

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 10 May 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in Lawrance Park Social Room, Thurlby

Present:

Councillors: N Bradley, S Broadbent, L Day, P Haley, L Lowe, M Owen, and A Thomas (presiding)

Residents: see attached list

Others: B M Champness (clerk). District Cllr B Dobson

	Councillor Thomas welcomed 6 Parishioners, 7 Parish Councillors, District Cllr Dobson who together with the Clerk who was in attendance totalled 15
1	Apologies for absence.
1.1	Apologies were received from Cllrs R Bill and M Keene.
2	Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 18 May 2022
2.1	Resolved: The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 18 May 2022 as circulated be signed by the Chair as a correct record
3	To receive the report of the Past Years Activities from the Chairman of Thurlby Parish Council.
3.1	<p>The Chairman, Cllr Thomas read a full and detailed report of the Parish Council's activities over the past 12 months. A copy of that report is attached.</p> <p>Various questions/comments were asked as below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Rose said that he was disappointed about the delay in having the 40-mph limit put in place on the A15 from Northorpe to Bourne. Also, the footpath was still in a poor condition. 2. Mr Rose also stated that if we going to enter the Best Kept Village Competition it was hoped something would be done with the telephone kiosk on The Green. It was pointed out that St Firmins was hoping to take over ownership of the kiosk and would be looking for volunteers to help restore the kiosk. 3. Mr Rose also expressed disappointment that the notice for this meeting was not in the Village Link 4. The local PCSO had explained that they were leaving soon, and this meant there would be no PCSO in this and the surrounding area. 5. Joyce Stevenson said that there were now 2 new signs on the A15 warning of a slippery road. Were they in the right position? Where are the new 40 mph signs going to be placed. 6. She also wanted to know what was going to happen with the Youth Hostel and what was happening today. It was explained that we could not answer these questions but would relay them to Cllr Reid.
4	To receive the annual report of Thurlby Parish Council's Responsible Financial Officer
4.1	<p>The Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer Mr B Champness gave a report on the Parish Council's finances and handed out a copy of a spreadsheet showing what money was received and spent during the year, a copy of which is attached.</p> <p>A question was asked By Robert Rose about whether we had thought about reducing the precept due to the amount we have to carry forward. The Clerk explained that we had but we might in the future have problems as if we reduced it and then had to increase it a year or so later we might</p>

	have to fund a referendum which could be expensive. It should be explained that the carry forward amount included a sum of £9000 as a general reserve and nearly £6000 for the cemetery. Which meant that we did not have that large amount that we could use for other projects. It was agreed as we always do when we set the precept to look at reducing the sum asked for.
5.	Reports from various organisations within the Village of their activities for the last year
5.1	District Cllr Barry Dobson gave his report of the activities of South Kesteven District Council during the last year as well as updating the meeting with what was happening now. A copy of this report is attached.
5.2	Reverend Carolyn Bailey representing St Firmin's Church gave a report on the activities of St Firmin's Church a copy of which is attached.
5.3	Colin Murrant Treasurer from the Lawrance Park Community Association gave a report of the activities of Lawrance Park over the last year. A copy of that report is attached.
5.4	Yvonne Scott gave a very informative talk on the Open Gardens and a copy of her report is attached.
	The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and hoped they found the meeting interesting. There being no further business the meeting was formally closed at 20.12

Chairman's Report at the Annual Parish Meeting, 10 May 2023

I am Alan Thomas, and I am Chair of the Parish Council. At the beginning of the year Helen Edwards was Chair but she resigned, and I became Chair for the remainder of the year. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the Councillors for their help and support throughout the year not just to me but to Helen as well.

Thank you for coming here tonight and I hope you ask questions on any matter that we dealt with over the last year. We have been able to meet in person throughout this year and have managed to remain safe and well.

We held 10 ordinary meetings during the year and 3 extra-ordinary meeting to deal with planning issues.

As Helen Edwards resigned we were able to co-opt to fill the ranks and Martin Keene was co-opted onto the Council. In March David White resigned as he will be leaving the village. The Council would like to thank David and his wife for spending time over the last few years in maintaining the various flower tubs around the village which have made a difference to the village and has helped with coming 2nd and 3rd in the Best Kept Village competition. As it was an election year Eddie Lunn decided not to put his name forward as a Councillor in the next 4 year term. We would also like to thank Eddie for his work and help in the many years that he had been a Councillor.

Our council meetings are generally held on the first Wednesday of the month with the exception of January and August when we take a break unless a special meeting is called for urgent matters that call for our immediate consideration, such as planning permissions. Any member of the public can attend our meetings and there is an open forum of fifteen minutes duration prior to the council session. Last year we had people taking an active part in voicing their concerns about items ranging from sewerage, flooding, the crossing at Thurlby crossroads through to planning permissions.

Our County Councillor Robert Reid has again been very proactive on our behalf and is talking with the Highways Manager to try and speed matters along but sadly it all takes time. With his help we have at last been told that there will be a crossing at the crossroads on the A15 in Thurlby. This has taken over 10 years to achieve and we must also thank Barry Dobson for his efforts as well when he was a County Councillor. In addition, District Councillor Barry Dobson has also been very proactive with his support on many matters we have to deal with through South Kesteven District Council. We would also like to thank him for the grants he has given the Council to help with maintaining the flower tubs and getting new waste bins installed around the village.

This year we are pleased to have been able to support and help the Lawrance Park Association in getting 6 new solar lights placed around the paths in the park.

As a parish council, we have limited powers, but we are able to help and through official letters that our clerk sends to the appropriate body, this

Chairman's Report at the Annual Parish Meeting, 10 May 2023

regularly results in a positive outcome. On planning matters, we have a voice, but this is an opinion agreed on by the members present at that meeting. We encourage parishioners to attend planning meetings where they will be given an opportunity to be heard.

We are still concerned about the speed of vehicles both cars and lorries passing through the village. Every month Cllr Richard Bill collects data from the reactive sign which he places around the village at different locations throughout the year. The data is reported to the Council and details are placed on our website.

Thanks to our team of volunteers, who keep the flower tubs, verges and the cemetery clean and tidy. We now employ another litter picker who walks around the village to collect waste once a week and a good job she is doing.

The Christmas tree was up and shining brightly. We hope it gives everyone a welcome as they approach the heart of the village during December.

I would like to record my thanks to all my fellow Councillors for giving up their time and attending the meetings during the year.. I would also like to thank our Clerk for his help and support.

Alan Thomas

SUMMARY of Receipt and Payments Account for the year Ending the 31st March 2023

31st March 2022		31st March 2023
£	RECEIPTS	£
19,232.00	Precept	19,616.00
475.00	Burial Fees	508.00
3.44	Bank Interest	139.85
926.64	Litter Picker	926.64
1,968.22	Refund/refund of VAT/miscellaneous grant	25.00
300.00	Prize for Best Kept Village Competition	0.00
300.00	Grant from County Councillor	0.00
<u>23,205.30</u>	TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>21,215.49</u>
	PAYMENTS	
12,884.68	Gen Admin and staff +	14,674.24
150.00	Section 137 Payments/Grants	195.00
591.00	Cemetery ++	1,878.76
403.19	Insurance	410.50
4,000.00	Lawrance Park grant	4,000.00
1,500.00	Churchyard grant	2,500.00
375.00	Repairs and Renewals +++	2,392.40
<u>336.50</u>	VAT on payments	<u>953.95</u>
<u>20,240.37</u>		<u>27,004.85</u>
35,588.04	Balance carried forward at year end	38,552.97
<u>23,205.30</u>	Add Receipts	<u>21,215.49</u>
58,793.34		59,768.46
<u>20,240.37</u>	Deduct Total Payments	<u>27,004.85</u>
<u>38,552.97</u>	Balance as at 31st March	<u>32,763.61</u>
	These cumulative funds are represented by:-	
1,028.15	Current Account	329.66
30,793.60	Deposit Account	27,283.45
<u>6,731.22</u>	Cemetery Account	<u>5,150.50</u>
<u>38,552.97</u>		<u>32,763.61</u>

Explanation of payments and receipts

+. The cost of General admin and staff increased because the litter picker increased her hours to collect waste bags from various bins around the village which South Kesteven District Council would not empty. We paid for the planning application fee for Lawrance Park to erect lights within the park, and we are paying someone to cut the grass on The Green. We also increased the funds to the Churchyard by way of a grant.

++ The cemetery expenses increased as we purchased a new noticeboard and the cemetery started to pay for the software we use for the cemetery as well as paying the Annual subscription to the ICCM

+++ We purchased 5 letter bins for Lawrance Park; hence the increase, We also purchased two new noticeboards but one was for the cemetery which was paid from the funds we held

**Report by Cllr Barry Dobson to Thurlby Parish Council
at the AGM of the Parish on 10 May 2023.**

It has been an active year at SKDC which has culminated with the election that took place last week. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Dole Wood Ward for returning me as your District Councillor. It has been an honour and a pleasure to work with the Parish Council and I look forward to the next four years.

The election has produced an interesting result and a change in the balance. How this will plan out is still open, but although the Conservatives are the largest of the groups, we have lost the overall majority and there will be some negotiations between a number of parties to form a lead group. Whatever the outcome, I will continue to do my utmost to maintain service and provide assistance to the Parish Council.

There have been several changes with two directors being out of action for some time due to serious work-related illness which has left the remaining staff taking over their roles. It indicated some of the intense pressure that modern day authority management teams must deal with. It hasn't always been that easy for some councillors and the recent election has seen many names missing and new ones appearing in the new list of councillors.

There have been significant improvements to the housing owned by the Council with many latent defects being dealt with. Along with the repairs, which are ongoing, there have been improvements on reducing so-called voids, Council owned living accommodation that has been left empty for excessive periods of time. This situation has occurred when tenants have moved out of a dwelling and the repairs necessary have taken a long time before the properties could be deemed safe.

During the year, we have seen the Council move into new offices. These offices were originally intended to be for Lincoln University in Grantham, but as the expansion of the University became less and less likely, SKDC decided to move their staff into the now vacant space. This has allowed SKDC to vacate the very run-down building where staff had to work. This building was the old part of the complex in Grantham behind the Guildhall. The building was very old and in poor condition due to its age. This has now been sold or is in the process of being sold and will allow SKDC to recuperate a large proportion of the costs of paying back to the GLLEP. Negotiations with the GLLEP reduced the amount of the repayment considerably making it possible to move staff into modern open plan offices above the Picture House.

We have had a busy year with rough sleepers, fly-tipping, some difficult planning issues and just recently the near demolishing of our traffic island at the Obthorpe Road and High Street intersection. What is also annoying is the fact that there are still people who jettison their waste while driving through the village so that despite all of our efforts to keep our area attractive and clean, some don't seem to care.

It was a pleasure touring the Ward on Sunday to see everyone enjoying themselves. It was a brilliant day and good to see so many in a happy environment both in Lawrance Park and at the St Firmin's. Thanks to all those who organised the events.

I was fortunate in being accepted onto the GLEP Energy Council three years ago and, together with Rutland we have produced a Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Framework. This fits perfectly with the contentious installation of very large solar farms throughout the country and especially in our area at Mallard Pass where, if it is approved, will disrupt much of Essendine. There are other sources of power that we have already created, including off-shore and land based wind farms. This now provides us with 25% of our electricity which is remarkably efficient. It is also of great concern that solar farms more often than not take out good quality arable land.

I've thoroughly enjoyed working with the Parish Council throughout the year and look forward to continuing together this year. It will be interesting how this year turns out politically, but I'll be engaged as always in representing our Ward.

Barry

St Firmin's Report 10th May 2023 for Parish Council AGM

This year things have been really positive, our services are going well with more people joining us and of course our Sunday mornings are just a small part of what we do. We have been able to return to normal style of services after covid with full communion and the common cup for those who wish to partake.

Overshadowing this year were three events; the first was the sad loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and we hope that we became a focus for the local community to express their loss through the condolence books and the church services.

There was also the sudden and sad loss of Rev'd Hilary Geisow, an Associate Minister to our Group who has become such a valued part of the church family, and also the recent sudden death of Rev Lisa Hughes who we were just getting to know as a Curate for our group. They are both greatly missed.

A change that has come from the Lincoln Diocese is the formation of Local Mission Partnerships, a means of resourcing sustainable churches in our Diocese, this has been driven by the huge deficit that the diocese is running. Along with all churches in the diocese we contribute a parish share, St Firmins will pay £18000 in this year to Lincoln for its parish share contribution which goes towards the cost of clergy for the diocese, this large amount to find each year when added to the costs of maintaining and heating a grade one listed church from a small congregation is a challenge.

Our ministry has changed within the Group and the Deanery as we have become a part of the Welland LMP. This has been a change for everyone but especially for the ministers as we have to adjust to thinking of ministry not just in the Ness group of Baston, Langtoft and Thurlby, but as a whole Local Mission Partnership. Our LMP includes the parishes of Market Deeping, Deeping St James, Deeping St Nicholas, the Ness Group and Crowland, who are now without a minister and will not have one in place for the near future, the new LMP will cover Crowlands services with our current ministers, authorised lay ministers will help to cover services where needed.

This last year we started of a project in our churchyard to increase bio diversity this has made a really good start, we were a runner up in the Lincolnshire Environmental Awards 2022 for the work we are doing and the plans we have for the future. With the changing face of the churchyard we are keeping the parishioners informed by Village Link, Facebook and our website. The churchyard is well visited and we have had very good feedback from those visitors. We are also a member of the Baston, Langtoft and Thurlby Naturehood which aims to take positive actions for wildlife in our area making a wildlife corridor between the three parishes.

Mission and Outreach - Each year we hold Christingle services for Save the Children. We support MAF, the Mission Aviation Fellowship, a huge organisation bringing mission and faith to inaccessible parts of our world. We have supported children in third world countries for many years through our sponsorship scheme, this time helping Fatou in the Gambia.

We have also been very active in supporting refugees and those still in the Ukraine. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of people who have continued to offer supplies to be taken on the regular trips down through Poland and into the Ukraine; by Richard Astle from Peterborough, we have sent food, clothing, medical supplies and much more. This has been gratefully received, not just the actual supplies, but the kindness and the message that we have not forgotten those caught up in this awful war.

In our own community we are supporting people in the village who have been struggling in the present economic crisis. The community larder in our church porch has been generously filled countless times as those who have a need have been able to access some foodstuffs and toiletries.

On top of this, we run regular events that have provided safe places for people to enjoy tea and chat. We support the monthly Repair Café run by Stu Brett, this is very popular and a great many items are being repaired instead of thrown away, tea and cake is available to all while they wait.

We have the Refresh Café in the church each month. This provides again a place for people to come as just sit and chat over a cup of tea and piece of delicious homemade cake with crafting to watch or join in with.

We celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth in 2022 with an extremely well supported and enjoyable community afternoon tea.

Last weekend the Coronation of King Charles we celebrated with "Ring for the King". The bells were rung along with churches all over the country on Coronation Day also people from the village came along and joined in by chiming a bell. This was followed on Sunday with a Coronation Service and then an afternoon Coronation Tea with over 100 attending.

All these events are free so that all may enjoy them, and they have been a huge success in bringing the community together, which is our aim, and will continue to be.

Mary Trumble
Church warden

Good Evening and welcome to the 51st AGM of Lawrance Park Recreation Ground and Community Association.

This year has been filled with the usual running details with a few odds and ends thrown in to add interest. We followed advice and had trees felled in the park that had signs of fungal disease and others that had been damaged by the wind. Some of the stumps have now been ground out, we are waiting for drier weather for the rest to be done, and four new trees planted. We had been offered free trees from the Woodland Trust but they were very small and going to take years to grow so we decide to buy some larger specimens. Hopefully they will flourish and the remaining trees grow and fill in some of the spaces.

After lengthy consultations with EON Energy Alan Thomas masterminded the installation of 6 new solar lighting columns on the footpath from Chapel Lane. Compared to our other path lighting this was much easier to fit with no need for cable laying, and it is obviously environmentally friendly and will benefit the village. The cost of this project was met by the Causeway Estate Charity for which we are very grateful. We have also had floodlighting fitted to the MUGA which will allow it to be used during the winter months by any hirers. We have gone big on lights this year as we had the hall ceiling lights changed to LED which should cut costs and they should also last longer before needing replacement. Changing lightbulbs in the hall is a major undertaking with scaffolding or a cherry picker necessary.

As usual there have been minor works on the play and gym equipment on the field but the roller barrel needed major repairs involving new slats, again dealt with by Alan Thomas.

We've had new bins fitted outside. Most of our very smart metal bins did not survive being used as a dog's toilet and had rusted badly so the replacements are plastic financed very kindly by the parish council. On the subject of dogs, we have had big problems with dog mess being left on the field and surrounding paths causing problems for Thurlby Tigers and school. Since lockdown there has been a massive increase in the number of dogs in the village and dogs accompanying children to school. Dog mess can be left in our bins so there is no excuse for owners not cleaning up after their animals. The problem has been so bad we have made it known that dogs should only use Lawrance Park on a lead and if the problem continues dogs will be banned totally. Lots of signs have been put up asking owners to clean up after their pets and advising them that dogs need to be on a lead. A sign has gone up on the MUGA stating it is a resource for sports and dogs are not allowed. We have recently made contact with a dog warden who has been and placed his own signs and is planning on future visits to try and find the offenders.

We have some new seats for the park. Caroline Pearce has purchased one in memory of her husband Steve, which is now in place and Alan has delivered three donated by Papworth Hospital for the children's play area. These will be sited in drier weather.

Bonfire Night was well attended again this year and as well as people having a good time we raised a healthy amount of money £4,212.09. We are really well supported on this evening by lots of family, friends and neighbours who lend a hand to make it a success and we are very grateful for their input.

John Reynolds organised and ran a Ceilidh for Lawrance Park and donated the profits to the charity. Thanks to him and Elaine.

The hall has three main hirers of the hall: Kid's Club, Tai Kwan-Do and Scouts, Beavers and Cubs with Thurlby Tigers using the field and toilets and Smart Fit using the MUGA. Since lockdown we have had less people asking to use the hall so the committee has redesigned the charging policy to make it simpler and easier to understand and implement and keeping it in line with other local halls. We are advertising this on social media so we shall see if this makes our facility more attractive to possible users.

Once again the Parish Council has been generous in its support of Lawrance Park providing money towards the upkeep of the field and trees. Thurlby Runs also donated money following their successful event in July. We are always very appreciative of such financial help.

Before I finish I just wanted to briefly touch on what King Charles has stated as one of his wishes to celebrate his coronation - for people to spend a day volunteering in their communities. Which is what this committee is all about. Just listening to list of things that have happened around Lawrance Park during the year makes one realise that without volunteering much of this wouldn't have happened. Workers and companies are paid for their goods and time but all the other bits are done by the committee members in their free time. I am very grateful to all those who give up hours on Lawrance Park work, be it running bonfire night, organising signs, mending things, sorting out money, writing up minutes or organising employees. The list goes on. Without you we wouldn't have a functioning hall or park. I feel you have fulfilled your volunteering quota already.

There is one person though I feel needs a special mention. This person, unfortunately for him understands lots of practical things and is very generous with his time and skills. You'll have noticed his name mentioned a few times already. Alan Thomas, thank you for all that extra knowledge, time and effort you give to the Charity. It does not go unmissed.

Thank you for listening.

Thurlby & Northorpe Open Gardens

Good evening, Everyone,

Who doesn't enjoy spending time in their garden, either weeding, mowing the grass or simply just sitting surrounded by flowers, birds and insects?

Something I think we can all admit to is, enjoying looking around OTHER people's gardens.

Seeing how they compare to ours, gleaning new ideas for planting or layouts and generally just being a little bit NOSY! ...in a nice way of course.

One of our long-standing residents, Margaret Spooner, began the idea of Thurlby & Northorpe Open Gardens back in 2002.

Back then, the village was a very different place. We had shops, pubs – yes, in the plural and fewer homes too.

The centre and hub of activity was on the great expanse of lawn which fronted the White House, the Courton's home on the bend at the Green, now where the new house, number 23, is across from the vets.

Tables, chairs, marquees and stalls were arranged, cakes and cups of tea were served to anyone who turned up and then visitors would stroll off to visit as many gardens as they could manage.

Thankfully, the organisers always seemed to have a good deal going with the weather gods, because, mostly, they had a good, sunny weekend.

As time went by, different organisers took up the reins and the base of operations eventually moved into the hall at the Methodist Chapel, at the junction of Chapel Lane and High St.

Here, the teas, coffees and cakes were once again on offer. And an array of raffle prizes plus other local crafts.

My predecessors were Janet and Paul Brown and Maureen and Nick their opposite neighbours.

They kept to a very similar format except they now split the proceeds between St Firmin's Church and the Methodist Chapel. Previously, the proceeds had gone solely to St Firmin's.

They were fortunate to have sponsorship from Larkfleet homes in Bourne, who paid to have the eye-catching signs made. Signs which we are still using today. We just have to tweak the dates on them.

Around 5/6 years ago, Janet and Maureen decided to step away from organising the Open Gardens. Maureen and husband Nick were due to move away and Janet and Paul were retiring and had plans.

The gauntlet was cast! the word went out - New Organisers Needed for Open Gardens!!

No one stepped forward.

If you've attended or participated in the Open Gardens, then you'll appreciate the great atmosphere this brings upon our village each time. A real community spirit.

It was sad to think this might go missing from our bi-yearly agenda.

So, very tentatively I offered to take on the task but only if someone else would do it with me.

No one came forward that first yearEEEK !!

Regardless - stubborn is my middle name – I decided, nothing ventured etc.

That first year was a VERY steep learning curve. There was so much to remember and lists galore. Thankfully, Janet was on hand to answer my many questions and also to hand over all the signage, and boxes of banners, bunting, blue tack, raffle ticket books etc etc etc.

She also tipped me off about who to tell, when to tell the local press and where and when to place the signs.

However, slowly but surely – a happy band of supporters made themselves known and soon things began to fall into place. It is like a giant (now familiar) jig saw puzzle, with pieces that need placing in a certain order.

Over the following years, Ros Bennett has stepped up to be my co-organiser and she has brought her own special blend of creativeness to the event. Where I organise, she makes it pretty! This year she is incorporating a Yarn Bombing of our village. That will be a very colourful sight to behold.

We try to involve the children each time by having a theme.

One year we had puppies, then Bees. This time it will be butterflies. We give the children a spot sheet and as they go round the gardens, they have to note in which garden they spotted the butterfly, placed somewhere by the host. There's always a small prize for them at the end.

There is a national Open Gardens Website and we always ensure we are listed on there.

We have had visitors from quite some distance – New Zealand- one year!! (I'm sure there were other reasons for them to be here).

We keep going, whatever the weather. The advantage with our event being over two days is that those who purchase their Gardens Passport on the Saturday, are free to return on the Sunday. So, if either the weather turns foul or the visitors don't get around all the gardens – they have a second chance.

Local crafts people or gardening connected companies are invited to host a table at the hall.

We hold a raffle both days and kind local companies and businesses donate prizes as well as the residents.

The Parish Council very generously give us an amount of money for which we are extremely grateful, since there are some purchases which cannot be avoided, like raffle ticket books, vinyl lettering for signage, extra raffle prizes and sometimes extra ingredients for the delicious cakes supplied.

One person I cannot fail to mention is someone who, until this year has been almost the backbone of our presence at the Chapel and probably many years before that ----

DAVID STEVENSON. He has grown hundreds if not thousands of plants to sell over the weekend at his table just outside the hall. His knowledge of all things floral is extensive we will sorely miss him this year as he feels he can no longer do this but we are so grateful for the donations he has given over the years through his plants.

THANK YOU, DAVID.

Thankfully we do have some residents who have stepped up to offer to take his place and carry on the good work. Principally, a lady called Pippa, who I met for the first time 2 weeks ago. She is approaching this with quite some zest and has a veritable nursery of plants prepared to put on sale already!

Our total donation, split between the two churches climbs upwards each two-yearly event. Last time we managed to top the £2000 figure which was brilliant and much appreciated.

**Nothing is ever taken from the amount raised. The entire amount is donated.
We thank our wonderful supporters, Parish Council and residents of Thurlby
and Northorpe for making all of this possible. Here's to another great event in
June.**

