



Thurcroft Parish Council

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

e: clerk@thurcroftparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held Thursday 25th July 2024

Present Councillors: B. Clark (Chair), H. Bell, V. Burford, C. McCartan, T. Murphy, D. Oxley, C. Walker, M. Wordsworth, A. Winsborough

Apologies were received from Councillors: C. Alsop, R. Butler, D. Brown, J. Richardson and N. Ronksley

Officers: Thomas Collingham

There was one member of the public in attendance

The meeting started at 6.30pm

9751. To receive and consider reasons for absence

Resolved:- That the council approved the reasons for absence from C. Alsop, R. Butler, D. Brown, J. Richardson and N. Ronksley

Voting:- 9 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

9752. To receive declarations of personal and pecuniary interest¹ for members and officers

No declarations of interests were received.

9753. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)

No written requests for dispensation were received.

9754. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

There are no requests for dispensation to grant.

9755. To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 27th June 2024

The council raised no accuracy concerns on the minutes and approved that they show an accurate record of the meeting held on Thursday 27th June 2024.

Resolved:- That the minutes for the meeting held on Thursday 27th June 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record, and that the chairman signs the bottom of each page to verify the approval of the minutes.

Voting:- 9 councillors present. 7 councillors voted in favour. 2 councillors abstained.

9756. 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))

There are no items identified for exclusion of press and public.

9757. Public Participation Session

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No questions were raised during the public participation session.

9758. To note the minutes for committee meetings held since the last ordinary meeting of the council

a) Facilities and Events Committee held on Thursday 11th July 2024

Members noted the minutes of the Facilities and Events Committee held on Thursday 11th July 2024

b) Finance and General Committee held on Thursday 18th July 2024

Members noted the minutes of the Finance and General Committee held on Thursday 18th July 2024

c) Facilities and Events Committee held on Friday 19th July 2024

Members noted the minutes of the Facilities and Events Committee held on Friday 19th July 2024

9759. To receive a recommendation from the Facilities and Events Committee to discuss and consider transparency of attendance to meetings

The Facilities and Events Committee proposed the recommendation to discuss and have transparency of attendance to meetings.

Members discussed the attendance of some members to committees and believe that contact should be made with Members that haven't attended meetings since the re-election in May. Members highlighted the frustration and the workload on others to put forward ideas.

The Chair agreed to reach out to councillors by email to encourage Members to attend and let them know the feelings of others.

The Clerk also suggested publishing an attendance tracker for transparency that will hopefully encourage member attendance.

Resolved:- That the Chair will email Members that haven't attended a meeting since the Annual Meeting in May and that the Clerk will develop an attendance tracker for transparency.

Voting:- 9 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

9760. To discuss and consider the land where the flower beds are situated at the end of Common Lane in Brampton-en-le Morthen

Cllr Brian Clark has requested that the grass at the end of Common Lane be cut by the parish council.



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The Clerk advises that this has been historically maintained by the parish council until the change of contractors for grounds maintenance. In the changeover, every effort was made to get the borough to cut this strip of grass. RMBC will not cut the grass as intended and the council is at risk of losing the 4 flower beds that are situated on this land.

Members agreed that the strip of grass needs to be cut due to the visibility of the flower beds on this land.

The Clerk advised of recommended options in considering the maintenance of the land.

Recommended Options

1. That RMBC be contacted to ask for the price of increased cutting of this strip of land.
2. That we seek a quote from our current grounds maintenance contractor to cut the strip of land, and seek permission from RMBC to do so.
3. That we don't maintain the land.

The Clerk would advise the council to consider Option 2 and that the quote be presented back to the council for ratification. Members agreed that Option 2 would be the best option to maintain the land to the required standard.

Resolved:- That the Clerk will ask for the strip of land to be quoted by our current grounds maintenance contractor in addition to the current contract, and that permission from RMBC will be sought before undertaking any maintenance.

Voting:- 9 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

9761. To receive and consider quotes for the installation of the noticeboards

The Clerk advised that the council have already considered the noticeboards, these have been ordered and are currently in production. The council are aware that installation and assembly costs are still to be considered.

The Clerk has sought a quote for the installation and assembly of the three noticeboards in Loughton Common and two in Thurcroft at the agreed locations.

Proposed Quote

New noticeboards assembled and installed into concrete. Price includes dig out, waste away posts fully installed and ground reinstated as it was before.

£2100 exc. VAT

Recommended Options

1. That the council approve the contractor to complete the works for the agreed cost.
2. That the council do not approve the cost and more quotes be sought.



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The Clerk would advise the council to consider Option 1 to approve the cost of the installation, and that these be proposed to be installed in the month of August.

Resolved:- That the council approve the cost of the installation by JC Construction at the cost of £2100 exc. VAT for the assembly and full installation of the noticeboards at the prior agreed locations

Voting:- 9 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

9762. To note an update from the contractor for our flower beds and consider any further action

The Clerk and Cllr Oxley as Chair of the Recreation and Environment met with the contractor for the Flowers and Horticulture contract following several concerns that had been raised by members of the council and parishioners.

The contractor highlighted that he wasn't aware that his employees hadn't been completing the tasks to the agreed standard. He believed that when tasked they have not highlighted any issues. He informed us that the work had been carried out every two weeks which was rebutted by representatives of the council with photos shared of the level of weed growth across the beds.

He has committed to following up with his team, and he has been asked by the council to check the work of his employees to ensure that the work is being completed in line with the agreement between the council and the contractor. The Clerk asked if he was able to meet the levels of the contract and he said that there was no issue.

Following this, we visited every flower bed in the parish to discuss the work that is required in each bed. An understanding has been given to the building up of the beds on the main high street in Thurcroft – and the resistance from RMBC is being currently worked through.

There has been a concerted effort to increase the volumes of flowers within the beds. As the flowers have only recently been planted (This weekend), the flower beds have not flourished and there is still a lot of dead space within the beds. The contractor has highlighted that there has been a challenge in ordering flowers due to the contract only being in place for two months – and that his supplier had already sold his required amounts for this year.

The council have accepted this response and have agreed to ensure that the beds are well set up moving into the winter period.

An agreement was made that most of the flower beds are to just be colour popping and vibrant – and within memorial gardens to follow a red, white and blue theme. There are several flowers that have been left in from the previous winter season that have died back or go against the themes advised by the council. It was agreed that work will be undertaken to give more direction to the beds moving forward.



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The contractor is also aware that a water supply has been provided from the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall to ensure he can meet the needs of maintaining the beds.

Members were also advised that he is aware of the water available from the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall to fulfil the watering of the flowers.

Recommendations

1. That a monthly check-in be incorporated with the contractor to feedback and compliments and complaints with the service and any actions addressed.
2. That the Recreation and Environment Committee develop a Working Party for the flowerbeds – notable to discuss the designs and maintenance this will consist of members from the BELM Community and the R&E Committee

Resolved:- That the council approve the recommendations as outlined in the proposal.

Voting:- 9 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

9763. To discuss the concerns regarding the Highway from New Orchard Road onto Woodhouse Green and consider any further action

Cllr McCartan requested that this item be added to the next agenda to discuss the access requirements for the new warehouse buildings within Thurcroft using the access from New Orchard Road onto Woodhouse Green.

Members felt that the people were unaware of the scale of the warehouses that were due to be built off New Orchard Road and that this will have a detrimental impact on the road leading onto Woodhouse Green.

Members also shared that it was never meant to be an adopted road and is not fit for further vehicles in an out of this extension to the industrial estate. Concerns have been raised that once the warehouses are functional, the configuration of this junction may cause accidents and that this should have been taken into consideration.

The Clerk would advise that the original concerns should have been raised when the notification of planning was initially raised – and a material consideration should have been submitted. In doing so, the material consideration of the development effecting the highway must be proven to severely effect the current highway infrastructure.

The Clerk would advise that the council may wish to consider writing to the council regarding the development in the first instance and report the impact that this junction may have once the development is functional.



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In writing the letter and highlighting the potential issue to Rotherham Council. It may wish to consider a further petition for further action in accessing the industrial estate, but until the site is functional it is unknown as to whether the impact would be severe.

As part of this item, The Clerk would like to advise of the Traffic Regulation Order that has been re-issued for further comment on the junction of New Orchard Road leading to Woodhouse Green. The council have already submitted an objection which has been taken into consideration.

Members wished to submit a further objection that this is displacing the cars and is only being considered due to the inadequacy of the junction for the size of the development.

Proposed Actions

1. That the council write to Rotherham Council highlighting the concerns raised within the meeting regarding the access requirements of the new development off New Orchard Road.
2. That the council will submit an objection to the proposed traffic regulation order that is to be implemented to stop parking on New Orchard Road.

Members agreed with the recommendation that have been proposed.

Resolved:- That the proposed actions be approve by the council.

Voting:- 9 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

9764. To receive and consider a recommendation from the Facilities and Events Committee for the creation of a Working Party to deliver upcoming projects

The Facilities and Events Committee have recommended a proposal for two Working Parties to be created. The Working Parties will be able to consider the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall refurbishment, and any Events that the council wish to hold.

The Clerk shared a generic term of reference which will set out the framework for Working Parties; but within this document he advised that the minimum quorum be set as 3 councillors/non-councillors and that a councillor must be present to chair the meeting and feedback to the relevant meeting.

Members agreed with the Working Party Terms of Reference but wished to keep the membership open for people to attend and not for this to be approved by the council each time a member of the working party changes.

A member wished to ask whether this would be classed as consultation with the public. The Clerk advised that in order for us to fulfil requirements of consultation, he still would advised holding formal consultation meetings.



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Resolved:- That the council approve the establishment of two Working Parties for the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall and Parish Events. That the Clerk will draft up the amendments suggested as agreed by council and publish these by email to councils.

Voting:- 9 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

9765. To discuss and consider the maintenance of the hedgerows on Green Arbour Road and Woodhouse Green

Cllr Oxley – Chair of Recreation and Environment has requested that this item be added to the agenda to discuss cutting of the hedges on Green Arbour Road and Woodhouse Green.

Historically, the council have paid an external contractor to cut these bushes along the high street. There has been a call to cut these bushes to ensure that they aren't overgrowing the flower beds in front of the bushes along the high street.

Members agreed that to ensure that the village looks well maintained throughout, that cutting of these bushes should be undertaken by the council due to the lack of services from Rotherham Council.

The Clerk suggested recommended options to Members,

Recommended Options

1. That a quote from the service at RMBC be sought to cut back the bushes.
2. That a quote from our external contractor be sought, the required permission from RMBC to undertake the work.
3. That no work be undertaken, and we wait for the next scheduled cut from RMBC.

The Clerk advise the council to consider Option 2.

Resolved:- That the council approve to contact the external contractor for grounds maintenance and obtain quotes, and that permission be obtained from Rotherham Council to undertake the work

Voting:- 9 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

9766. To approve accounts for payment and note contractual payments made under the clerk delegation (attached)

The Clerk advised that the payments list has already been checked through the Finance and General Committee and that there are two invoices to highlight. The Committee have noted the ongoing problems in accessing the invoices from BT, these have already been requested to be posted. A further invoice had issues with Anston Pest Control which had received an

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overpayment on their last invoice, but this has been rectified and annotated on the finance system to ensure that the bank reconciliation is correct for June.

Resolved:- That the council approve accounts for payment and note any payments made under the delegation of the Clerk

Voting:- 9 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

9767. To note expenditure outside of the meeting between the Clerk and the Chair in line with Financial Regulation 4.1

There are no payments authorised between the Chair and Clerk to note.

9768. To consider relevant planning applications as published on RMBC's weekly lists (25-28) along with any associated submissions received and any reports on previous planning applications/issues;

DATE	LIST NO.	P/A NO.	CASE OFFICER	PLANNING DETAILS
14/06/2024	25	RB2024/0874	Bethany Jackson	9 Beckwith Grove, Thurcroft Application of Lawful Development re Single storey rear extension https://rotherham.planportal.co.uk/?id=RB2024/0874

Resolved:- That the council wish to take no action on the planning applications included in the Weekly Lists 25-28.

Voting:- 9 councillors present. All councillors voted in favour.

9769. 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.

9770. To confirm the date and time of the next ordinary meeting of the council on Thursday 26th September 2024 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber of the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall

The Chair confirmed the time and place of the next meeting and brought the meeting to a close.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.