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# Thurcroft Parish Council

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Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, Green Arbour  
Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9DD

e: [clerk@thurcroftparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@thurcroftparishcouncil.gov.uk)

w: [thurcroftparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://thurcroftparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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## Minutes of the Full Council meeting held Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Present Councillors: **D. Andrews (Chair), A. Copeland (Vice-Chair), C. Alsop, B. Clark, D. Brown, D. Fretwell, C. McCartan, D. Oxley, J. Ronksley, N. Ronksley, A. Scott, C. Walker & A. Winsborough.**

Apologies were received from Councillors: **M. Howis, E. Humphreys, T. Murphy, P. Owen.**

Absent: **M. Belcher**

Proper Officer: **Thomas Collingham (Clerk & RFO).**

**There was four members of public in attendance.**

**The meeting started at 6.30pm**

### **9264 To receive and approve reasons for absence.**

The Clerk advised the Council that apologies were received from M. Howis, E. Humphreys, T. Murphy and P. Owen.

**Resolved:-** The Council resolved to accept reasons for absences from councillors.

### **9265 To receive declarations of interest in respect of business on the agenda.**

**Resolved:-** There were no declarations of interests raised.

### **9266 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

No matters were raised with the minutes.

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the meeting held **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023** be approved and file copy was signed by the chairperson of the meeting.

### **9267 To identify any agenda items which may be considered following the exclusion of the press and public, due to the confidential nature to be discussed.**

The Clerk advised the chair that Item 15 (Minute: 9278) is to take place in closed session due to the commercially sensitive nature of each groups room rates.

**Resolved:-** No items were identified for exclusion.

### **9268 Public Participation Session**

A member of the public made a statement to the council who wished to make comments about previous items on the agenda relating to the war memorial. She believes the memorial is successful



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for the village and has not received any complaints from other members of the public. She highlighted that if the council as a body are not happy with the memorial garden, then this should be raised with the Veterans Association through a meeting.

The member of public raised that Veterans had been approached by councillors in relation to why they weren't wearing their medals.

The member of public applauded that Thurcroft had raised a considerable amount for the British Legion and thanked them for their efforts.

- The statement was noted by the Council.

### **9269 To discuss and approve the Council Budget for the year 2023/2024 and approve the precept needed.**

The Clerk & RFO presented the budget to the council. It also included the demonstrated figures of a 0% increase up to 12% increase and what this would mean for each household based on this year's Band D equivalent at £83.89.

Based on the expenditure of the Council for the next year, and the large amount of reserves the council hold, it was agreed by the Council not to increase the council tax for households.

The Council have agreed to support new projects from the earmarked reserves that have been built up.

The Council were made aware that this is the fourth year the council tax has not risen and given the increase in staffing costs, as well as energy costs for the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall. It may be unsustainable for future years to keep a flat rate.

The Clerk & RFO shared a detailed budget and the change in the allocation of pots to help with budgeting and ensuring that the full parish benefit from projects moving forward.

**Resolved:-** The Council accepts the precept demand of £176,144, at a Band D equivalent of £83.89 per household. The Council also accepted the detailed budget forecast and the allocated reserve spending for 2023/24.

### **9270 To receive correspondence from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and approve the request to install signs indicating war graves at Thurcroft Cemetery.**



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The Clerk shared correspondence from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission enquiring if the Council would be interested in having a sign at Thurcroft Cemetery to let the public know there are 3 WW2 war graves situated within the grounds. The Signs project commenced as part of the centenary of the First World War and it is hoped that we can erect signs at as many churchyards, cemeteries and burial grounds as possible that contain war graves. The aim of the initiative is to increase awareness of war graves in the UK and to remind the public that they need not travel abroad to find Commonwealth commemorations.

The Clerk shared that the signs were free to implement and would be of no cost the council.

**Resolved:-** The Council approved the decision to display the signs from Commonwealth War Graves Commission at Thurcroft Cemetery.

**9271 To discuss and approve a donation to Laughton en-le Morthen Village Hall charity for the work completed by the Clerk last summer to finalise our AGAR.**

The Council received help from a neighbouring Clerk during the period with no Proper Officer. This enabled the Council to submit the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

A donation to Laughton Village Hall ICO was agreed at the time of completing the work, but this hadn't been passed by the Council. Therefore, the Council were presented with the proposal to give a small donation for the time given by the Clerk to enable to previous years Governance to be submitted.

Because the facility is charitable, a local authority has power under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976(3)(a) – a local authority may contribute by way of grant or loan towards the expenses incurred or to be incurred by any voluntary organisation in providing any recreational facilities and at 3(b) by way of grant towards the expenses incurred or to be incurred by any other local authority in providing such facilities

**Resolved:-** The Council agreed to a £200 donation to the Laughton Village Hall ICO and to send a letter of thanks.

**9272 To discuss and approve recorded voting as a Council and to implement a change to the Standing Orders.**



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A councillor raised an issue with the minutes not showing a true reflection of the voting split of the group. The Clerk advised the council that it is within the Standing Orders to ask for a recorded vote at each agenda item.

Councillors discussed that it would be beneficial to have the split between For, Against and Abstain.

**Resolved:-** The Clerk will update Standing Orders to reflect the voting on each agenda item. It will then be resolved for each meeting thereafter.

### **9273 To receive quotes for fencing and options by Lightmain and further discuss the use of the rocks from Laughton Common.**

The Chair for Environment introduced the item and presented quotes to the Council from Lightmain for different schemes and the proposed costs. The different schemes involved fencing between land at RMBC and the parish council, fencing on RMBC land towards the field entrances, or moving rocks from Hangsman Lane, Laughton Common.

Councillors did not agree moving the rocks from Laughton Common is an option and did not think that fencing across the field would be well received by residents.

The Council delegated to the Clerk to contact RMBC to split the cost of the fencing required on their land and to look at other parks for any other ideas on what they have implemented to stop cars.

### **9274 To discuss and approve membership to the different committees as part of Thurcroft Parish Council.**

The Council agreed at the last meeting to reshuffle the committees due to the dissolved committees on Planning and Recreation.

<b>HR Committee</b> <i>Cllr E. Humphreys (Chair)</i> <i>Cllr C. Alsop</i> <i>Cllr D. Fretwell</i> <i>Cllr P. Owen</i>	<b>Facilities Committee</b> <i>Cllr A. Copeland (Chair)</i> <i>Cllr D. Andrews</i> <i>Cllr C. McCartan</i> <i>Cllr A. Scott</i>
<b>Events Committee</b> <i>Cllr C. Walker (Chair)</i> <i>Cllr B. Clark</i>	<b>Environment Committee</b> <i>Cllr D. Oxley (Chair)</i> <i>Cllr D. Brown</i>



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*Cllr M. Howis*

*Cllr T Murphy*

*Cllr J. Ronksley*

*Cllr A. Winsborough*

*Cllr N. Ronksley*

*Cllr M. Belcher*

**Resolved:-** That the Council approve the new seats for Committees and to review in six months.

**9275 To discuss the public consultation undertaken in October last year ahead of the initial budget requirements.**

The Council asked for the item to be on the agenda in the previous meeting. The councillor that wished to raise the item asked for it to then be deferred from the agenda.

A Councillor wished to raise transparency of numbers and bringing to council before questions go out for any future consultation.

The Council noted the request for future consultations.

**9276 To receive and approve a grant application from Thurcroft Miners Welfare.**

A councillor raised whether it would be a conflict for some councillors to remain in the discussion and vote on the item. Affected councillors took the decision to not declare an interest and remain in the vote.

The Council were presented with a grant application for a maximum £500 towards the cost of maintaining the three defibrillators in the village to help with the cost of replacement pads and batteries.

**Resolved:-** Council approved the grant application to the full £500 to be paid to the Thurcroft Miners Welfare.

**9277 To approve accounts for payment and note contractual payments made under the clerk delegation in Appendix 1.**

**Resolved:-** Council noted the contractual payments made and that the accounts due are agreed and can be paid.

**9278 CLOSED SESSION – To discuss the room rates charged to individual groups for the use of Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall.**



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The Council discussed the revised room rates for individual groups, standard room hire and block booking hires. The Clerk will contact each of the groups to make them aware of the new rates.

**Resolved:-** The Council approved the new room rates to be applied for the next financial year 2023/24

**9279 To notify the clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.**

It was raised what can be put in place for Sandra Blockley.

**9280 To set the date of the next ordinary Parish Council meeting.**

The date of the next meeting was agreed as **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023** at 6.30 pm in the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall.

**The meeting closed at 20:02.**