

# THRUSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Thrustrington Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 at 7.30 PM in the village hall

### Present:

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

### 1194/2024 - Resolution to receive apologies for absence

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

### 1195/2024 – Resolution to receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda

- N/A

### 1196/2024 - 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

### 1197/2024 – County Council/District Council/Police reports

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

#### Floods

2024 started with some of the worst flooding to hit Leicestershire in a generation and of course Thrustrington was affected. The government agreed in the days after the floods to release funding (the Flood Recovery Framework) to help flood-hit residents and businesses. To help ensure everyone who qualifies receives the support they need its important that if they've been flooded they let Leicestershire County Council know, this can be done online:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood>.

Under this scheme:

- Flooded households can apply for up to £500 cash to help with immediate costs;
- Households and businesses significantly affected can access 100% council tax and business rates relief for at least 3 months;
- Small-to-medium sized businesses can apply for up to £2,500 from the Business Recovery Grant;
- Eligible flood-hit property owners can apply for up to £5,000 to help make their homes and businesses more resilient to future flooding via the Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme; and
- Farmers who have suffered uninsurable damage to their land can apply for grants of up to £25,000 through the Farming Recovery Fund towards repair and reinstatement costs.

Leicestershire County Council are currently working to put a clear system in place to make it as easy as possible for residents and businesses to claim extra support.

#### Consultation on budget

Residents and businesses are being encouraged to give their views on Leicestershire County Council's 'toughest budget'. A consultation launched on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December on proposals which include investing £127m more to meet growing demand, mainly in social care, and an extra £113m to cover inflation and the National Living Wage increase. The plan also forecasts a budget gap of £85m by 2028 after planned savings. A three per cent Council Tax increase for core services is planned for next year, generating £11m for front line services. A further £7m will be raised from a two per cent increase in the adult social care precept.

Spiralling social care prices, growing service demand and inflation are driving up costs for councils across the country and means that for the first time, it's planned to use up to £12m of reserves to help balance the books next year.

Pressures include:

- Surging cost of placements for children in care - with costs for just 10 children with complex needs now reaching £5m
- A 56 per cent rise in unaccompanied asylum seeking children in care and care leavers since last year
- Over £220m of net inflation and service pressures across the next four years - compared to £100m of increased income (including Council Tax)

Major redesigns of children's and adults' social care are already underway to bring down future demand and costs by millions-of-pounds, such as creating more new placements locally, rolling out new technology and helping more people live independently. Controls around recruitment, procurement and other spend have also been tightened up to help bring down the council's budget gap.

The consultation runs until 17 January – complete the survey at: [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/budget](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/budget)

The four-year budget plan includes:

- A £12m budget shortfall next year – rising to £33m in 2026, £60m in 2027 and £85m in 2028
- £127m more to support vulnerable people – to pay for more home and residential care, and support people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and mental health needs
- An extra £113m - to cover inflation and the National Living Wage increase
- Major redesigns of services to manage future demand, including:

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- o Special educational needs and disabilities - a new approach balancing growing demand for support with getting children the right help
- o Working with Barnardo's to run children's homes locally
- o Boosting 'supported living' - over 100 new placements created since 2020, enabling people with learning and physical disabilities and mental health needs to learn life skills and live independently
- o Rolling out 'care technology' - over 2,600 pieces of equipment, including falls detectors and GPS location trackers, installed over last year, benefiting over 1,000 people
- £36m of savings – including redesigning services, reducing the cost of back-office support services by maximising digital technology and smarter procurement
- A £445m four-year capital pot - for the cost of building roads, schools and other one-off projects linked to new homes being built across Leicestershire

Closing the budget gap may lead to a reduction of about 200 posts over the next four years - staff turnover and vacancy management will mean that the number of compulsory redundancies will be much lower. Following the consultation, cabinet will consider responses before agreeing final proposals - the budget is agreed at a meeting of the county council on 21 February. The council's yearly budget totals £560m.

## Extra funding will allow community orchard scheme to grow

A scheme which gives community groups, parish councils and schools free packs of fruits trees to create new orchards around the county can now bear even more fruit after receiving more than £28,000 in government funding. The Leicestershire County Council-run community orchards programme offers groups the opportunity to apply for the free orchard packs, which contain 10 apple and pear trees, stakes and other equipment needed to establish the orchard. The trees can be used to create a new orchard for the local community or to help restore and boost an existing orchard. The trees must be planted on sites which are open to the public, groups must have permission from the landowner to plant the trees, and all groups applying to the scheme need to commit to maintaining and nurturing the orchard in the long term. Now, the future of the scheme is secure for at least another year after it was awarded £28,290 from Defra's Coronation Living Heritage Fund.

The community orchards scheme was launched in 2022, when 50 trees were provided to schools and community groups. This has been increased to 300 trees in 2023, with the new funding aiming to provide trees and support to 20 new larger schemes in 2024. So far, 25 schools, 16 parishes, one borough council and one farm have been able to plant new orchards or improve an existing orchard, thanks to the scheme.

Groups who would like to apply for one of the tree packs should contact the council's Forestry team on [forestry@leics.gov.uk](mailto:forestry@leics.gov.uk). The packs will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

A copy of Cllr Woodward's report was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and included:

## Flooding

The devastating floods in the area at the beginning of January were extremely distressing and repair work will undoubtedly go on for some time. Homes and businesses were severely impacted and we saw major flooding in areas not previously affected or considered to be at high risk. In addition, the serious incident of raw sewage in Thrustrington brings further evidence to the current and future capacity of drainage given the proposed developments.

It's now imperative that we understand why January's floods were so bad, and how our communities can best be protected in the future. The review into the floods will be multi-agency including the lead agencies LCC and EA. We'll make sure that residents voices and concerns are heard during such reviews. In addition, Charnwood Borough Council plan to relaunch a Flooding Scrutiny Committee which we hope to have a representative on. We have requested that the planning department review all of the flood risk assessments for large housing developments in the area.

The government announced that Charnwood would be one of the areas to receive grant money for those who have been flooded. Information on how to access this is on the Charnwood Borough Council website and via their email alerts.

[www.charnwood.gov.uk/alerts](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/alerts)

## A46 Action Group

Seagrave PC have advertised for volunteers for an action group and have been in contact about Thrustrington plans which we are very keen to support.

## Mental health and local GP capacity

We are working with the NHS and GP practices to better understand mental health needs and services in the area and we are supporting GP practices on applications for S106 funds. More information will follow at a future meeting.

## Other news

This month saw the launch of Charnwood Time Bank, part of the wider Time4Leicestershire scheme. You share your time or skill with someone and receive credits which you can then exchange for help or skills in return.

[www.charnwoodtimebank.org.uk](http://www.charnwoodtimebank.org.uk).

## **1198/2024 – Resolution to approve the minutes of the meetings held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023**

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

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## **1199/2024 – Resolution to approve payments**

A copy of the payment schedule was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting which totaled £531.81. Cllr Prior proposed the payments, this was seconded by Cllr Kearns and all councillors were in agreement.

HMRC, quarterly PAYE	£207.40
Moore UK, annual audit	£48.00
Helen Chadwick, clerks salary	£276.41

## **1200/2024 – Update regarding the installation of speed signs by LCC highways**

- The clerk confirmed that she has received notification from LCC Highways that a payment £4,150.00 will be paid.
- The clerk confirmed that she has spoken with the clerk at Cossington Parish Council, following agreement to purchase a shared sign.
- Councillors agreed that the locations for the two posts are Seagrave Road and Hoby Road, as identified on the highways plan.
- Councillors agreed that they would be happy to purchase all three signs and to claim the cost of 1 ½ signs from Cossington Parish Council. The clerk will liaise with Cossington PC and look at drafting a MoU.
- It was agreed that we will need to a team of volunteers to support the swapping of the signs and an article will be included in Thrussington Life.

## **1201/2024 – Update on the bin installation by Charnwood Borough Council**

- It was noted that Cllr Woodward and Cllr Prior have spoken with Julie-Ann Bryne at Charnwood Borough Council and it appears that there is some confusion over the request from the parish council to remove one bin and install a new bin at an alternative location.
- It was agreed that a site visit was needed to clarify the request.

## **1202/2024 – To discuss annual litter pick and agree actions**

- Councillors agreed to hold an annual litter pick on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March and requested that the clerk liaise with Charnwood Borough Council regarding hiring the litter pickers and collection of rubbish.
- It was noted that a volunteer has offered to pay for all volunteers to have a hot roll/drink.
- It was suggested that if volunteers have their own pickers they bring them with them.

## **1203/2024 – Planning applications, traffic calming and flooding**

- With regards to flooding it was noted that consideration of the type of pipework and the infrastructure at Thrussington need reviewing.
- Cllr Young reported that Seagrave Parish Council held their first 2024 parish council meeting and the A46 junction was on the agenda. It was noted that they are keen to set up an 'action group' with Thrussington and Sibleby Parish Councils. It was agreed that we still need to define the approach of the what the action group can deliver. It was agreed that Cllr Woodward would include an update to go into the March edition of Thrussington Life and Cllr Young would do an article on behalf of the parish council asking for volunteers.

## **1204/2024 – Parish Councillor updates**

- Cllr Prior commented that the footbridge over the Ox Brook has partially collapsed since the flooding. It was agreed that the clerk would contact highways..
- Cllr Kearns asked about the noticeboard and it was agreed that the clerk would chase the contractor.
- The condition of the benches was noted and it was agreed that the clerk would speak with the contractor about providing a quote for treating the benches.
- It was agreed that the annual parish meeting will take place at 7.30 PM in the village hall on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April, refreshments will be provided and the clerk will draft an agenda.

## **1205/2025 – Dates of 2023 meetings**

- The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Signed:**

**Date:**

Chair closed the meeting at 20:30