

HEMINGTON,LUDDINGTON AND THURNING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Hemington, Luddington and Thurning Parish Council held on **Thursday 14 March 2024** at 19:30 hrs in Thurning Village Hall.

Present: Cllr D Capp (T), Cllr J Gibson (H), Cllr P Harkness (H) [Chairman], Cllr I Mallett (L), Cllr K Strelcuk (H), Cllr A Wills (L)

In attendance: Mr R Allinson (Clerk to the Council); Cllr G Shacklock (NNC)

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24.03.01	Apologies for absence and approval thereof Apologies were received from Cllr Dawson (holiday), and Cllr Whitehall (medical). These absences were approved.	
24.03.02	Declaration of Interests There were no declarations of interest in relation to the items on the agenda.	
24.03.03	Public Forum One member of the public was present, a resident of Thurning. He advised the Council that he was opposed to the planning application for the phone mast that was considered at the last meeting, and had submitted his own comments of objection to the planning authority. The Clerk had made him aware in advance of the meeting of previous correspondence and sites proposed, and of the Council's submission in respect of the latest application.	
24.03.04	Highways – Speed Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr S Barber from Kier Transportation was in attendance and explained the graphs and figures in relation to speed monitoring that had been reviewed at the previous meeting. From these he had identified speeding issues in Luddington and Hemington and would pass this information on to Matt O'Connell at the Safer Roads team of Northamptonshire Police for possible enforcement action. He advised that the police threshold for action is	

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	<p>35 mph, and his survey indicated a number of vehicles in excess of this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of possible speed reduction actions he advised that ‘gates’ on verges (e.g Barnwell as approached from Hemington/Thurning) were regarded as cosmetic rather than for speed reduction and would need to be paid for by the Parish Council. Sarah Barnwell (NNC Highways Liaison Officer) had provided some examples and an indicative price of £3,500 for three entrances to a village. • Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) just flash on when a vehicle approaches too fast, showing the speed limit (e.g. at Thorpe Waterville). These are not fitted much now, Speed Indicator Devices (SID’s) being preferred. • SIDs come in various different forms and a Parish Council can choose different display options. The cost is £2,500 to £3,500 per device. One option is for a portable battery powered device which can be moved around locations on (say) a six week time frame. They cannot be fitted to wooden posts or obligatory sign posts. The battery can be charged from a domestic supply similar to a car battery. A second option is for a solar powered sign which requires a 4m metal pole and is an additional £500 for a panel. The solar powered versions are prone to theft. A third option is for a fixed wired version, but as there are no street lights in the villages, this would not be possible. They are much more costly at £10,000 plus connection costs. • Costs of VAS or SID should be recoverable from the Police and Fire Commissioner’s Safer Streets funds, and S Barber would assist the Parish Council in making an application to the fund and for a Section 50 licence from Highways (cost £475 for perpetual licence). • It was agreed that this item should be discussed in more detail at the next meeting in May, and at a special meeting just for this matter. Mr Barber is prepared to revisit by special arrangement, and would walk the villages with Clerk/ Councillors and agree locations for any required signs. 	
24.03.05	<p>North Northants Councillors Report</p> <p>Cllr Shacklock drew attention to a grant scheme from NNC for rural communities for which this Parish Council would be</p>	

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	eligible – max £20,000. There is a new Community Bus service with regular services to Rushden Lakes, and a link for the villages to this service may be possible.	
24.03.06	<p>Approval of Minutes of Meetings 11 January 2024</p> <p>The minutes had been circulated to Councillors shortly after the meeting and were posted on the website. The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
24.03.07	<p>Matters Arising from minutes</p> <p>a) The Actions Checklist prepared by the Clerk was received. It was noted that all matters not shown as Completed were included later on the agenda.</p> <p>b) No further items were identified to add to the list.</p>	
24.03.08	<p>Council Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The resignation of Cllr Plover representing Thurning was noted, with effect from 2 March 2024. The Clerk was asked to write on behalf of the Council to thank him for his work during his period of office. • The Clerk advised that notice of the vacancy (prepared by the Proper Officer at NNC) had been posted on notice boards and the website on 8 March 2024. The closing date for nominations is Thursday 28 March 2024. If there are no nominations, the Council will be free to co-opt another member. • As Cllr Plover had been Vice Chairman, this post was now vacant. Cllr Capp agreed to be nominated and was proposed by Cllr Harkness, seconded by Cllr Mallett, and elected unanimously. 	Clerk 21/3/24
24.03.09	<p>Planning Applications for consideration</p> <p>a) NE/23/00026/WASFUL Anearobic Digester No further information had been received by the Clerk or Cllr Shacklock. The Clerk was asked to follow up with the case officer.</p> <p>b) Variation to planning application for passive house by Thornlee, Luddington NE/24/00178/VAR The variations were not considered to be of significance. The Clerk was asked to respond re-stating our condition for the control of light pollution.</p> <p>c) Planning Applications notified up to 14 March 2024 The Clerk advised that no new notifications had been received.</p>	Clerk 21/3/24 Clerk 23/3/24

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	<p>d) Summary of active planning applications The summary of the current status of outstanding applications was received. The change of use of a barn at Rectory Farm has been approved.</p>							
24.03.10	<p>Policy Approvals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Financial Risk Assessment was reviewed and minor changes approved. The Reserves Policy was reviewed and approved, noting minor wording changes and estimated figures at 31 March 2024. 							
24.03.11	<p>Employment Matters (Confidential) The Chairman reported that he and the previous Vice Chairman (acting under the Terms of Reference for the Remuneration Committee) had reviewed information in relation to the Clerk's performance for the year. Their recommendation to the Council is that the Clerk's performance has been satisfactory and that he should therefore progress one point up the pay scale on 1 April 2024 in line with clause 9.2 of his contract of employment. This recommendation was approved. The Chairman will confirm in writing to the Clerk as evidence for payroll.</p>	Chairman 28/3/24						
24.03.12	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>a) The Clerk presented a report on the current bank position showing a balance of £13,213.23 at the end of February. There are no significant variances from budget. The report was received. Cllr Wills signed the bank reconciliation (and one from a previous meeting).</p> <p>b) The following payments were approved:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="363 1514 1270 1675"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Thurning Village Hall – 2 meetings</td> <td>£40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DCK Payroll – Quarter to March 2024</td> <td>£18.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northamptonshire Acre Subscription (inc VAT)</td> <td>£42.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Clerk advised that payroll charges would be increasing from 1 April to £20 per quarter plus a £20 year end charge. The service is arranged by NCALC and remains very competitive.</p>	Thurning Village Hall – 2 meetings	£40.00	DCK Payroll – Quarter to March 2024	£18.00	Northamptonshire Acre Subscription (inc VAT)	£42.00	
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24.03.13	<p>Thurning Pocket Park Renovation The Clerk advised that the owner of LPR (assisting with documents for Land Registry) had undergone a medical</p>							

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	<p>procedure and not been able to complete papers for this meeting, but had promised them for the May meeting. The Community Grant received from NNC had not been spent so far and an extension to the end of the calendar year is available. It was agreed that expenditure could be completed by then.</p>	
24.03.14	<p>Training There had been no training activity since the last meeting. The Clerk had been asked to circulate dates of further instances of <i>Responding to Planning Applications</i> to councillors – see Action Tracker item 135, this was done on 17 January, but no further interest had been shown. The Clerk will circulate the dates again.</p>	Clerk 21/3/24
24.03.15	<p>Highways / Footpaths / Public Rights of Way</p> <p>a) The list of matters referred to FixMyStreet was received. Five items have been cleared.</p> <p>b) The Clerk’s report on progress with restoring old footpaths to the Definitive Map was noted. Two paths from Hemington had been identified and one from Luddington. The working group are limiting the scope initially until they have experience of the process, but could add others later. Expenditure on Land Registry searches (to confirm land ownership along the routes for consultation purposes) and a historic map (for evidence purposes) was approved - £76.56.</p> <p>c) The proposed diversion of footpath NK003 to accommodate a further reservoir was discussed. It was noted that the revised route would bring the path to the Thurning to Winwick road close to the site proposed for the phone mast (see minute 24.01.07a). It was felt inappropriate that a footpath should be so close to a phone mast/ vice versa. Some members felt the diverted path should be routed to exit to the road as the existing path, and all agreed that the previous diversion in 2006 needed to be finalised both legally and ‘on the ground’ before a further diversion could be approved. The Clerk was asked to respond to the consultation objecting on these grounds, and to send a supplementary letter regarding the phone mast planning application, objecting to the development if the footpath diversion is approved.</p>	Clerk 21/3/24

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	d) An initiative from Kier Transportation for Pocket Woodlands was considered. It was agreed that this could be followed up in relation to the Thurning Pocket Park where some trees have fallen. The Clerk will liaise with Cllr Capp to respond to the initiative.	Clerk 31/3/24
24.03.16	Police Liaison Representative Report (PLR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk gave a verbal report advising he had visited a surgery at Warmington run by the PCSO for the area, Tim Butter. The PCSO is willing to attend a meeting from time to time, subject to any urgent calls on his time. The report was received. 	
24.03.17	Correspondence and Council Briefings The log of correspondence received was reviewed . Outstanding items had been reviewed in the meeting or were noted as ongoing.	
24.03.18	Any Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter picking Good events had taken place in Hemington and Luddington. It was noted that fly-tipping may be reported on FixMyStreet to trigger a collection/ clean up. No event is planned for Thurning. Hemington Oak Tree Cllr Harkness reported apparent damage to this historic tree (covered by a protection order) by contractors clearing the drainage ditch. It was agreed that this should be reported so that an officer could inspect – the Clerk to do this via FixMyStreet if possible. No further matters were raised for future discussion. 	Clerk 28/3/24
24.03.19	Date of Next Meeting The next meeting was confirmed as 9th May 2024 in Luddington Church. This will be the date and venue for the Annual Village Meeting as well. The Clerk was asked to prepare a first draft of the Chairman’s report.	Clerk 30/4/24
24.03.20	Close of Meeting The meeting closed at 21:20 hrs.	

Signed by Chairman

Date 9 May 2024.