

Thurlby Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Thurlby Parish Council (Min 22-07) held
on Wednesday the 2 November 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance
Park Social Room

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

	Open Forum
	There were no members of the public present and there was no Public Forum. The meeting was formally opened at 19.30
125.	Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies & noting of resignations received
	125.1 Apologies were received from R Bill, (personal) Resolved: that the apologies be accepted
126.	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
	126.1 No one delated a Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests in any matter on the agenda.
127.	Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 19 October 2022 (Min22-06)
	127.1 Resolved: That the minutes of the special meeting held on the 19 October 2022 were signed by the Chair as a correct record. It was noted that apologies for that meeting had been sent by Cllr Haley a few days after the meeting as he was away and had only just received notice of that meeting.
128.	To co-opt a Councillor
	128.1 No one had applied to be co-opted and it was agreed that the matter be placed on the December agenda.
129.	To receive a report from the County and District Councillors on matters relating to Thurlby
	129.1 County Cllr Robert Reid had sent a report as follows: Thurlby - Pumping Station , Church Street – Standing Water Meeting Complete - Update Oct 22 FPB For the Road - Verge for LCC Vicarage Driveway Flooding - rainwater from Church Street discharging into the vicarage driveway- Highways issue. Waiting for Works to Plan and Complete - Update in Sep 22 Thurlby - High Street drainage Obthorpe Lane Junction - Resurfacing has ended earlier because of drainage issues Footpaths are all marked out apart from Northorpe Lane

129.2

District Councillor Barry Dobson had prepared a written report as below:

1. It's that time of year when the evenings get darker quicker. With fuel poverty high on many an agenda it's not going to be a pleasant winter for some. If we do have any reports of people suffering and are in need, I will get hold of the emergency numbers to call and include this in the December report. In the meantime, please let me know if there are any issues already in the village and I will get someone to visit. The overall level of fuel poverty in England in 2020 was 13.2% based on 3.16 million households. It is conceivable that this will increase during the coming winter. A new boiler upgrade scheme is currently underway, along with energy efficiency upgrades.

2. I'm on the GLLEP Energy Council where we are also helping to progress production of hydrogen, using the world's largest offshore wind farm on the Humber estuary. It is expected that the percentage of hydrogen in our gas supply will increase from 10% to 20%, reducing our reliance on imported supplies of fuel.

3. On the condition of housing and other issues at Almond Court:

- a. I have managed to get one resident's lock-up changed rather than repaired. That seemed a quicker option.
- b. There has been a report that some of the residences on the left-hand side as you enter the complex are damp. I have reported this and hope that we can sort this asap.
- c. I'm still awaiting a report on the stairlift in the main building.
- d. Most of this is due to the sudden illness of a senior member of staff.
- e. SKDC has conducted a tenant consultation exercise: The Big Listen Survey. A full stock condition survey is underway to be completed during the coming year.

4. Grounds Maintenance:

- a. It is a fact that only 3% of the land maintained is in urban areas, the remaining 97% being in rural communities, such as ours. It also includes 21 churchyards and 3 parks all based in Grantham.
- b. The total cost of running this service in the district is over £1m. This includes some 1.5 million square metres of grass.
- c. So, SKDC is now looking at retaining cut and drop in open spaces, verges and around SK's own housing stock. It is also intended to increase hedge cutting from once to twice annually.
- d. When grass is collected and also the garden waste, this is used to create electricity at the anaerobic digester plant.

5. Vehicles

- a. SKDC is looking into possibilities of upgrading their vehicle fleet.
- b. Currently, we have already replaced internal combustion vans and some cars with plug-in electric ones. This has worked well and certainly in this era of rising fuel prices; it has proven a good return on investment as well as reducing carbon emissions in our towns and villages.
- c. The cost of replacing our truck fleet is still prohibitive. Although we have kept the fleet up to date to make them as efficient as possible there are major cost implications to change the HGV fleet to another type. Our refuse trucks are currently replaceable with diesel engines for £200K, electric vehicles are currently available for £450K and hydrogen fuelled ones for £700K. The electric vehicles also have a limited range that would make it impossible to complete most of the rounds.

Cllr Dobson was asked questions on his report

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He was asked about the production of hydrogen and if this was likely to be the way forward and if so would it reduce costs. Cllr Dobson was convinced it was the way forward and that in future years we would see hydrogen being used in home boilers and running cars. At the moment the cost was high, but he was confident that prices would fall once production was in full swing, 2. Cllr Dobson was asked what was meant by cut and drop which was mentioned in 4c in the report. It meant the grass was cut and the cuttings were left and not collected.
130.	Clerk's Report and correspondence received	
130.1	<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 email from South Kesteven District Council advising that we should receive payment of the second instalment for the litter picker. This grant is no longer linked to the National Living Wage and will continue to be paid at the current rate until further notice. 2. Cllr Reid had asked that consent of the Parish Council was required for a 40-mph limit to be in place on the A15 from Northorpe to Thurlby. In view of the fact that we had agreed this the consent of the Parish Council was sent to him. 3. It was noted that the Gregg banners had been moved back into the grounds of the service station although we had not been formally informed of this from South Kesteven District Council. 4. Cllr Reid had written to LCC to report the rotten Fence Railings at the YHA, and the detriment to the property and the village. The response he received in July was "The grounds maintenance required at Thurlby has been assigned to a contractor, unfortunately they haven't provided us with a date yet of when the work will be carried out, I understand this is due to resources at this busy holiday time." He had sent another reminder as the work had not been undertaken. 5. South Kesteven District Council sent an email about Cost of Living – Warm space. They stated. "South Kesteven District Council is doing all it can to help residents deal with the rising cost of living. We have created an online hub, packed with information and pointers towards partners and experts that can provide targeted help: http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/costofliving This includes advice on benefits, food and housing costs, mental wellbeing and energy saving 6. An email from the Safety Together co-ordinator about "Have your say on the future of policing in Lincolnshire today!" They would like you to complete an online survey 7. The Clerk said that he thought that the Tommy lamppost signs did credit to the village and the general feeling was that they had been well received by residents. It was agreed that we might have to purchase more next year but this could be discussed when the Precept was being dealt with. It was agreed that they would be taken down on the Monday after Remembrance Sunday. Cllr Bradley asked if she could place an order for a wreath and it was agreed she could and that she would be the representative of the Council on Remembrance Sunday. It was agreed we would make a donation for the wreath of £75.00 8. The Clerk was asked if he had heard anything further about the telephone kiosks. He had written after the September meeting, but nothing further had been received. He was asked to chase them up again. 9. It was reported that Delaines had been contacted and they confirmed that they would not lay on a bus through the village. There would not, in their opinion be enough people using the service, so as to make it unprofitable. Also it would put pressure on 	

		them to extend the times of the bus journeys when they were already finding it difficult to keep to their times during peak times.
131.	Planning applications:	
131.1	To consider any Planning Applications received – S22/1847 - Section 73 application to vary condition 13 (construction working hours) of S22/0230 (Hybrid Planning Application for the proposed Grantham to Bexwell potable water Pipeline Scheme with full planning consent sought for 95 kilometres of pipeline and 4-kilometre spur, and outline consent for associated above ground infrastructure at Elton and Welby Heath with all matters reserved except for access.) Location Pipeline between Ancaster and Bexwell, Norfolk, Response 24 November 2022. Resolved: no comment	
131.2	To note Planning Applications approved: After the agenda was posted notice had been received of a planning application that had been approved which was S22/1569 Proposal: Installation of GF210 Glen Farrow biomass boiler at Northorpe Fen Farm, Double Yew Fen Road, Northorpe	
131.3	To note any Planning Applications refused: there were none to note	
131.4	To note any Application appealed or any decision made regarding an appeal: there were none to note	
132.	To confirm Expenditure 40.00 – B M Champness (use of home as office) £456.37 – B M Champness (salary) £128.30 – Elaine Reynolds (salary) £40.74 – BT (Broadband services) DD £19.57 – B M Champness (3 Tommy lamp post signs and £1 donation) £52.59 – B M Champness (10 Tommy lamp post signs and £1 donation) £108.00 – Thurlby PCC (November insert in Village Link) <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>	
132.1	Resolved: that the payments be approved.	
133.	To discuss the accounts and for the bank reconciliation to be signed	
133.1	The Clerk was able to circulate in advance various reports from Scribe for October 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 signed by the Chair as a correct record.	
134.	To discuss a budget for a Christmas tree and new lights	
134.1	Cllr Thomas said that he wanted this item on the agenda as he wanted to know if the Council wanted a Christmas tree this year and if so he wanted to know what he could spend. He usually purchased a tree for £50, Last year a new battery was purchased but he felt that this year new lights were needed, and he thought that £50 would be sufficient. He would approach Waterside Nursery to see if they would sponsor the lights or sell them at cost. Resolved that a budget of £100 be agreed to purchase a tree and new lights.	
135.	To discuss a request for a donation from Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire as a result of the Cost-of-Living Crisis	

	135.1	An email had been received from Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire which had been circulated in advance. The email advised that the cost-of-living crisis is having a devastating impact on the most vulnerable clients in our communities across the country. The choice of eating or heating is sadly becoming a cliché, but for so many of the clients of Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire, it is the stark, daily reality of their lives in your parish. We are asking you as a Parish Council, to consider making a donation to help us deal with the rising prices of our unfunded core costs, which this year will be £44,000. After a discussion it was resolved that we would not make a donation.
136.	To discuss the South Kesteven District Council - Local Development Scheme 2022-2025	
	136.1	Details of the Local Development Scheme was circulated in advance. After considering the link sent with the email it was to be recorded that the scheme had been noted but there was nothing further for us to agree.
137.	To receive an update on the distribution of leaflets regarding overhanging vegetation and to decide future action.	
	137.1	As was reported last month notices had been delivered to various households around the village. Some had cut back the overhanging vegetation, but others had ignored the request or had not cut the hedges back enough. The next step was to give these householders a final warning and then write to LCC Highways and ask them to cut the hedges back. Cllr White had taken photographs of the offending hedges, and these had been circulated. In the meantime, the Clerk had written to Cllr Reid sending the photographs and asking if he could enquire from Highways whether they thought the bushes should be cut back and at the same time give us some idea of the criteria they used. He had replied asking that we take no action at this stage as he wanted to discuss this matter at the meeting. The photographs were circulated for the Councillors to consider. It was considered that Highways might take the view that anyone who allowed a hedge or tree overhanging the footpath should be forced to cut it back. On the other hand, they were very busy dealing with other matters and could take the view that if a wheelchair user can get by without having to go onto the road then there was not a problem. The general view was that if attempts had been made to cut back the vegetation and people could get by without going onto the road then we should not report them to Highways. It was agreed that if no work had been undertaken and the hedge caused a problem then we would send details to Cllr Reid for him to take up with Highways. On looking at the photographs it was agreed 4 properties would be reported. No further action would be taken against the remaining residents.
138.	To discuss the proposals for the future of the Youth Hostel	
	138.1	There was nothing further to note other than the email had been sent after the September meeting, but reply had been received. The Clerk was to write to the CEO explaining the position.
139.	To receive an update on the crossing at Thurlby crossroads.	
	139.1	Cllr Reid said that he had reported out instructions to the person who was dealing with this matter, and it was in the system to be looked at. He was asked if he could at least get some idea of the timeline for any action to be taken on a survey and when a final decision might be made.
140.	To consider the data received from the reactive sign	

	140.1	<p>Cllr Bill had downloaded data from the reactive sign and circulated a report of this information which is below: The unit this month, October, was positioned in High Street registering traffic in an eastbound direction i.e., towards the A15 and would record traffic running on the new road surface for the first time. Compared with previous data the daily volumes for both 5/7-day periods are down 5% and 3% respectively. Corresponding peak time volumes also reflect this, with the AM peak time remaining the same however, the peak PM has changed to 12.00 -13.00 hrs. The number travelling above the speed limit has increased by 34% and 33% but the average speed above the limit remains similar to previous. The average speed has increased slightly by 1mph to 24.4mph with a maximum speed of 57mph although slightly lower than last year was recorded at 09.00 hrs</p> <p>It was agreed that thanks should be given to Cllr Bill for all the work he does on this matter.</p>
141.	To receive an update on the Cemetery to include grass cutting, maintenance and burial fees	
	141.1	<p>Cllr Thomas was able to report that the cemetery looks good, and a number of graves had been levelled up. Mr Harris would be working on the cremated remains area this month. The Clerk explained that Mr Harris said that he had been asked to put green chippings down although pink ones were the cheapest. Cllr Thomas said that the chippings were a grey green colour which would blend in with the area whereas pink chippings would be totally inappropriate. The Clerk was reminded to put up notices in the noticeboard.</p>
142.	To consider if there is anything we need to report to the Neighbourhood Policing Priority Setting Meetings	
	142.1	There was nothing to be reported at this time.
143.	For any Councilor to produce a written report of any meeting that he/she has attended as representatives of the Parish Council	
	143.1	<p>Cllrs Bill and White attended a meeting of the Anne Fisher Charity and reported the following. Report of the meeting of the Anne Fisher Charity held at 11:30 hrs on 18th October 2022 at the Vicarage</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Present – Rev Carolyn Bailey, Barry Sadler, Cllr Dave White and Cllr Richard Bill. 2. Matters arising since the last meeting 2nd June 2022. · The minutes of the meeting dated 2 June 2022 were accepted. 3. Financial – A financial position was given by the Treasure. 4. Future Comments and Actions · No further actions by email were recorded · It was agreed that a further advertisement in the village link should be undertaken. In recognition of the cost-of-living crisis an article for the village link to be drafted and agreed later by email (Action Dave White, Rev Bailey) · Christmas 2022. Rev Bailey to continue with offering candles and Xmas cards for those parishioners that had lost spouses during the year. The Charity to reimburse costs against receipts. 5. Resignations · Barry Sadler advised the trustees that he intended resigning as Secretary and Treasurer asap and later resign as a Charity trustee by the end of the financial year. It was agreed that Dave White would take over the role of Secretary and Treasurer. Barry and Dave would meet soonest to affect the smooth handover of Charity records and mandatory filing

		and financial registration requirements etc. (Action Barry Sadler meeting with Dave White - 25th October 2022 agreed) · The Trustees will seek to identify a replacement Trustee asap. Any new trustee should be conditional on being formally accepted by our Bank (Lloyds) as an account signatory. 6. Date of next meeting Wednesday 15th March 2023 at the Vicarage
	143.2	<p>Cllr Broadbent although having not attended a meeting he wanted to report on an update with the Thurlby Churchyard Naturehood Project. His report is below: This project, part of the Baston, Langtoft and Thurlby Naturehood Project, has continued to progress with several new volunteers joining the regular working parties in the churchyard.</p> <p>The work being carried out to encourage and improve wildlife diversity was formally recognised when Thurlby Churchyard was awarded 'runner up' in the Lincolnshire Environmental Awards on 8th October at a presentation evening at Whisby Nature Reserve, Lincoln. The Thurlby Churchyard Project was given this award having been assessed against 13 other projects across the county.</p> <p>The Naturehood team are keen to engage with TPC to support and develop the aims of this project elsewhere in Thurlby. In addition, the question has been raised as to how The Best Kept Village Competition views this type of work and whether it could support our credentials in future years.</p> <p>It was felt by the Councillors that this could be useful but as the people marking the village in the Best Kept Village competition did not know about the nature project it was worth putting up a notice not just to advise the judges but residents as well who visited the churchyard,</p>
144.	To consider what information should be placed in the Village Link	
	144.1	Cllr White would prepare an item for the Village Link and send that to all Councillors for approval.
145.	Members Questions - reminder only questions given to the clerk a week in advance will be answered.	
	145.1	It was understood that parking on Chapel Lane was again a problem which was caused by people attending the football matches. It was reported that Thurlby Tigers were doing what they could and were seen asking people to move their car. The acquisition of the piece land at the bottom of Lawrance Park was still being investigated but the first priority was the lights in the park and the matter of acquiring the land would then be looked at further.
	145.2	There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 21.10
146.	The date of the next meeting – to be held on Wednesday 14 December 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room, Thurlby	