

Thurcaston & Cropston Parish Council

The Parish Office Memorial Hall Anstey Lane Thurcaston Leicester LE7 7JA
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Parish Clerk: Mrs. Marianne Lane

Minutes of the Thurcaston & Cropston Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 15th January 2015 at 7.30 p.m. At The Memorial Hall, Anstey Lane, Thurcaston, Leicester.

Present: Cllrs Richard Younie (Chairman), William Green (Vice-Chairman), Audrey Flower, James Clooney, Richard Weston, District Councillor Diane Wise and County Councillor David Snartt.

Also present: Marianne Lane (Clerk), PCSO Quinn, PC Price and 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Vernon Terry, apology accepted.
2. **Approve and sign minutes from PC meeting on the 20th November 2014.** Accepted and approved.
3. **Receive any Declarations of interest.** Non received
4. **Police Report** – To receive a report for November and December 2014 on crimes/incidents in Parish. Both November and December reports received and noted.

PCSO Quinn & PC Price left meeting at 7.40pm

5. **Receive both Borough & County Councillors reports** on items of relevance to Thurcaston and Cropston Cllr Wise advised that the Thurcaston Park Planning Application should be at the 29th January Plans Committee meeting and that she will be meeting with Thurcaston Action Group prior to the meeting to discuss speaking. Also the Inspectors report on the Core Strategy will not be before March 2015. Cllr Snartt spoke about the Green Plaque award which recognises good work people have done in the Parish. If there are any nominations for this, contact Cllr Snartt by 23rd Jan 2015. The plaque can be put anywhere appropriate in the village. Cllr Snartt also reported that LCC is badly funded in comparison to other County Councils and fairer funding is being sought. He also recognised the award given to the Parish Litter pickers at the Don't Muck Around awards. Anstey Library are looking for volunteers to keep it open. MP Stephen Dorrell is stepping down and we should know who will be standing at the General Election by end of Jan 2015. Hopefully all villages will have super fast broadband as it has been installed in green cabinet at bottom of Rectory Lane in Thurcaston.

6. **Chairman's Announcement's** – Richard Younie announced that the Thurcaston Park Planning Application is being recommended for refusal on the basis that the sequential test is not satisfactory.

He also advised that he is very upset with lies and rumours circulating about Councillors meeting with TP applicants etc which are totally untrue and he then went on to explain sequence of events. SEE ADDENDUM FOR FULL REPORT.

Cllrs Wise & Snartt were both sympathetic to the Parish Council following Chairman's report and both said that in their opinion Councillors should meet with developers. He also advised of the problems the Parish Council are having in Woodhouse Eaves involving the Scout Hut. He also said to speak to Michael Hopkins, Monitory Officer at CBC if there are problems.

Cllr Snartt & Cllr Wise left meeting at 8.10pm

7. **Parish Councillors Report including meetings attended as Parish Council representatives.** Cllr Clooney appreciated being recognised on the Don't Muck Around awards. He also spoke about the memorial service on Remembrance Sunday and that previous Cllr Janus Jankowski's son Jakub playing the Revellie and Last Post on his trumpet. He proposes sending letter on behalf of PC to thank him. He also advised he attended Stakeholder Event in December. He also received communication from resident in Cropston regarding trees and how to protect them and sent her details. Cllr Green advised that the Haymarket bus station is being demolished and that the 154 and 123 have moved to St. Margarets Bus Station, stand 2 & 3 respectively. This to be published on PC website. Cllr Weston also attended Stakeholder event in December. Cllr Younie as not present at October and November PC meetings advised change of postal collection times

in both villages, 9am and 4.30pm. Cllr younie attended RCC seminar in October and LCC seminar in September of Neighbourhood Planning. He also attended the Chief Constables Inter Cultural Social Evening. He also gave out "Ask the Police" cards which encourage people to go online and ask questions.

8. Public Recess – NO PUBLIC RECESS.

9. Matters arising – from previous minutes

New Goal Posts – checked for regulations as per November 2014 meeting, none required. Quote to be approved in Finance. **NOTED**

Agenda item 16 November 2014 – Lime Trees in All Saints Churchyard – Jeff Kennington, Church Warden has been in contact with CBC who are responsible, tree survey has been completed, awaiting date for work to be carried out. Church has notified Parishioners who were concerned with trees. **NOTED**

10. Finance

- a) To approve income and expenditure for November & December 2014. January 2015 expenditure will be available on the night. **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
- b) To receive and approve the finances for Nov, December 2014 and January 2015 film presentations. **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- c) To approve cost of new goal posts @ £820.00 To consider quotation for repairs to Jubilee Playground equipment (to be tabled on the night) **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY AND QUOTATION FOR £1000 APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY FOR REPAIRS TO PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**
- d) To consider request for grant funding by Thurcaston & Cropston Gardening Club for 2015/2016 under section 137 **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY FOR A GRANT OF £250.00**
- e) To receive costs from CBC for the 2015 Parish Council Election in May. **RECEIVED AND NOTED**

11. To consider the information received from Charnwood Borough Council in respect of the local Precept and to receive the report & recommendations from the finance working party for Parish Council approval of the budget and precept for 2015-2016.

ALLOWANCES – Items 1), 2), 3) & 4) to be considered and approved by Council

PRECEPT REPORT INCLUDING ALLOWANCES UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. CLLR RICHARD WESTON PROPOSED, CLLR CLOONEY SECONDED, CARRIED.

12. Planning Applications received since last PC meeting.

P/14/2304/2 – Erection of replacement garaged to side of dwelling.
92 Leicester Road, Thurcaston. LE7 7JG. Due 23rd December 2014. **NOTED.**

P/14/2406/2 – Erection of single and two-storey extensions to rear and attached garage to side of dwelling. 98 Leicester Road, Thurcaston. LE7 7JG. Due 07 Jan 2015. **NOTED.**

P/14/2420/2 – Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of a two-storey extension including basement, first floor gable extension, porch canopy to side, extended raised terrace and internal alterations.
2 Causeway Lane, Cropston. LE7 7GD. Due 7th Jan 2015. **NOTED.**

P/14/2405/2 – Erection of detached double garage to rear of dwelling.
Mill House Farm, 39 Mill Road, Thurcaston. LE7 7JP. Due 7th Jan 2015. **NOTED.**

P/14/1714/2 – Erection of extensions to bungalow to create two-storey dwelling. (Revised Scheme – P/14/0819/2 Refers). 114 Rectory Lane, Thurcaston. LE7 7JQ. Due 31st December 2014. **NOTED.**

P/14/2533/2 – Reduction of 1 Willow and 1 Cherry Tree by 50% (Conservation Area Notice)
The Limes, 86 Rectory Lane, Thurcaston. LE7 7JQ. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY.**

13. To consider future Playground inspections at Jubilee Park. Clerk to ask John Adams if he would attend a Playground Inspection course to make the PC compliant.

14. Memorial Hall –

- a) Hall hirer has requested if we can help with internet access for their meetings to upload administration information. **DEFERRED for more consideration.**
- b) To consider request from ELP with regard to outside play area at Memorial Hall. **DEFERRED. Clerk to contact Architect to look at slope on right hand side of hall to see if possibility of putting sloping pathway in.**

15. District Matters:

- a) To receive a prress release for the Stepping Stones Project's Trees Make Hedges scheme with Woodland Trust. **Received, Clerk to look at implications of applying.**

16. Clerks Report and any items for a future agenda for Parish Council Meeting.

Addition of footpaths J62 (Part) and J66 (Part) and Deletion of J62 (Part) – LCC have advised will be submitted to Development Control and Regulatory Board on 12th Feb 2015 (not 8th Jan 2015)

Handbell ordered with inscription and should be delivered mid Feb to Thurcaston Handbells.

Speed signs on February 2014 agenda.

Chairman.....Date.....

Report on Agenda item 6 Chairman's Announcement at January 15th 2015 Parish Council Meeting.

Richard Younie, Chairman of Thurcaston and Cropston Parish Council stated that he was appalled at the totally untrue rumours and lies circulating around the Parish as to the conduct of the Parish Council in relation to the Thurcaston Park Outline Planning Application. There is a belief with some parishioners that the Parish Council has held meetings with the applicant behind closed doors. This is untrue. The Parish Council met with the applicants but only at Parish Council (P C) meetings with the public present.

He stated that the Parish Council is a statutory body and has a legal framework within which it must work. Only resolutions taken at a P C meeting are statements of the views or aspirations of the P C and the P C can only have a meeting following posting of a notice 3 working days in advance and the public must have access.

He went on to explain sequence of events:-

In Feb. 2013, there was a request from Mather Jamie to the Clerk to meet with the PC on "a matter of interest to the Parish". The Clerk and four Councillors attended. It was not the P C and not a P C meeting. Mather Jamie said that a local family trust was interested in building in Thurcaston but they would not give any information on who they were, what or where they proposed to build. They suggested various things that the village needed or could benefit from. They asked what Cllrs thought about it. The Chairman said that the P C could only give any response at a Parish Council meeting where the public were present, that nothing could be said about a scheme that Mather Jamie was not prepared to disclose and Mather Jamie would have to get the views of parishioners.

Following this in March 2013, a request was made by Mather Jamie to meet with the Parish Council and this request was refused. This resulted in Mather Jamie putting forward a presentation at the Parish Council Meeting in April 2013 which was open to the public as all meetings are. See March and April 2013 P C meeting minutes.

A public consultation then took place on 7th June 2013 for the proposal of building 170 houses to the back of Leicester Road and Mill Lane with many objections from the parishioners and subsequently this proposal was withdrawn.

A further proposal for 50 houses to be built together with a village hall was presented to the public at an extraordinary Parish Council meeting in April 2014 with nearly 100 villagers present. An outline planning application was then submitted.

Cllr Richard Weston said that in the Statement of Community Engagement the applicants stated that consultations have involved meetings with the Parish Council. The Parish Council only met with TP applicants at the extraordinary meeting in April 2014 and before that at the Parish Council Meeting where Mather Jamie made a presentation in April 2013. Both meetings were open to the public. No other meetings have taken place formally or informally and any suggestions otherwise are untrue.

With regard to the statement of aspirations and views of the Parish Council, this too is incorrect; these aspirations may have come from individuals who attended the meetings but certainly not from the Parish Council as a statutory body.

It seems that the problems are probably due to incorrect statements from the TP applicants in the Planning Application.