

# **THRUSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

## **Minutes of Thrussington Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7.30 PM via zoom**

### **Present:**

Cllr Prior, Cllr Kearns, Cllr Hainsworth, Cllr Poland and the clerk.

### **886/2021 – Resolution to receive apologies for absence**

- Cllr Newton and Cllr Johnson

### **887/2021 – Resolution to receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda**

- N/A

### **888/2021 - Public Questions**

- N/A

### **889/2021 – County/Borough Councillor & Police reports.**

PC4290 Johnson emailed the clerk to confirm that no crime had been reported during the month.

Cllr Poland reported:

#### **Charnwood Borough Council budget**

- Charnwood Borough Council is to raise its share of council tax by less than 9p a week for a Band D property. The increase will see the annual charge for an average Band D property rise by £4.45 (3.60 per cent) to £131.08 from April 1, 2021. The final budget for 2021/22 is around £19 million. This includes making £1.5m of savings and generating income of around £600,000 largely through investments in commercial properties. Income from council tax, business rates and Government grants is expected to be around £18 million and therefore there is still a gap of £1 million which the Council will use reserves to cover.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has added significant costs and reduced income from various areas including car parks, leisure centres and Loughborough Town Hall. The impact is still expected to be felt in 2021/22, accounting for an expected £900,000 of lost income. Charnwood Borough Council currently has the 23rd lowest council tax charge out of 188 district councils in the country.

#### **Leicestershire County Council Budget**

- Leicestershire County Council has agreed its budget at the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February. The plan sets out a balanced budget for two years and shows that the difference between income and expenditure will total £79m in 2025. A one-off £25m covid fund, enabling money to be used if further national funding isn't available, is included as well as a three per cent Council Tax levy for adult social care. Generating an extra £10m, the Government has given councils this option to offset the impact of significant increases in adult social care costs on other services. This means the budget includes in total a 4.99 per cent Council Tax increase for 2021/22 – or £5.59 a month for a Band D house. Investment in services including children and family services, adult social care and environment in transport is proposed as well as a £450m capital pot to spend on new roads, school places, recycling initiatives and other infrastructure supporting new homes.

#### **Rapid covid testing for key workers**

- A programme to provide the county's key workers with rapid community testing for Covid-19 is now underway with six centres now open for non-symptomatic testing (the closest to Thrussington being Melton and Loughborough). One in three people who have coronavirus show no symptoms, and rapid lateral flow testing, led by the council's public health team, can help to quickly identify individuals and stop the spread of infection. Rapid testing is only for those who are eligible, who don't have symptoms and aren't already isolating. It is open to key workers and anyone else in the county who cannot currently work from home.
- The lateral flow tests are self-administered at an approved test site – and you can leave the site straight after you have taken your swab. Results will be sent out by text or email by the end of that day. Sites will be open 6 days each week.

Anyone who currently cannot work from home and is eligible, will be able to book a test. These can be booked online at [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/rapid-asymptomatic-testing](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/rapid-asymptomatic-testing).

#### Cycling and walking survey

- Leicestershire County Council have launched a survey asking people for their views on how cycling and walking provision could be improved in Leicestershire, and so far more than 700 people have responded. The council is developing a new strategy which has the ambition of increasing the number of journeys by bike or on foot as well as bringing benefits in creating healthier communities and reducing carbon emissions.
- Among the key elements of the survey is asking people what prevents them walking or cycling and what measures we can put in place so, in the future, they can make more of the shorter journeys by bike or on foot. The views submitted through the survey will be used to shape and create the new cycling and walking strategy, which is due to be published in summer 2021. Once published, the strategy will help to inform future plans to improve pavements and cycleways, as well as supporting funding bids to Government to enable the delivery of improvements.
- The survey is open until 14<sup>th</sup> March and can be completed online here: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say/current-consultations/cycling-and-walking-engagement-survey>.

#### £43 million in business grants issued

- Around £43 million in government grants has been paid to businesses in Charnwood to support them during the pandemic. Charnwood Borough Council has been responsible for distributing the grants since the start of the national crisis last year. While the grants have proved a lifeline to many businesses, the work is far from done and the Council says it will continue to get funding to eligible businesses as swiftly and securely as possible.
- It recently paid the first wave of new lockdown grants to 900 local companies totalling over £6million. The local and national economy has been devastated by the pandemic and these grants have been vital to keep many businesses afloat in such difficult circumstances. From the minute the Government awarded funding for the first round of grants, Charnwood Borough Council has worked flat out to make sure the grants have reached eligible businesses as soon as possible. That has meant rapidly drawing together new processes to manage the grants to ensure they not only reach businesses quickly, but also securely.
- Charnwood have pulled officers in from other departments at times to support the grant schemes and will continue to work at pace to get grants to businesses. The grants have meant survival for many businesses and the protection of jobs which families depend on. With the introduction of the vaccine it is hoped we can start getting back to normal in the near future and businesses can begin to recover and grow again. The Council has issued payments to around 3,000 businesses. Some businesses have qualified for more than one grant. More information about Covid-19 business grants is available on the Council website. Visit [www.charnwood.gov.uk/cvbusiness](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/cvbusiness).

#### **890/2021 – Resolution to approve and sign minutes of the Parish Council meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

The minutes of the meeting were circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting for them to be reviewed. Councillors were reminded to check through the minutes fully before the meeting in order to resolve any queries that may arise.

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the January meeting were approved and will be uploaded onto the parish website. The minutes will be signed at the next available meeting.

#### **891/2021 – Resolution to approve payment of outstanding accounts**

The clerk submitted the following payments for authorisation.

- HMRC, PAYE = £158.00
- Helen Chadwick, clerks salary & expenses = £263.25

**Resolved:** Cllr Kearns proposed that the payments should be paid by BACS, this was seconded by Cllr Hainsworth and all councillors were agreement.

#### **892/2021 – Planning applications**

Details of planning applications had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

- P/20/2362/2 – erection of two storey extension to side and porch to front of dwelling with extended dropped kerb at 1 Back Lane, Thrussington. *Councillors discussed the application and agreed that they had no objection.*

#### **893/2021 – Update on litter bin**

The clerk circulated a selection of litter bin images to councillors prior to the meeting. The Chair confirmed that the proposal is to remove both bins on the green and replace with one and then put another at one end of the jitty. It was noted that because of lockdown there is an increase in the number of people using the green and that one bin might not be enough with the amount of litter that is being produced. The Chair proposed that we postpone the decision on the removal, purchase and installation of new bins until the restrictions are lifted and to see whether the volume of litter remains the same or decreases. All councillors were in agreement to review the situation in a few months.

#### **894/2021 – Parish Councillors updates**

- Cllr Kearns reported that we do need to arrange a village litter pick. Councillors agreed that they would discuss this at the March meeting following the next Government announcement.

#### **895/2021 – Date of next meeting**

- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30 PM via zoom

**Signed:**

**Date:**

The Chair closed the meeting at 19:55