

# THRUSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Thrussington Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30 PM in the village hall

### Present:

Cllr Watson, Cllr Young, Cllr Poland, Borough Cllr Woodward and the clerk.

It was noted that Cllr Watson acted as Chair for this meeting.

### 157/2023 - Resolution to receive apologies for absence

- It was noted that apologies had been received and accepted by Cllr Kearns and Cllr Prior.

### 1158/2023 – Resolution to receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda

- N/A

### 1159/2023 - 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.

- It was noted that a resident had raised a concern about the dangerous parking at the bottom of Old Gate Road and in the centre of the village. It was agreed that this could be reported to highways and that an article could also be included in Thrussington Life. , very dangerous parking. Report to Highways and include article into TL.
- It was noted that a resident had been in touch regarding the fly tipping on Old Gate Road. It was agreed that details of who to contact about fly tipping would be included in a Thrussington Life article.

### 1160/2023 – Presentation by Paul Simpson and Roger Brown of Seagrave’s recent actions regarding the junction

It was noted that discussions had started to take place with representatives of Seagrave Parish Council to discuss matters relating to the A46 crossroads and the LCFC training ground. The meeting last Thursday was attended by myself and Steve Watson, (representing Thrussington PC), Edward Argar (MP Charnwood), Peter West, (Project Head, Leicester City Football Club), Geoff Lawrence, (Sileby & Seagrave Borough Councillor), Roger Brown, (Chairman, Seagrave Parish Council), Paul Simpson, (Seagrave Parish Councillor), James Poland (Leicestershire County Council) and Richard Shepherd, (County Councillor for Sileby & The Wolds).

Cllr Watson commented that the meeting had been informative and that Peter West was able to explain the background to the works LCFC have been undertaking, and to air the frustrations the club is experiencing in achieving its legal completion sign-off for the upgrade works without having to pick up many aspects which any fair person would consider to be the responsibility of Highways England.

It was noted that the issue is exacerbated by the normal legal fact that to undertake the works from the outset, responsibility for the junction as a whole sits with LCFC until their works are completed and signed-off by all relevant parties. This item was effectively Issue No 1, “**completion of legal sign-off**” to enable the return of the junction responsibility to Highways England.

The meeting also discussed at length the broader question of the suitability of the flat crossing itself, given the widely held views of village residents on either side of the A46 and the wider road using community. This was effectively Issue No 2, the question “**is the junction design safe today**”.

There are a mixture of problems which are resolvable with the right approach. In a nutshell:-

- The major problems with Issue 2 are not a consequence of the LCFC works. Their works have aimed to resolve changes within design guidance from Highways England. LCFC can’t be expected to resolve the fundamental suitability of the junction.
- At present Highways England have not been engaging with interested parties because the junction is not “their responsibility”, it’s LCFC’s but this is patently ridiculous because the junction will return to Highways England at some point.
- Currently Issue 2 won’t get looked at until Issue 1 is concluded and Highways England appear to have been dragging their heels and moving the goalposts (some irony there I’m sure) with LCFC to the latter’s great frustration.

Highways England have decreed the junction fails to meet the necessary criteria to be reviewed, seemingly because there haven’t been “sufficient fatalities”. The absurdity of such matters being assessed purely reactively, (i.e. after five or ten people are killed), rather than proactively by challenging previous decisions and testing whether they’re valid today. There was strong support from all present and that the safety of the junction as a whole (i.e. not the tweaks introduced by the LCFC works) needs to be freshly reviewed it was just a question of how to get this visible and on the agenda with Highways England.

Peter White commented that Ed Argar has taken an action to try to prompt fair progress for Issue 1 to get that unblocked and moving, and for Issue 2 the question became “How” do we get something happening.

In summary it is proposed that Thrussington and Seagrave Parish Councils should get together to form a joint campaign committee to garner wider public support and evidence to build a case making clear the concerns. There appears to be strong evidence that this will be supported by the local councillors and up to and including Ed Argar. The process just needs a catalyst as it is clear to all that we have an accident waiting to happen on our doorstep.

To date, Paul Simpson has been doing some sterling work uncovering the 1991 overbridge design works undertaken by the Department of Transport and to have the junction looked at from Seagrave’s end but clearly he has been getting to

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the point of thinking “there’s nothing more I can do”. I think we can reinvigorate this. It was noted that historical evidence is being gathered to highlight the significant increase in traffic through the years which should render historical assessments and judgements arguably invalid today.

Cllr Young commented that we need to separate the Leicester City issue from the need to change highways current position, and that we need to create an action group with the relevant representatives to move to the local agencies.

Cllr Woodward asked if we are aware of any action groups that have had a win nationally. Cllr Watson commented that there will be people in the village that want to get involved.

Councillors agreed that they would form a joint committee to look at this. It was noted that Cllr Young will continue to compile statistics. Peter White commented that as soon as a response has been received from Ed Argar he will share it and then we could look at putting a small group together to go door to door.

It was noted that the previous group will meet again and look at the response from highways and the collated statistics.

## **1161/2023 – County Council/District Council/Police reports**

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

### Authorities and local communities working together on climate change

Communities across Leicestershire are being given the chance to play their part in tackling climate change and help Leicestershire become a net zero county by 2045. More support has been made available to parish councils, community groups and residents who want to get involved and make a real difference with the creation of a new easy-to-use toolkit. The online resource has been developed by the Green Living Leicestershire Partnership, of which Leicestershire County Council is a leading member. The toolkit aims to provide a starting point for Leicestershire groups to address net zero in their local community and aligns to the Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact. Including helpful tips and advice, the toolkit has been designed to help kick-start community action, including guidance on how to identify sources of carbon emissions in their local area, setting clear reduction targets, getting the community involved in supporting initiatives, working with communities and signing up to the Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact.

It is hoped the net zero toolkit will be a step in the right direction in supporting parishes and local businesses to reduce emissions and their carbon footprint. More information about the net zero toolkit can be found here:

<https://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/parish-councils/net-zero-toolkit>

More information about the Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact is available on the County Council’s website:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/net-zero/sign-up-to-the-leicestershire-climate-and-nature-pact>

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

### Current work

- A46 crossroads work with Seagrave (on agenda)
- Helping residents with blocked gullies, tree preservation and planting as well as more general case work
- Further research into a village character appraisal review

Outside of Thrussington, we work across the other villages in the Wreake Valley ward. This month we have been investigating reports of HGV’s in East Goscote and issues with road safety particularly along Melton Road and Queniborough crossroads.

Working with residents and other parish councils with major planning applications, particularly Queniborough where there are currently five live major applications and Cossington, where a further plan for additional housing off Humble Lane has been submitted (P/23/1392/2). We are also supporting the Save Winstons Tree campaign, the petition now stands at 56,000 signatures. There is an objection letter campaign in both Cossington and Rearsby that we are supporting.

### CBC information

Member grant applications of up to £500 - deadline 31<sup>st</sup> January.

Void housing stock has further staff and funds approved to prioritise repairs and letting for residents and revenue.

An external consultation on CBC’s planning processes has provided recommendations for change which, if approved, hopes for a new way of working to be in place for December. This includes

- more detailed information from developers before submission and therefore better information before ward member call-in
- improved turnaround times, including a reduction in extensions of time
- increased productivity by reducing duplication in report writing

## **1162/2023 – Discussion regarding the creation of 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**

See notes at item 1160.

## **1163/2023 – Planning applications**

- a. P/23/1448/2 - Discharge of Condition 6 (Landscaping Scheme) of Planning Application ref: P/21/2593/2 (Erection of 5 dwellings and garages with vehicular accesses and associated works following demolition of existing farm buildings) at 1 Old Gate Road, Thrussington. It was noted that the decision had already been made, however this was for retrospective planning.
- b. Cllr Watson commented that we have not seen anything new regarding the new development sites in the village or any update on the local plan.

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**1164/2023** – To discuss the request to install a Christmas tree on the village green and to hold the light switch on event on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December and agree actions.

The clerk reported that a request had been received for a Christmas tree to be installed on the village green as in previous years. Cllr Newby proposed that permission be granted providing the usual risk assessment had been completed. This was seconded by Cllr Watson and councillors were in agreement.

**1165/2023 – To discuss the annual mowing contract including mowing of the churchyard and agree actions**

The clerk reported that the current contractor had provided a quote for the 2024 mowing season and confirmed that they aim to keep the grass to a suitable length, rather than agreeing a fixed number of cuts, this allows more flexibility during the rapid/fresh growth period in the spring. It was noted that the parish council will be emailed £206.25 plus VAT every month from April to November. Cllr Newby proposed that we accept the quote, this was seconded by Cllr Watson and councillors were in agreement.

The clerk reported that the current contractor had also provided a quote for mowing the Hoby Road churchyard at £150.00 plus VAT per month based on the same mowing schedule as the parish council. It was noted that the parish council had previously agreed to make a donation to the PCC towards mowing of £200 in 2024. The clerk will forward the mowing details to the PCC and wait for their feedback on whether to proceed with the parish council contractor.

**1153/2023 – Resolution to approve the minutes of the meetings held on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

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

**1154/2023 – Resolution to approve payments**

A copy of the payment schedule was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting which totaled £546.41. Cllr Watson proposed the payments, this was seconded by Cllr Young and all councillors were in agreement.

ATV, mowing service	£270.00
Helen Chadwick, clerks salary	£276.41

**1155/2023 – Parish Councillor updates**

- It was noted that concerns had been raised about the large white van that is parking on the corner of Seagrave Road and the village green and that it is proving dangerous for cars trying to exit Seagrave Road.
- The clerk was asked to speak with the contractor about refurbishing the parish council noticeboard.
- The clerk was asked to speak with Cllr Woodward about the installation of the bins.

**1156/2023 – Dates of 2023 meetings**

- The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October

**Signed:**

**Date:**

Chair closed the meeting at 20:40