

Thurlby Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Thurlby Parish Council (Min 22-01) held on Wednesday the 18th May 2022 at 8.15 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room

Present: **Councillors:** R Bill, N Bradley, S Broadbent, P Haley, H Edwards, E Lunn, M Owen, M Reece, A Thomas and D White
Residents: S Holland, A Baker, J Baker, M Spooner and K Martin
Others: Bernard Champness – Clerk, County Cllr R Reid,

	Open Forum
	<p>Mrs Spooner wanted to address the Council regarding her concerns about the future of the Youth Hostel. The building was in a sorry state not because of vandalism but neglect. Major repairs were needed as she was able to see from her house tiles were missing from the roof and birds were now building nests in there. There were thousands of snowdrops in the garden, but they were being hidden by brambles which was a great shame.</p> <p>Kirsty Martin lives at the back of the Hostel and trees were now overhanging into her garden as she could not do anything about them as they had tree preservation orders to protect them. Kirsty Martin she was very sad to see the building go into disrepair, and she wanted to know what was going to happen to it.</p> <p>Mrs & Mrs Baker were just interested to listen to what might happen to the building.</p> <p>The Chair pointed out that we had procedural matters to deal with first but once they had been completed she would bring Item, 17 to be dealt with thereafter.</p>
1.	To elect a Chairperson and to receive the Chairperson's Declaration of Acceptance of Office and if not then received to decide when it shall be received
1.1	Helen Edwards was the only nomination. It was resolved Cllr Edwards be duly elected as Chair for the following year. The Acceptance of Office was signed by the Chair and witnessed by the Clerk
2.	To elect a Vice Chairperson
2.1	Alan Thomas was the only nomination, and it was resolved that Cllr Thomas should be Vice Chair for the following year.
3.	To appoint representatives for Local Charities and organisations –
	It was resolved that the following would be appointed:
3.1	Lawrance Park Community Association - Cllrs A Thomas & L Lowe
3.2	Causeway Charities – Cllrs R Bill and D White
3.3	Anne Fisher Charities – Cllrs D White & R Bill
3.4	Churchyard Committee – Cllrs E Lunn and N Bradley
4.	To appoint signatories for cheques and a Press Officer

	4.1	Resolved: Cllrs E Lunn, A Thomas, and H Edwards be appointed signatories. The Clerk should remain as a signatory but will not sign cheques which is in line with the Financial Regulations. The Clerk Bernard Champness be appointed the Press Officer.
	5.	To adopt the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations & Risk Assessment and to consider the further inspection of the cemetery/headstones
	5.1	The Standing Orders had not been amended. This also applied to the Financial Regulations. Resolved that they be accepted until such time they were amended. It was agreed that the Risk Assessment would be looked at by the Chair and the Clerk who would report back. The headstones would be inspected by the Clerk and Cllr Thomas.
	6.	To consider whether the Cemetery charges should be increased,
	6.1	After considering the matter it was resolved that there should be a small increase in the fees and that across the board there should be a 5% increase on all fees to be rounded up to the nearest pound.
	7.	Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies & noting of resignations received
	7.1	Apologies were received from Cllr L Lowe (work). Resolved that the apologies be accepted.
	8.	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
	8.1	No one declared an interest in any item on the agenda.
	9.	Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 6th April 2022 (Min21-11)
	9.1	Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th April 2022 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.
	10.	To receive a report from the County and District Councillors on matters relating to Thurlby
	10.1	County Cllr Robert Reid had given a detailed report of matters relating to Thurlby at the Annual Parish meeting. A copy of that report is attached. He did not repeat the report but instead concentrated on matters relating to the crossing at Thurlby and the Youth Hostel which are dealt with under Items 16 and 17
	10.2	District Councillor Barry Dobson sent a written report as set out below: 1. Almond Court The slabs around the fishpond will, I've been promised, re-laid by the end of the month in time for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. 2. Payment of Council Tax SKDC has managed to send 29,000 amounts of £150 out to our direct debit council taxpayers of up to and including band D residences to help with rising utility costs. Payments will be made directly into the bank accounts used to pay their council tax. For those who do not use a direct debit service, SKDC will be contacting them soon to arrange payment. 3. Grass Cutting I have been asked to get a plan of those areas which are the responsibility of SKDC.

		<p>If this hasn't already been sent to the PC, I will chase this up. .</p> <p>4. Barbecue Time As the warmer weather starts to push out the cold and dismal days, it'll be time to barbecue. It is important that we warn residents in our Parish that charcoal often emits sparks that can so easily start a fire. I'll include this in an article for the VL.</p> <p>5. Levelling Up The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities has announced that South Kesteven has a provisional allocation of £3,898,582 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Launched on 13 April, the £2.6 billion UKSPF is part of the Government's plans for levelling up all parts of the UK through boosting jobs, regenerating high streets, creating opportunities, involving public services, and promoting a sense of local pride and belonging.</p> <p>6. Best Kept Village Competition It's nearly time again for the Best Kept Village Awards. As you all know, we have been really successful in the last two years by coming 3rd in 2020 and 2nd in 2021. So, what are we going to get in 2022. Unfortunately, we are still seeing plenty of rubbish being discarded from passing vehicles. We're all part of this and I'd like to thank all those who have made this possible. Special thanks, of course, go to Kath Cockrell for her untiring attention to the increasing number of flower tubs around the village. The award for the first three places this year are: 1st £400, 2nd £300, 3rd £200. Villages are divided into two: small 100 – 500 residents, medium 501 – 5000 residents. The Clerk advised the Council that it was not only Kath Cockrell doing the voluntary work as he had personally seen David White and his wife working around the village on the planters. He had also seen Alan Thomas and Richard Bill assisting.</p> <p>7. Introduction of Twin Stream Recycling Collection – Paper and Card As a member of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership, South Kesteven District Council has been asked to consider participation in the scheme. This will assist the Council in meeting the requirements of the new Environment Act 2021. Currently, around 30% of mixed dry recycling collected in SK and other councils is classed as 'contaminated'. This is often because waste contains non-recyclables or contaminants such as nappies (very frequent). The UK as a whole has not met the target of 'waste from households. SKDC has achieved 42% which is down on the 45.5% we achieved in 2019. Investigative trials have shown that 40% of recyclables collected were paper and card. However, if these two categories are contaminated, they no longer become recyclable. By separating these two major categories, we hope to realise a marked increase in our percentage of recyclable collections.</p>
11.		Clerk's Report and correspondence received
	11.1	<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>In the report was a question from a resident asking if we knew who, if anyone, is in charge of cutting and maintaining the car dyke footpath. It is becoming overgrown and not passible in some places. The Clerk was asked to reply saying that she should get in touch the footpath officer in Highways of LCC who it was believed to be Chris Miller</p> <p>Since the report had been completed more correspondence was received which is as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An email from the Clerk of West Deeping Parish Council stating that they held both their Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting and following comments made by both residents and councillors, they have decided that they wish to keep the speed indicating device at the present time.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An email from S Holland setting out objections/concerns about the planning application being dealt with at Item 12.1 below. This had been circulated in advance of the meeting • Cllr Bill had been in touch regarding the Standing Orders and said that he could not find a copy on the website. The Clerk explained that he had asked Ian Bratley to restore the procedural documents onto the website, but it would appear that he has not done so. The Clerk suggested that he take this matter up with Ian again. It was agreed that this was appropriate. • The litter picker had been in touch stating that she had been contacted by a resident saying the bin on the grass triangle at the entrance to Wood Lane had not been emptied and was full. She with the help of her husband had been able to empty the bin but the bag had not been collected, The Clerk explained that this bin was not our responsibility and advised her to contact South Kesteven District Council direct regarding this matter. It was agreed the Clerk would check with South Kesteven District Council to see if this was our responsibility • An email from Yvonne Scott stating that during our meeting on Wednesday the 1st June, could you please ensure nobody steps into the main hall at Lawrance Park? The previous two days will see the floor being sanded down and re varnished. It will still be tacky on the Wednesday. • An email from Cllr Reid regarding the problem of parking in Crown Lane and Chapel Lane when there were football matches being played in the park. A resident had contacted him, and he had taken this matter up with the appropriate people asking if the land at the bottom of the field could be used as a car park. He thanked Cllr Thomas for his involvement and help and it appeared that they were progressing with this suggestion. He was happy to continue to work with Cllr Thomas to try and get the matter resolved.
12.	Planning applications: To consider any Planning Applications received	
12.1	<p>S22/0230 - Proposal: 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 at Pipeline Between Ancaster and Bexwell, Norfolk. Response: extended to 19th May 2022. Resolved: we had no objections but would like to express concerns about the following</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are concerned that grass verges may be damaged by the vehicles attending the site and we would like an assurance that the verges will be reinstated if damaged 2. We are concerned about the work traffic and the application did not make it known the size of the lorries, how often they would need to attend the site and if there was a restriction on the working hours of the day. 3. Will they confirm whether the work traffic will be managed by LCC Highways as we are concerned that in the area that the work will take place the roads are narrow and there could be substantial delays by users of the road during busy times. 	
12.2	<p>To note Planning Applications approved:</p> <p>S22/0599 - Proposal: Non-material amendment to planning approval S15/1017 to omit veranda, alter location of wood burner flue, alterations to fenestration, insertion of Juliet balcony, and internal alterations at The Cottage 18 High Street</p> <p>S22/0650 - Proposal: Submission of details reserved by Condition 5 (Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Plan) of S21/1546 (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>	

	12.3	To note any Planning Applications refused or withdrawn: none to note
	12.4	To note any Application appealed or any decision made regarding an appeal: none to note
13.	To confirm Expenditure £130.07 – Hereward Stationers & Printers Ltd (ink and paper) £16.78 – Hereward Stationers & Printers Ltd (punched pocket holders) £410.50 – Zurich Insurance (Insurance Premium) £40.74 – BT (broadband charges) (DD) £13.89 – D White (paving slabs and manure) £108.00 – Thurlby PCC (Village Link inserts for May) [] 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	
	13.1	Resolved: that the payments be approved.
	13.1.1	The Clerk explained that he had received 2 invoices from Chris Harris for cutting the grass in the cemetery. He charged £40 for the cut in April and £40 for the cut in May. Resolved that these payments be approved as well as a payment to Helen Edwards of £19.75 for the refreshments provided at the Annual Parish meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would check with Chis Harris what his charges would be in this financial year.
14.	Audit of 2021/22 Accounts	
	14.1	To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2021-22. Resolved: that the Annual Governance statement be approved after this was considered in detail.
	14.2	To accept the Accounting Statement 2021-22 as a true record. Resolved: that the Accounting Statement for 2021/22 be accepted as a true record.
	14.3	To sign and Approve the Exemption Certificate. Resolved: that the Exemption Certificate be signed.
15.	To consider and agree the Insurance cover and whether we wish to include or remove anything from the schedule	
	15.1	The Clerk had sent Councillors copies of the Insurance schedule prior to the meeting to enable them to consider the insurance cover that we had. The policy schedule was discussed, and it was agreed that we were happy with the cover that we had but the Clerk was to find out what the item being insured was covered by the office contents at the Clerks home. The laptop etc was already separately covered in the policy.
16.	To receive an update on the crossing at Thurlby crossroads.	
	16.1	County Cllr Reid had sent the Clerk an email which he had received from Highways which stated <i>The preferred location for a crossing is shown in pink below but the safety audit raised issues with this, mainly due to its close proximity to the crossroads. The presence of a bus stop layby and private accesses means the next available position north of the crossroads will be in the vicinity of No.2a, which is some distance away from the desire line. so a crossing here may not be used.</i>

	<p><i>The alternative is to locate the crossing to the south of the crossroads a little further from it, somewhere within the red outline below. Again there is a bus stop here which needs to be taken into account and a further road safety audit would be required for this new site, and this may again cite its proximity to the crossroads as an issue.</i></p> <p><i>If the Parish Council is happy to pursue a crossing here then I will arrange for the audit to be carried out. If not then I do not believe any other options are available for a crossing location at this site.</i></p> <p>Cllr Reid was asked that if we did not like the suggested site would that mean we would not get a crossing. He said that this was most likely. Cllr Thomas said that as we were not the experts Highways were, we should be guided by them as to the correct position of the crossing. It was then agreed that we would want a survey carried out for both sites with Highways to recommend the preferred site and the one they would be happy to proceed with. Cllr Reid said that he would convey this back to Highways.</p>
17.	To receive an update from County Cllr R Reid on the proposals for the Youth Hostel
17.1	<p>Cllr Reid said that he had been in correspondence with Joyce Stevenson and had also met with her and was given a very detailed history of the acquisition of the Youth Hostel. He understood residents were curious about what might be happening as there had been quite a bit of activity there recently. He was aware that LCC owned the Youth Hostel and had given the Youth Hostel Association a full repairing lease to continue to use the premises as a Youth Hostel. Unfortunately, the Association did not have funds and had allowed the premises to become tun down and in a state. The Association were anxious to hand the premises back to LCC and they had been considering what if anything they could do with it . One option was to carry out extensive repairs and turn it into a home for Children in Care. This option was being considered and that a final decision would be made once they had carried out a feasibility study. They were happy to come to the July meeting to discuss these matters with the Parish Council. Cllr Reid was advised that this meeting would be welcome, and any residents interested should attend on the 6th July. If that meeting was to take place it was considered that the Clerk should contact the appropriate people to ask questions now on the hope we would have all the answers at that meeting. If any Councillor had any question that should be asked they should let the Clerk know but initially the questions were</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If the property is not not turned into a Children’s Home then what would it be used for? 2. If planning permission is required would LCC be able to grant themselves planning permission without going through the consultation process? 3. If it is turned into a Children’s Home then how many children would there be living there and their ages? 4. What is the legal position of the property being bequeathed by a resident to be used as a Youth Hostel? 5. Some on the trees in the garden are protected by a tree preservation order will work be undertaken to make safe the trees in a dangerous condition or overhanging into neighbour’s gardens. 6. Will any action be taken to preserve the thousands of snow drops which are at the moment covered by bramble bushes? <p>Cllr Reid said that hr will take onboard the comments made by the residents tonight and is happy to continue with his efforts to get the matter resolved.</p>
18.	To discuss the Baston, Langtoft and Thurlby Naturehood - Next Steps

18.1	<p>An email had been received from Richard Astle of Athene Communications Ltd who had been instructed by Sr Firmins and the churches in Baston and Langtoft to help with the Naturehood project at the three churches. His email explained the following relating to a recent meeting</p> <p><i>We agreed at the meeting that we would take time over the late spring/summer to develop a vision and objectives for the project, engaging with the community to hear their views and understand more about how local people value nature. The aim will be to produce the vision document and delivery plan by July/August and then plan the priority actions for the autumn/winter.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to suggest therefore that we now circulate the Naturehood Survey and encourage people to join the Facebook Group and post to it! We should then identify a date in late May/early June to hold a community event, perhaps at one of the churches, inviting local people and organisations to come along and find out more about our plans and add their thoughts and input.</i></p> <p>Cllr Broadbent said that he had unfortunately been unable to attend the meeting and gave details of what he thought was happening.</p> <p>It was agreed that the report from Mr Astle be noted and that Cllr Broadbent would let us know once there was any other news to give us so an item could be placed on the agenda</p>
19.	To consider the data received from the reactive sign
19.1	<p>Cllr Bill had submitted before the meeting the data he had obtained from the Reactive Sign During April the unit was positioned on the A15 at Thurlby recording traffic in a southbound direction.</p> <p>Like the northbound data from last month, it is clear that both daily traffic volumes and peak times are returning to pre-covid figures although volumes are more spread throughout the day. The average 5- and 7-day daily count of 8484 and 7856 are 8% and 7% up on last May and 5% and 6% up on February 2020 immediately prior to covid and approaching the 2019 figure. Peak times have also returned to 'normal' 07.00-08.00 & 17.00 -18.00hrs. Compared with 2021 data, the average speed is slightly higher (0.9mph) at 35.6mph with the average speed above the limit very similar but down at 45.94 and 46.03 mph but those travelling at these speeds has increased slightly to 11.95 and 13.44%, all for the 5- & 7-day figures. Like northbound traffic more people travel above the speed limit over the weekend than during weekdays. A maximum speed of 87.0mph was recorded which was slightly lower than the average for the last three years.</p>
20.	To discuss how we can progress in the Best Kept Village Competition and what action can be taken.
20.1	<p>The Clerk explained that he wanted this matter on the agenda so he could record what Cllr White had purchased using the voucher that was given to us by the local charity. As well as trying to make sure an effort is made to see if we can gain 1st place this year. Cllr White had used the voucher valued at £100 to purchase a half barrel planter. A large patio tub, topsoil, manure and compost.</p> <p>Cllr White said that he would like to replace 2 planters at a cost of £28 for 2 as well as purchasing more compost. Resolved that he proceed.</p> <p>At the last meeting we discussed Tim Sleight cutting the grass verges on The Green but we had not decided if he should continue as well as other areas. It was agreed that we should continue to let him cut the verges. Cllr Reid said that he was also cutting a verge for a resident and as he had his mower with him he was happy to do other areas as well. If</p>

		<p>any Councillor was aware of any other verges that needed cutting they should let the Clerk know and he would notify Cllr Reid.</p> <p>The Clerk had found a letter from LCC in 2019 with a map of the verges in the village they cut during the year as well as trying to persuade the Council to take over that task. They said that they would pay us £183.44 and for that we would be responsible for cutting a total of 4169m2 of urban highway verges. That offer was rejected then.</p>
21.	To receive an update on the Cemetery to include grass cutting, maintenance and burial fees	
	21.1	<p>Cllr Thomas said he had been down to the Cemetery, and all was in order. Chris Harris had cut the grass, he had been asked to spray the footpath and trim back the hedge whilst he was able to.</p> <p>Cllr Thomas said that he had been approached by a resident who was keen to tidy up the cremated remains area which was at the moment a little untidy. It seemed that this person was going to overlook the work that would be done by someone else. It was agreed that the cremated remains area needed to be tidied up and we would ask Chris Harris if he would spend some time to do this for us.</p>
22.	For any Councillor to produce a written report of any meeting that he/she has attended as representatives of the Parish Council	
	22.1	<p>The only meeting attended by a Councillor was Cllr Thomas and it was the Lawrance Park AGM. He said that as was reported by the Clerk to floor in the main hall was being revarnished. They were also looking to place lighting in the park along the footpaths and were also considering solar lights</p>
23.	To consider what information should be placed in the Village Link	
	23.1	<p>Cllr White said that he was no longer the editor and if any article he wrote now would not go into the next Village Link but a month later as the closing date for articles was the 19th May. He would however, draft an article and submit to all Councillors to approve.</p>
24.	Members Questions - reminder only questions given to the clerk a week in advance will be answered.	
	24.1	<p>There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 21.33</p>
25.	The date of the next meeting – to be held on Wednesday 1st June 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lawrance Park Social Room, Thurlby, with Parish Councillors meeting at the cemetery at 7 p.m. to inspect the same prior to the meeting.	