound direction.

		The daily vehicle count, both 5 and 7 days, show an increase of 14% and 25% respectively on the previous December 2020 figures and more in line with the pre covid 2019 result. This is also reflected in the peak AM and PM counts. The peak AM/PM times have also changed to 08.00/09.00 & 17.00/18.00. Again, compared with 2020 data the average speed is slightly down (0.9mph) at 20.9mph with the average speed above the limit very similar at 32.68 and 32.73 mph but those travelling at these speeds has decreased by 13.5 and 19.7% to 8.94 and 8.53%, all for the 5 & 7 day figures. The maximum speed of 51.0mph was the same as the previous year. It should be noted that due to the Anglian Water Road excavation immediately in front of the radar position for part of the period recorded speeds may have been lower due to slowing traffic.
<b>181.</b>	<b>To receive an update on the Cemetery to include grass cutting, maintenance and burial fees</b>	
	<b>181.1</b>	Cllr Thomas had a sign for the cemetery which the Clerk had obtained and he was waiting for better weather before he put that up, Cllr Thomas also asked when we were going to discuss any increase in the fees and was advised this would be dealt with at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on the 18 May 2022
	<b>181.1.2</b>	The Clerk advised the Council that he had been speaking with Scribe as to how we could ensure the management of the cemetery could continue if the Clerk was ever indisposed. They explained that there was a facility on the software that allowed the Clerk to add any number of users and to limit what those other users could do. Scribe advised that the best access was read only which would allow those users to search records and find out what plots had been reserved and by whom. The Clerk had added Cllrs Edwards and Thomas as users with read only access. Sometime had been spent with Cllr Thomas going through the records and a number of minor discrepancies had been found and the Clerk was in the process of discussing these with Scribe to try and get those rectified. These minor errors would not prevent either Cllr Edwards or Thomas from discussing matters with an Undertaker should they need to. A meeting had been arranged for the 3 March so the Clerk would be able to iron out the discrepancies and would be able to explain them to Cllrs Edwards and Thomas.
<b>182.</b>	<b>For any Councillor to produce a written report of any meeting that he/she has attended as representatives of the Parish Council</b>	
	<b>182.1</b>	There were no reports of any meetings attended
<b>183.</b>	<b>To consider what information should be placed in the Village Link</b>	
	<b>183.1</b>	Cllr White would 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.
<b>184.</b>	<b>Members Questions - reminder only questions given to the clerk a week in advance will be answered.</b>	
	<b>184.1</b>	There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 20.57
<b>185.</b>	<b>The date of the next meeting – to be held on Wednesday 6 April 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room, Thurlby.</b>	