

THRUSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Thrussington Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 28th September 2021 at 7.30 PM in the village hall

Present:

Cllr Prior, Cllr Kearns, Cllr Hainsworth, Cllr Newton, Cllr Johnson and the clerk.

933/2021- Resignation of councillor and confirmation of action required

- The clerk reported that Wendy Johnson has resigned with immediate effect from the parish council. This has been notified to Charnwood Borough Council (CBC) and they have started the election process. It was noted that if 10 or more parishioners submit a request to CBC then there will be an election, if not then the parish council can co-opt.
- Councillors thanked Wendy Johnson for her support and efforts whilst on the parish council.

934/2021- Resolution to receive apologies for absence

- Apologies were received from Cllr Poland

935/2021 – Resolution to receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda

As agreed Declarations of Interest would be recorded at the start of each meeting. Councillors declaring an interest would still be entitled to take part in discussions unless the item is prejudicial, councillors would not be allowed to vote on the item or add opinion.

- N/A

934/2021 - Public Forum – 10 minutes

Members of the public were asked to declare their name when addressing the Chair if they wish for their name to be minuted in this section of the meeting, if they did not want their name mentioned they need not declare it.

- Mr Gamble reported, via Cllr Kearns, that he has an ongoing concern about the speed of vehicles travelling down old gate road into the village. It was noted that this will be reported to highways.

935/2021 – County Council/District Council/Police reports

Cllr Poland reported that:

Charnwood ward boundary review

- Charnwood is currently undergoing a ward boundary review, a process whereby the Boundary Commission looks at Charnwood Borough Council to determine how many Councillors its needs to carry out its duties, and where the boundaries of each ward should be so that each Councillor represents the same number of residents (give or take a variance of approximately 10%). The Boundary Commission has recently published its first proposals for what the new wards should be, and their proposal is to put Thrussington into a new ward provisionally called 'Wreake Valley' (along with East Goscote, Rearsby, Queniborough, Ratcliffe on the Wreake and part of Syston). This new ward would be represented by three Borough Councillors as it is much bigger than the current ward (Wreake Villages) which has only has a single Borough Councillor. The last review was carried out approximately 20 years ago and the new boundaries are designed to take account of the changes in population that have occurred since then.
- The Boundary Commission are consulting on these proposals (the consultation period is open until 8th November) and more details, and how to take part in the consultation, can be found here: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/25847#Boundary%20Commission%20website>.
- Council explores option to create efficient, environmentally friendly base in Loughborough
- Charnwood Borough Council is looking to explore the feasibility of creating a more efficient and environmentally-friendly replacement office base in Loughborough. The Council has identified a potential location for new offices and says it is a long-term plan to move to new premises to reduce running costs and prioritise funding on services. It would also reduce the Council's carbon footprint.
- Cabinet approved a report to explore the feasibility of creating new offices on Southfield Road Extension car park, about 50 metres from the current offices in Southfield Road.
- Cllr Jonathan Morgan, Leader of Charnwood Borough Council, said: "Our current building has served us and the community well for many years. However, the pandemic has accelerated modern working practices and as we operate in a much more agile way, we will need less space in the future.
- "A more modern, smaller building will also enable us to save money on operating costs which we can use to protect the services which residents value. A new building will also be better for the environment and reduce our carbon footprint, a key priority for the Council. This is still in the very early stages, but one site has potential, and it is right we fully explore it before going any further. That means we are not ruling out any other options at this stage."

THRUSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

- The existing Council offices in Southfield Road are also used by partner agencies including the Job Centre, the Coroner's office, and the Registrar's office. Part of the building was built in the early 19th Century and is locally listed.
- Council meetings are usually held in Woodgate Chambers, which the Council also owns.
- Council chief executive Rob Mitchell said: "We have a long-term plan to create a modern, efficient and a more environmentally-friendly building for our customers and colleagues and if we move, we are committed to remaining in Loughborough town centre. This is the first step in exploring one possible option but, as ever, we want to be transparent and open with residents about what is happening with their Council. We have informed partners who use our buildings of the plans and will continue to engage with them."
The creation of any new building would enable the sale of the existing office complex. The site is identified as having the potential for 163 homes in the Charnwood Local Plan 2021-37 Pre-Submission Document.

Leicester City FC granted Freedom of the Borough of Charnwood

- Leicester City FC have been granted Freedom of the Borough of Charnwood by the borough council. The honour, the highest the Council can bestow, recognises the club's success in recent years and its investment in the Borough of Charnwood.
- The honour was conferred at a special meeting of the Council at Loughborough Town Hall on September 14.
- Freedom of the Borough does not carry any privileges or powers but it is only awarded in exceptional circumstances where the prospective recipient has rendered eminent services to the borough. They will have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the borough and/or on the international stage which have brought pride and satisfaction to the borough.

Council finances continue to be hit by covid

- Leicestershire County Council is preparing itself to address 'extremely difficult' financial challenges caused by the continuing pressures of Covid-19, growing demand for services, and its position as one of the lowest funded authorities in the country.
- discussed the latest position with its four year medium term financial strategy (MTFS) when it met on September 17. The council has previously said it needs to find savings of £80 million by 2025, with £23 million of that sum still to be identified.
- It says the situation has been worsened still by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the national economy and the increasing costs of supporting growing numbers of vulnerable adults – particularly those discharged from hospital who need extensive care packages.
- Current forecasts suggest the gap between the council's income and what it spends on services could rise by between a further £10 million and £20 million by 2024/25.
- As well as the impact on its day-to-day revenue budget spending, the council faces growing pressure on its multi-million pound capital programme. The capital plan aims to deliver major infrastructure projects in Leicestershire over the next four years and costs are expected to rise by £35 million over that period, with the possibility of further costs.
- The council says it is planning a review of its MTFS over the autumn before it carries out a public consultation on its next proposed budget review in December.

Applications for September 2022 school places now open

- Parents with children due to start at primary schools or go up to secondary schools in September 2022 can now apply for places at their preferred schools. There is no automatic entry system for any school in the county, so parents should also ensure they exercise their right to apply for three school preferences and are aware of the closing date as late applications have the lowest priority and are processed after those made on time.
- **Parents of children starting primary school have until Saturday, 15 January 2022 to submit their applications.**
- **Parents of children starting secondary school next year** need to apply for their preferred schools by Sunday, 31 October 2021.
- More information about schools in Leicestershire and the application process can be found here:
- <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/school-admissions>.
- [Help identify diseased ash trees and help keep Leicestershire green](#)
- Leicestershire residents are being urged to play their part in keeping the countryside green by helping the county council identify and manage diseased Ash trees. The authority's scheme to plant a whopping 700,000 trees – one for every resident in the county, is already underway; but the council is also dealing with the challenge of Ash dieback.
- The highly destructive disease is caused by a fungus and can lead to infected trees shedding branches or limbs, or potentially falling as the tree dies. There are no exact figures of the number of Ash trees in Leicestershire, but it's estimated there are over 500,000 in the county, with over 120,000 of them next to roads.
- As many of these trees are on private land, the council has launched a campaign to raise awareness of the issue among residents, businesses and landowners to remind them of their responsibility to ensure their trees do not become a hazard to road users or people using adjacent pavements.
- Ash dieback enters a tree through the leaves and bark and young trees die within a couple of years, but mature trees usually take longer. However large trees can become dangerous long before they die, so owners must take action to ensure safety.

THRUSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

- An infection at a point close to ground level can cause whole trees to become unstable and dangerous over much shorter periods with no obvious dieback symptoms in the crown. Diseased trees will show dead tips; sometimes discoloured and also a 'pom-pom' effect with clumps of living leaves around the areas affected by Ash dieback.
- Cllr Blake Paine (Lead Member for Environment & Transport said:
- "It's vital that everyone who has Ash trees on their property takes action to ensure they are safe. The county council has stepped up its safety inspections of trees in response to the threat from Ash dieback, which is no small task as there are thousands of Ash trees next to roads and on other properties".
Tree owners should have their trees regularly inspected by a professional so that, as the disease progresses, appropriate decisions in tree management can be made and accidents can be prevented. People should pay particular attention to Ash trees within areas where the failure of the whole tree or falling branches could place people or neighbouring property in danger. While safety is a priority, felling the tree should not be the first option, particularly as some Ash trees are known to show resistance to Ash Dieback, and we have been part of a national effort to secure genetic material from these trees to try to ensure the future of the species".
- "It is important to remember that Ash is one of our most common native trees and is incredibly valuable for wildlife. We would stress that you shouldn't fell any trees unless you have to. In many cases it may be possible to reduce the risk by pruning branches, re-routing paths, or even repositioning items away from the tree so that people can avoid being in the immediate area. Always check trees for active bird nests or bat breeding or roosting sites, or other special species, well before undertaking any work."
- "People should also be aware that, with certain exemptions, all trees in Britain are protected by the Forestry Act, which means that a felling licence is required to remove them. Tree owners should be clear that their tree is in an exempted category, which includes trees in gardens; or obtain a licence, before any felling takes place."
- For more information go to: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/conservation-and-sustainability/ash-dieback
- Leicestershire is one of the least wooded areas of the country, currently around 6% woodland – well below the national average of 10%. The county council currently manages around 321,000 trees, but with diseases such as Ash dieback placing more trees under threat, the authority's strategy and action plan, adopted in May 2020, will see the number of trees across the county increase dramatically.
- The county council offers a free tree scheme for landowners affected by Ash die back, in partnership with the Woodland Trust. The scheme aims to replant native trees across the county to replace trees lost in the landscape.

938/2021 – Resolution to approve the minutes of the meetings held on the 20th July 2021

A copy of the minutes were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Kearns proposed that the minutes be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Hainsworth and all councillors were in agreement. The minutes will be added to the website.

939/2021 – Resolution to approve payments

A copy of the payment schedule was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting which totaled £682.33. Cllr Johnson proposed the payments, this was seconded by Cllr Kearns and all councillors were in agreement.

- Helen Chadwick, clerks salary = £262.33
- ATV Contract Services, mowing = £420.00

940/2021 – Planning applications & local plan

Cllr Hainsworth commented that the process went well, there was a lot of representation made both for and against. It was also noted that members of the public were pleased that the parish council had facilitated the meeting and provided information. Councillors thanked members of the working party for their time and commitment.

941/2021 – To discuss the next stage for traffic calming and agree actions

The Chair reported that we still need to arrange for a site visit with highways to address the next stage of traffic calming for the village. Councillors discussed the Highways Grant and agreed that they would submit a request for two speed cameras and for the white lines in the village to be repainted.

942/2021 – To discuss the need to stain the new benches and agree actions

The clerk reported that the new benches on the village green are in need of staining prior to the winter weather. Councillors discussed this and agreed that the clerk should source quotes. It was noted that if the quotes come in under £600 for the three benches then the Chair and clerk can agree a contractor outside of the meeting.

943/2021 – Parish Councillor updates

Cllr Hainsworth reported that:

- There was still a concern with the path up to bridge on the way out of Thrussington to Rearsby and that they are so overgrown you have to walk on the road. Councillors agreed that this is a road safety issue and should be reported to Highways. Cllr Hainsworth agreed to take some photos as evidence to show that there is no access on the footpath for pedestrians.

THRUSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Prior reported that:

- The Oyo Hotel on the A46 is now housing asylum seekers and concerns have been raised about the impact on their mental health because there is nothing for them to do or access, particularly over the winter.

944/2021 – Date of next meeting

- The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 19th October 2021 at 7.30 PM in the village hall.

Signed:

Date:

Chair closed the meeting at 20:00