

# THRUSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Thrussington Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30 PM in the village hall

### Present:

Cllr Kearns, Cllr Prior, Cllr Watson, Cllr Young, Borough Cllr Woodward and the clerk.

### 1169/2023 - Resolution to receive apologies for absence

- It was noted that apologies had been received and accepted by Cllr Newby and Cllr Poland.

### 1170/2023 – Resolution to receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda

- N/A

### 1171/2023 - 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.

- N/A

### 1172/2023 – County Council/District Council/Police reports

#### ***A copy of Cllr Poland's report was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting:***

#### Highways letter to Charnwood Local Plan Inspectors

Leicestershire County Council have written to the Charnwood Local Plan Inspectors to express their concern at the Highways element of the Local Plan. In the letter LCC have said:

*'the County Council has deployed its professional resources and technical expertise intensively over a significant period to analyse and understand the transport impacts arising from the proposed housing and employment distribution set out in Charnwood's submitted draft Local Plan through transport evidence. In broad terms, the evidence demonstrates that, without mitigation, the impact of growth in the Borough on the highway and transport network would be severe, e.g. in terms of impacts on congestion and delays at key junctions, and increases in traffic using less suitable, lower-order routes.'*

In order to mitigate this and the impact of development brought forward before the Local Plan has been adopted and in areas not covered by the Local Plan, LCC proposed the introduction of an Interim Transport Strategy with Charnwood Borough Council to ensure Section 106 could be collected on a more strategic basis that the application by application basis which would otherwise apply (essentially no one development is usually large enough or has such a significant impact on the highway network to justify the highway improvement work needed by the cumulative impact of many developments in a relatively small area). Charnwood however have not agreed to this approach stating in a report to Charnwood's Cabinet in July this year:

*"it would not be appropriate for the Borough Council to adopt the Interim Transport Strategy as the Council needs to be free of conflicts of interest between the Local Highway Authority as a statutory consultee on planning applications and the Local Planning Authority as the decision maker and the relationship with the Local Highway Authority should be the same as for any other stakeholder in this regard."*

That being the case the letter to the Inspectors concludes:

*'having carefully considered the issues, the County Council is of the view that, without joint ownership of the three area strategies and the interim contributions strategy, the LHA has no assurance in relation to the mitigation of the transport impacts of development under the draft Local Plan. The County Council wishes to act reasonably and is mindful of its duty to co-operate but regrettably the approach adopted by CBC to date does not provide the County Council with the trust and confidence that sufficient developer contributions will be achieved to meet the transport infrastructure requirements in the absence of a commitment from CBC to joint ownership of the interim strategies.'*

It is now up to the Inspectors to consider this letter as part of the inspection process for the Charnwood Local Plan.

#### Fair funding talks with Minister as campaign continues

Council leaders have met local government minister, Lee Rowley MP, as part of a long-running campaign calling for fair funding. The positive discussion follows constructive talks with the Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, in Westminster which saw proposals set out for a pragmatic, temporary fix which would see Government put in an extra £350m to level up 32 of the lowest funded councils.

The meeting coincided with the publication of a council budget update which shows a £9m overspend this year as the costs of children's and adult social care rocket. Inflation, the National Living Wage and increasing pressures on vital services are driving up the council's costs and could push its budget shortfall over £100m by 2027. On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September the County's Cabinet heard that intensive work is taking place focusing on managing future demand and close management of costs will continue to reduce the forecast overspend. The Leader of the County Council Nick Rushton said:

"The latest financial forecast typifies the grim reality facing councils up and down the country. Let me be clear – we're not about to issue a section 114 notice. We're super-efficient and pride ourselves on doing the best we can with the money we have, but spiralling costs are making it much harder to keep our head above water. With many other well run

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authorities also facing similar pressures, local government is reaching new territory. We have a credible solution which can be implemented quickly and the minister reassured us he would take our comments back to Government.” Leicestershire is the lowest funded county council in the country and has long been calling for funding reform. After saving £250m since 2010, Leicestershire County Council is already a very lean organisation and cannot realistically carry on in its current form without financial help from government.

## Free tree and hedge scheme returns

A popular scheme which offers free trees and hedges to landowners and farmers in a bid to encourage more planting across Leicestershire is now open for applications. Leicestershire County Council has once again teamed up with the Woodland Trust to offer the free tree and hedgerow packs, which are designed to help renew and restore existing woodland and vegetation, as well as replacing trees which have been affected by diseases such as ash dieback. Each free tree pack includes 50 native trees – a mix of oak, wild cherry, crab apple, field maple and hazel, as well as tree guards and stakes. The hedgerow packs are made up of 250 native trees and shrubs, including a mix of hawthorn, hazel, field maple and oaks to plant at regular intervals along the hedgerow. Each hedgerow pack is enough to create a 50m-long hedge at five plants per metre. For larger areas of land, the scheme will also help advise and support the creation of new areas of woodland planting over half a hectare through the MOREwoods scheme. This can be found online here: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/conservation-and-sustainability/apply-for-trees/trees-and-hedges-for-new-planting>

The tree packs are being made available to anyone who lives in Leicestershire with suitable areas of land to plant – including community groups, parish councils and schools, as well as landowners and farmers. Eligible applicants are now being invited to register for their free tree and hedgerow packs, in a bid to help the county council reach its target of helping to plant 700,000 trees – one for every person in Leicestershire. Last year, the county council gave away around 50,000 trees from this and other similar schemes – and is hoping this year’s scheme will prove even more successful. Anyone who would like to apply for a free tree or hedgerow pack is asked to register by emailing [lctreepacks@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:lctreepacks@woodlandtrust.org.uk) with your name, email address, phone number and planting location (postcode or grid reference). The closing date for applications is Tuesday 31 October. Successful applicants will be able to collect their trees from Beaumanor Hall in Woodhouse on Monday 4 December 2023 or Wednesday 21 February 2024.

## ***A copy of Cllr Woodward’s report was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting:***

Current work:

- A46 crossroads work
- Helping residents with issues of a hunt through the village with potential for property damage and road safety issues
- Councillor surgery held at the Star Inn and signposted for casework issues on flooding due to blocked gullies, overgrown hedges and trees and dog fouling. The plan is to offer bi-monthly surgeries beginning 2024. Until then please contact us using the details below.

Across the rest of the Wreake Valley ward we continue to provide to support residents on a range of individual issues and attend parish meetings. The main work last month included:

- Supporting Syston residents with planning, litter issues and road safety and helping to organise and marshal the Syston Summer Fayre.
- Looking into the rise of HGV’s using Broome Lane in East Goscote and supporting residents experiencing anti-social behaviour.
- Helping Queniborough and Rearsby PC and residents to lodge objections to large development applications
- Supporting Cossington with the Save Winstons Tree campaign, exploring every possible avenue to find a way to retain the tree and lodging objections and call in for the new application for 166 houses.
- Promoting the bank hub in Syston at Syston Community Centre\*

## Charnwood Borough Council information

The Public Transport Scrutiny Panel is underway, and a Councillor representative will be on this to represent the views of the village. Member grant applications of up to £500 - deadline 31<sup>st</sup> January. 2 of 3 member grants have been committed so £500 is still available for projects in Thrussington.

Please do contact us with any questions or things we may be able to assist with.

- Sandra Woodward – [cllr.sandra.woodward@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.sandra.woodward@charnwood.gov.uk) 07823 889088
- Laurie Needham – [cllr.laurie.needham@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.laurie.needham@charnwood.gov.uk) 07807 399879
- Chris O’Neill - [cllr.chris.o'neill@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.chris.o'neill@charnwood.gov.uk) 07855 812 620

\*The temporary Banking Hub will be located within the Syston Community Centre and open Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm. The temporary Hub will remain available until the new permanent Banking Hub opens at the previous Santander building. It will offer a counter service operated by the Post Office, where customers of all major banks and building societies can carry out regular cash transactions every day of the week. It also offers a Community Banker service where customers can talk to their own banking provider about more complicated issues. Community Bankers will work on rotation, with a different bank or building society available on each day of the week:

Monday: Santander - Tuesday: NatWest - Wednesday: Lloyds (pm) - Thursday: HSBC - Friday: Barclays

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## **A copy of PSCO Harrison's report was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting:**

It was noted that the following crimes have been reported to us over the past thirty days:

- 14/9 overnight on Seagrave road. A padlock was cut off a gate and access gained to a cropped field. A vehicle then damaged the crop by driving over it. Suspected Hare coursing.
- 15/9 overnight a motorbike was stolen and later recovered in Beeston, Notts.

It was reported that a new Sergeant has join the Beat team which now consists of:

- Sgt 4210 Sam Flynne
- PC 1651 Jason Stowell
- PC 815 Chris Falle
- PCSO 6053 Sophie King
- PCSO 6098 Lesley Harrison

## **1173/2023 – Resolution to approve the minutes of the meetings held on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

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

## **1174/2023 – Resolution to approve payments**

A copy of the payment schedule was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting which totaled £1046.41. Cllr Watson proposed the payments, this was seconded by Cllr Kearns and all councillors were in agreement.

MD Property Services, painting of phone box and treatment of benches	£500.00
ATV, mowing service	£270.00
Helen Chadwick, clerks salary	£276.41

**1175/2023** – Update following the discussion to creation a joint Thrussington/Seagrave campaign committee to initiate and promote a public campaign to force a review of the safety adequacy of the junction as a whole

- It was noted that the group were waiting for a response from Ed Argar and once this has been received further action would be taken.
- Cllr Watson reported that an article would be included in the next edition of Thrussington Life and would report that: A team from Seagrave Parish Council shared their progress working towards a National Highways review of the safety of the A46 crossing at the top of Seagrave Road with the parish council. The survey organised by Councillor Paul Simpson received over 1,000 responses from drivers, the vast majority of whom considered the junction very dangerous. This received a lot of publicity last summer and our MP Edward Argar has joined Parish, Borough and County Councillors in pushing for a review. It has been agreed that the parish council will support Seagrave in this effort and we are likely to request the support of villagers in this campaign.

## **1176/2023 – Update regarding the installation of speed signs by LCC highways**

- It was noted a communication had been received from Highways confirming that the Highways Fund had been identified for one machine if the parish council progress with a moveable battery operated sign (MVAS - so one sign with two posts installed in the village, as identified on the map produced by LCC).
- It was noted that at the time the approximate cost of MVAS was £2,000 - £3,000. By comparison the approximate cost of a permanent vehicle activated sign was £5,000 - £6,000 and confirmation has been received that the designated funds are available for this.
- The parish council agreed to accept the proposal and the clerk will liaise with Cllr Poland regarding the transfer of the funds and then the parish council will the buy sign and arrange for installation of the posts by LCC as identified on the map.

## **1177/2023 – Update on the bin installation by Charnwood Borough Council**

- It was noted that Cllr Woodward is looking into this and will update as soon as possible.

## **1178/2023 – Planning applications**

- It was noted that the Hoby Road application has gone to appeal.
- It was noted that a recent application for a property on Old Gate Road had been discussed and it was agreed that there were no comments. Cllr Woodward reported that a local resident has asked her to submit their objection on to the planning portal.
- It was noted that a concern has been raised over the potential illegal mixed waste being disposed in Thrussington as part of the development at Old Gate Road. Charnwood planners and the Environment Agency had been notified and a plan provided. It was reported that the site that is being used as a tip is located in the field at the junction of Old Gate Road and Seagrave Road, Thrussington and is opposite the development site at number 1 Old Gate Road and most of the tipping takes place over the weekends which is contrary to 'anti-social working hours' restrictions. It was reported that the resulting noise of the heavy earth moving machinery has

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been another issue that has been raised but still persists. Following drainage excavation works there is now a large spoil heap within the development site. The waste includes vegetation, timber and other construction materials and poses a potential pollution threat to the environment. The site is very close to a water course that discharges directly into the River Wreake. It was noted that the information provided has been logged and the parish council will be kept updated.

## **1179/2023 – Parish Councillor updates**

- It was noted that a communication had been received regarding the recent hunt through the village.

## **1180/2023 – Dates of 2023 meetings**

- The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November

**Signed:**

**Date:**

Chair closed the meeting at 20:30