



# Thurcroft Parish Council

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

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## Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Present Councillors:** D. Oxley (Chair), C. Alsop, T. Murphy & A. Winsborough

**Apologies were received from Councillors:** D. Brown

**Absent:** J. Richardson

**There was one member of the public in attendance.**

**The meeting started at 6.30pm**

### **EN/2024/01 To receive and approve reasons for absence**

**Resolved:-** The council received and approved the reasons for absence from D. Brown.

**Voting:-** 4 councillors present. All councillors in favour.

### **EN/2024/02 To receive declarations of personal and pecuniary interest from members or officers**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **EN/2024/03 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)**

No dispensations requests were received.

### **EN/2024/04 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate**

No dispensations to grant.

### **EN/2024/05 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

No matters raised on the minutes.

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 be approved and file copy was signed by the chairperson of the meeting.

**Voting:-** 4 councillors present. All councillors in favour.

### **EN/2024/06 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. Under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1 (2))**

No items identified for the exclusion of the press and public.

### **EN/2024/07 Public Participation Session**



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One member public attended to speak on the item discussing the 'pit tub' in Thurcroft. The Clerk asked the Chair if we should bring Item 10 on the agenda forward to discuss the item with the resident. The Chair agreed to the reorder of the schedule.

### **EN/2024/08 To discuss and consider the renovation of the 'Pit Tub' location in Thurcroft**

Two committee members have been speaking with local residents regarding the 'pit tub' located on Woodhouse Green. The council currently maintain a flower bed within the pit tub but the area is becoming overgrown and under maintained.

The Clerk advised that land ownership is managed by RMBC Highways and that a meeting with Green Spaces has been organised to discuss the responsibilities between Rotherham Council and Thurcroft Parish Council in respect to the area.

The Chair asked the resident that attended the meeting to discuss ideas to improve the area as part of the meeting. The resident highlighted that more needs to be done within Thurcroft to highlight the history of the village and pay respect to the mining heritage of Thurcroft. The resident would like to see the area in the pit tub be cleared up, maintenance/renewal of the tub and for a large rock and plaque to be installed in memory of Thurcroft Main Colliery with the dates from the sinking of the shaft to the closure of the pit.

**Resolved:-** That the committee will attend the meeting on Friday to discuss ideas with Rotherham Council Officers, and that rough quotations be obtained from the ideas gathered and planning consents be considered to provide an update at the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

**Voting:-** 4 councillors present. All voted in favour.

### **EN/2024/09 To note the progress on the current projects considered by the Environment Committee**

The Clerk provided an update on the current projects being considered by the Environment Committee

#### **Community Payback**

The Community Payback team have completed the fencing surrounding Thurcroft Recreation Ground. This has been met with mixed reviews but we are not aware of any bigger vehicles entering the field which is what initially prompted the agenda item.

All paints have been purchased for the railings at Thurcroft Cemetery and Thurcroft Memorial Garden, youth shelters and playgrounds. We are awaiting a date for the team to reattend.

#### **Litter Cart**



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Quotes for the litter cart have been found and shared with members of the Committee. This needs to go to full council for decision. Councillors felt that employees using the equipment should have further consultation which the Clerk has confirmed will be carried out.

## Playground Training

There hasn't been any YLCA training for parks and recreation since the last one was cancelled. Councillors may wish to look further afield for training and to share Cllr Copelands knowledge. The Clerk is currently looking into other options available.

## Playground Signage

Proofs had been submitted using artwork from RMBC to make them less stark in the playground and address risks identified on the playground inspection reports. The Clerk shared with a couple of councillors for initial feedback on design, but councillors wished to get other quotes to compare before a decision is taken to council.

## Noticeboards

These had been submitted but it came back due to missing information – they needed the details of the exact specification of the noticeboards. This has now been resubmitted.

## Flowerbeds – Removal

The Clerk has obtained three quotes for the removal of the flower beds and to put them back to specification for RMBC and retaining the stone for building up the beds. These will be put to the next council meeting.

## Tendering of the Environment Contracts

The contracts have been finalised as approved at the council meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. These must be advertised via Contract Finder in line with Financial Regulations. Due to Thurcroft Parish Council not having an account with the Government's Contract Finder a D-U-N-S number has been requested and received before the meeting of the Environment Committee. These will be advertised within this week.

## EN/2024/10 To discuss and consider the 'building up' of beds throughout the parish

The Committee discussed the beds that need to be built up across the parish as part of the second phase after the removal of flower beds within the parish.

**Appendix A** is attached to the minutes with the list of beds that councillors are recommending being built up.



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**Resolved:-** That the Committee recommend the flowers beds in **Appendix A** to be built up, and that quotes will be sought after approval from the council.

**Voting:-** 4 councillors present. All voted in favour.

### EN/2024/11 To discuss and consider action with the trees in Thurcroft Memorial Garden

The Chair discussed with the committee the pruning of the trees in Thurcroft Memorial Garden and if there was an update to completing the work that was raised with the council last October.

The Clerk received an update from Tree Surgeon at RMBC on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023 that he would visit within the coming weeks. He did not provide any update, and this was unfortunately not chased by the Clerk. The Clerk has emailed the tree surgeon again to ask for an update on the health of the trees – and to provide a written report back to council. The Clerk confirmed that there are no TPO's on the trees within the memorial garden that had been raised in previous meetings. Councillors felt no other action was necessary at this stage and that a written response needs to be received.

### EN/2024/12 To discuss and consider the procurement of flowers in the parish

The Chair discussed with the committee the procurement of flowers from contractors for the flower beds.

The Clerk advised that the new environment contracts have been approved by full council and as part of the contract it states that flower orders will be completed by the parish council. It would need to be highlighted between the parish council and the contractor what the working relationship would be for the decision on flowers.

Councillors raised concern that it may feel too rushed to place orders for flowers when we are removing and improving beds over the coming months and that we should hold off ordering any flowers.

The Chair noted that bulbs have been planted which will provide some spring flowers across the parish in the interim as well as the introduction of hanging baskets.

**Resolved:-** That a recommendation be made that the council do not purchase any flowers until the flower beds have been completed.

**Voting:-** 4 councillors present. All voted in favour.

### EN/2024/13 To receive the annual playground inspection report for the play areas in the parish and consider playground monitoring in between inspections

The Clerk shared the Annual Inspections completed for the playgrounds within the parish at Thurcroft Recreation Ground, Brampton Playground and Hangsman Lane. The Clerk advised that there are several risks that have been identified that vary from Very



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Low Risk to Moderate Risk. There are no moderate risks identified at the playgrounds in Thurcroft and Laughton Common. However, moderate risks have been identified at Brampton Playground.

- Rotating Chairs – 4 Findings – Replace seating with full cradle design and ensure that the shear nuts have been fully tightened.
- Roundabout – 6 Findings – Relay the surface area surrounding the roundabout. Repainting and treating the corroded areas of the roundabout.

The Clerk is advising to address the moderate risks within the playgrounds and then to focus on low risks within our immediate control.

As part of the council's duty to ensure that playgrounds are inspected in between visits by our contractor, the Clerk advises using an app called Safety Culture. This can be used across the whole parish with asset inspections for the Gordon Bennett, benches, public waste bins.

The Clerk shared the app with councillors and how simple it would be to complete an inspection with the required training, but also to develop a paper trail to ensure all assets are inspected.

Councillors approved of the Safety Culture app and recommended for it to be approved by full council.

**Resolved:-** That the committee delegate the Clerk to obtain quotes to address the moderate risks within Brampton Playground and that the committee recommend the approval of the Safety Culture app for use when completing inspections in parish playgrounds.

**Voting:-** 4 councillors present. All voted in favour.

### EN/2024/14 To discuss and consider the issues with moles affecting the fields at Laughton Common

The Clerk advised the committee that land around the parish still faces ongoing issues with moles especially on the football pitch at Laughton Common. The Clerk has contacted the previous pest control contractor for quotes on a permanent mole removal service.

#### ***Quote***

*Annual fee of £360 (exc. VAT) per annum per site.*

*Monthly fee of £30 (exc. VAT) per calendar month per site.*

They will carry out monthly inspections and install traps as and when necessary.

They would also respond to your requests to install traps between our visits.



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Councillors raised concerns with moles at Thurcroft Cemetery and that this is also as important as the football pitches. The Clerk was delegated to go back to the company for updated quotes for the next full council.

**Resolved:-** That an updated quote for three sites across the parish at Hangsman Lane Recreation Ground, Thurcroft Cemetery and Brampton Play area and that this be recommended to full council for a 12 month contract.

**Voting:-** 4 councillors present. 3 voted in favour, 1 voted against.

**EN/2024/15 To notify the clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting**

The Committee would like to have an extraordinary meeting in March to update on all the projects that are currently in progress.

**EN/2024/16 To confirm the date and time of the next ordinary council meeting will be agreed at the next Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**

The Clerk made the committee aware that the next ordinary meeting will be decided from the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

**The meeting closed at 8.30pm.**



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## Appendix A

### Thurcroft

- **Green Arbour Road**
  - 4 (Green Arbour Road 1)
    - orbited.amaze.pardon
    - Rectangle Bed (Large)
  - 5 (Green Arbour Road 2)
    - washroom.escape.melons
    - Round Bed (Small)
  - 6 (Green Arbour Road 3)
    - huts.torn.fanfare
    - Rectangle Bed (Large)
  - 7 (Green Arbour Road 4)
    - airbrush.mailer.mainly
    - Rectangle Bed (Medium)
  - 8 (Green Arbour Road 5)
    - bravery.scornful.bachelor
    - Rectangle Bed (Medium)
- **Locksley Drive** *(Make this into one bed)*
  - 1
    - **flank.decking.fists**
    - **Round Bed (Medium)**
  - 2
    - **weeps.jigging.unlimited**
    - **Round Bed (Medium)**

### Brampton en-le Morthen

- **Common Lane**
  - 1 (Approaching Brampton)
    - orbit.chips.glorified
    - Round Bed (Small)
  - 2
    - heartburn.skewed.holiday
    - Round Bed (Small)
  - 3
    - dries.ports.suffix
    - Round Bed (Small)
  - 4
    - digs.downcast.somebody
    - Round Bed (Small)

### Laughton Common

- Glaisdale
  - falls.correctly.sinkhole
  - Rectangle Stone Bed (Medium)