



## Thurcroft Parish Council

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

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

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### Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

**Present Councillors:** B. Clark (Chair), H. Bell, D. Brown, R. Butler, D. Fretwell, C. McCartan, D. Oxley, J. Richardson, J. Ronksley, N. Ronksley, C. Walker and A. Winsborough (12 councillors present).

**Apologies were received from Councillors:** C. Alsop, A. Copeland, M. Howis, E. Humphreys, T. Murphy, and P. Owen.

**Officers:** Thomas Collingham

**There were no members of the public in attendance.**

**The meeting started at 6.30pm**

**9553. To receive and consider reasons for absence**

The Clerk shared with council the reasons for absence that were received from C. Alsop, A. Copeland, M. Howis, E. Humphreys, T. Murphy, and P. Owen.

**Resolved:-** That the reasons for absence be approved for C. Alsop, A. Copeland, M. Howis, E. Humphreys, T. Murphy, and P. Owen.

**Voting:-** 11 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

**9554. To receive declarations of personal and pecuniary interest for members and officers**

No declarations of interest received at this point in the agenda.

**9555. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)**

No requests for dispensation received.

**9556. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate**

No dispensations received to consider.

**9557. To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

No matters were raised from the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record and that the Chairman sign the minutes and payments list of the minutes.

**Voting:-** 11 councillors present. 7 councillors in favour. 4 abstentions.

**9558. 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))**

The Clerk advised there are no items highlighted to be considered in a confidential session.

**Resolved:-** That no items on the agenda need to be considered for confidential session.



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## 9559. Public Participation Session

No questions were raised in the public session.

## 9560. R. Butler joined the council for the next agenda item, minute reference 9561

## 9561. To discuss and consider the hanging baskets for next financial year 2024/25

The council discussed implementing floral lamppost displays throughout the parish again for next year. The council instructed the Clerk to provide the prices for purchasing the lamppost baskets as well as hiring for a comparison.

### • Hiring

A quote for hiring of flower tubs has been sought on the basis of the following;  
*Supplying 94 planted holsters 66cm wide in Thurcroft, Laughton Common and Brampton en-le Morthen on the lampposts identified from last year, but double basket on both sides - and maintenance (watering and feeding) for sixteen weeks between May/June and removed early October, installation onto lamppost brackets, filled with trailing plants, removed from the lampposts, stored over the winter period.*

**A) £6,588.00 exc. VAT**

**B) £4,512.00 exc. VAT**

A third quote could not be obtained, and the Clerk has taken all reasonable and practical steps to show like-for-like quotes. The Clerk advised that he had contacted other parish councils through email and phone in the surrounding Rotherham area that have hanging baskets. The responses received are the two companies that have already quoted, or they have a village gardener within the parish.

The council were advised that making a decision based on these two quotes, the council will need to resolve to suspend the Financial Regulation 11.1(h) before a vote on the motion can be resolved that details the council shall obtain three or more quotes.

### • Purchasing

A quote for purchasing the flower tubs has been sought, with the addition of how much they would charge to complete the service with our own flower tubs.



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A) £5546.00 exc. VAT for purchase of baskets. £6204.00 exc. VAT per year thereafter for as above hiring contract – An additional £150.00 delivery but labour is costed within the quote.

**Total Cost for this year £11,900.00 exc. VAT**

B) £5170.00 exc. VAT for purchase of baskets. £3760.00 exc. VAT per year there after for as above hiring contract. No delivery cost, and labour costed within price. **Total Cost for this year £8930.00 exc. VAT**

C) £6486.00 for purchase of baskets. £3102 exc. VAT per year there after for as above hiring contract – but will not include the watering of baskets, and will chase £50.00 per van delivery and £25.00 per hour for installation and delivery. The Clerk has sought an approximate cost, and this would amount to x2 van trips (£100) and 8-10 hours work (£250). **Total Cost for this year £9588 exc. VAT**

The Clerk advised, the budget for 'Hanging Baskets' cost code for the next financial year is £6247.00. Therefore, the Clerk/RFO recommended and advised the council to accept the hiring amount from Contractor B to stay within the budget for the year. Purchasing of the hanging baskets will exceed the budget and will need to be sought from the Environment Earmarked Reserve.

Councillors discussed both options between hiring and purchasing and there was a general consensus that the purchasing of the baskets would take up to 6 years for them to pay for themselves, not including any damages or replacements. It was agreed that it would be for one year and not a permanent contract and that this can be another year to see if the flowers flourish better than last year.

**Resolved:-** The council resolved to suspend Financial Regulation 11.1(h) to allow the council to make a decision without receiving three quotations.

**Voting:-** 12 councillors present. 11 councillors voted in favour. 1 abstention.

**A councillor requested a recorded vote for the vote to accept the quote for the hiring of hanging baskets.**



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Proposer	Cllr D Oxley		
Seconder	Cllr C McCartan		
	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
1. Bell, Helena	X		
2. Brown, Diane	X		
3. Butler, Rebecca	X		
4. Clark, Brian	X		
5. Fretwell, David		X	
6. McCartan, Catherine	X		
7. Oxley, Diane	X		
8. Richardson, Joe	X		
9. Ronksley, Jack	X		
10. Ronksley, Nichola	X		
11. Walker, Catherine	X		
12. Winsborough, Anne	X		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>RESULT</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>		

**Resolved:-** The council resolved to accept the quote for hiring hanging baskets from Hobsons (Contractor B)

## 9562. To discuss and consider the PHS contract for Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall

The council considered this item at the previous meeting of the council. The council but voted to defer the item so that the contract could be provided.

The Clerk provided the council with the PHS contract, it includes the Terms and Conditions of the contract that were signed by an employee in place in 2013. The Clerk is unable to verify the procedures for Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in place in 2013 and it can be assumed that the employee was given delegation to 'run' the Gordon Bennett – which would not be the case today as decisions need to be ratified by the council – there is no minute passed by the council in 2013 relating to the resigning of the PHS contract in 2013.



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The Clerk has contacted YLCA with the questions the council raised last week. YLCA referred the ticket to a Senior Solicitor for NALC who is unable to respond as he believes the council understand that they are in a contract, paying for the services received with an up-to-date payments. The council may wish to pursue further with insurance as detailed in the response – However, I don't advise there is any further action that can be taken by the council.

The Clerk advised a bit of background information for members that were not present at the last meeting of the council. The council contracted the services of PHS in 1989 and the original contract cannot be obtained. joined cannot get the original contract, it is found that the latest contract signed by the council is the 2013 version, which then began to roll every three years from 2016, 2019, 2022 and it will expire on 28th Jan 2025.

The Clerk represented the options to consider;

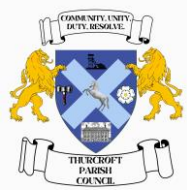
- **Option 1 - Contract Breach - Buy out the contract would cost £4164 (less the interest of 10% increase)**
- **Option 2 - Remainder Contract - Pay £5553 exc. VAT (less the 10% increase in February) in total up to January.**
- **Option 3 - Renewal - Pay £2200 per year - Pay £6600 over three years.**

The Clerk advised Option 3 would remove unnecessary monthly costs such as hand driers, PHS would sell these at £50 each (3 in total / £150) - This removes the cost of buying new and having cost of fitting.

The contract is paid up until 14th March. If the council choose to fix the council would receive a refund of the overpaid amount of £800 approx. which would be applied to Option 1 and Option 3.

If the council choose Option 3, to renew the contract with the unnecessary elements removed from the contract it is worth noting that you will be renewing the contract. Under Standing Order 11.1(a)(iv) you do not have to provide three quotes for this new supply of contract as my interpretation of the Standing Order is that it is an extension of a contract.

Councillors didn't agree that paying a breach fee would be a good use of public funds, and asked whether waste removal contracts were similar across other suppliers. The Clerk advised that a similar quote was sought when initially raising the contract with PHS.



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**Resolved:-** The council resolves to accept Option 3 for renewal for a three-year term at £2200 per year and to purchase three hand-driers for £50 each.

**Voting:-** 12 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

**9551. To notify the clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting**

No matters were raised for inclusion on the next agenda.

**9552. To confirm the date and time of the next ordinary meeting on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 6.30pm**

The council noted the next ordinary meeting to be held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**The meeting closed at 7:09pm.**