

THORNTON CURTIS PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Thornton Curtis Parish Council held on Thursday, 23 November, 2023 at St Lawrence Church

Present: Cllrs L Maltas (Chair), C Couch, E Davey, J Hargreaves, P Grainger, J Farrow
Ward Cllrs R Hannigan, P Clark
Ann Boulton, Clerk to the Council
Seven members of the public

Public Participation:

A resident read out a list of questions regarding the roundabout on the playing field:

1. Following a statement by Cllr Davey, that the damage to the roundabout at the play park was as a result of an act of vandalism, can you provide an update on your investigations and whether anybody has been held accountable?
2. Following an independent examination, it was concluded that the roundabout had in fact not been secure on its mountings for many months as witnessed by Hannah Clark and Jodie Leaning who both publicly posted that it had been loose since the summer holidays. Can you therefore advise when the vandalism occurred?
3. It was reported that failure of the mounting for the roundabout was due to the hardness of the concrete used to secure four raw bolts. Are you able to provide information upon what grade of concrete was used in terms of its hardness and the details of the contractor that the Parish Councillor appointed to carry out this work?
4. Has the roundabout been reinstated? It seemed odd that it was not fixed at the time of discovery if the failure was because someone had simply loosened the bolts. Surely the corrective action would be to simply re-tighten the bolts?
5. If the roundabout has been re-instated, who was this work contracted to and if to the original contractor was it completed at no charge?

As this is an item on the agenda, the Chair said that she would answer the questions under that item.

It was noted that the resident was recording the meeting without informing the council, as is required. He was allowed to continue.

The matter of the church lighting was also raised. The lights had been changed to LED because of cost and to conform with St Lawrence being an eco-church but were too bright. It was suggested that coloured sheets could be used to cover the bulbs. It was also pointed out that it was possible to have LED lights in both warm white and brilliant white.

This item in on the agenda for discussion.

AGENDA

23/24-041. To Note Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr R Davy and Ward Cllr D Wells

23/24-042 To Note Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

Cllr Grainger declared an interest in items 23/24-0469(ii) and (iv) and item 3/24-048

23/24-043. To Resolve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th September, 2023

Resolved: To approve and sign the Minutes

23/24-044. To Resolve Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

23/24-045. To Resolve Police Matters

Police Community Watch/Neighbourhood Watch/NATs.

Resolved: To report speeding on Station Road to the PCSO. This is worse at present because of the closure of the railway crossing.

It was agreed to ask NLC for a speed sign. Cllr Hannigan said he would contact the Barton Police team. He said that golden rivers would be installed this month or next.

No NATS meeting had taken place.

23/24-046. To Resolve/receive updates on Village Matters

i. Playing field

a) Grant

Resolved to note that the work has been completed and is being inspected prior to the final grant closure. A new grant will be sought for either a slide or a swing, or both.

b) Damage to roundabout

The Chair answered the questions posed in the public session:

Q1A Do we have any ongoing investigations following the vandalism to the roundabout? No, we do not.

Q1B Has anyone been held accountable for the vandalism? No, they have not.

Q2 Can we advise when the vandalism took place? No, we cannot.

Q3 Can we provide information on the grade of concrete used to secure the roundabout? The concrete post mix used typically achieves a strength above 15 N /mm² at 28days.

Q4 Has the roundabout been reinstated? Yes.

Q5 Who was the reinstated work granted to? The original contractor Ian Couch.

The resident requested that these responses to his questions be minuted. They are, accordingly, written into the minutes of the meeting.

As far as the Parish Council are concerned this matter is now closed.

ii. Church

a) Church Floodlighting

Resolved: To try the sheets over the bulbs first and if this is not suitable, to look at replacing the bulbs.

iii. BCCRP.

There is a meeting next Tuesday. Cllr Couch reported that the bin for storage of water bottles had arrived and the idea would be used at other stations. It is hoped that BCCRP will fund the spring planting.

Resolved: That Cllr Couch would buy bulbs.

iv. Local Social Media

Cllr Grainger said that, while social media can be of benefit, it can also cause unhappiness and can be a dangerous thing. He said that local sites do not have their own protocols and can be hijacked. It would help if there was just one site but this won't happen. People are conducting their personal business on a public platform.

A discussion in the village is needed but in the meantime, the Parish Council will start by setting a good example.

Resolved: The matter will be discussed again at the next meeting.

23/24-047. To Resolve Highways & Transport Matters and receive any updates

a) Speed limit consultation comments

The Clerk reported that she had not yet received notification of any consultation. Cllr Hannigan said he thought it would be after February.

It was reported that the weight limit sign was still missing – Ward Cllrs will report this.

There are two large potholes on the bend in Station Road that vehicles can't avoid.

The signpost at Burnham Crossroads has fallen over.

23/24-048. To Resolve Environmental Issues and receive any updates

a) Thornton Abbey and surrounding area.

The matter of weight limit signs on College Road was raised. There is nothing between Butterswood and College Road bridge.

b) Station footpath clearance

Resolved: Following a request from NLC to add the cost of clearing the public footpath to next year's devolved payments, this was agreed.

It was pointed out that the Station Road footpath has still not been completed and disappears in front of the Hall – approx. 120ft needs finishing. Also weeds are growing through the path.

The gullies on Main Street are blocked.

23/24-049. To Consider/Resolve Any Correspondence

i. Events to mark D-Day, June 2024

It was suggested that the lych gate and the Church wall be covered in poppies. The Thornton Hunt pub would also like to put something on. A grant will be available from North Lincs Council.

Resolved: To liaise with the Thornton Hunt

- ii. To review/update the Community Emergency Plan (request from NLC)

Resolved: To note that Cllr Grainger will review this.

23/24-050. To Resolve Accounts & Finance Matters

- i. To discuss a request for donation to Christmas Hampers

Resolved: As it is believed the village does not receive any hampers it was agreed to refuse the request and concentrate charitable efforts within the village.

- ii. To agree a budget for 2024-25 precept

The Clerk reported that prior to the meeting she had received the closing date for the precept which is not until after the next PC meeting

Resolved: That the Clerk will send out a budget forecast and the matter will be decided at the January meeting.

<u>Payments</u>		Excl. VAT	VAT	Total
Mark Nettleton	Playing Field mowing	75.00	15.00	90.00
Glasdon UK	Playing Field bins	128.18	25.64	153.82
<u>Income</u>				
North Lincs Council	Grant & devolved mowing	2193.13		2193.13

Account balances as at 15th November, 2023

Community Account = £4048.51 Savings Account = £1592.22 Village Fund = £488.01

Resolved: To approve the accounts.

23/24-051. To Resolve/Note Planning Matters

Comments already submitted:

- a) PA/2023/1766 Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed farm office building
- b) PA/2023/1692 Planning permission for the construction of a pond as habitat for Great Crested Newts at Black House, Station Road, Thornton Curtis
- c) PA/2023/1658 Planning permission to extend the garage to the rear garden and change into an annex at 10-12 Manor Cottage, Main Street, Thornton Curtis

Noted

23/24-052. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, January 23rd 2024