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## Thurcroft Parish Council

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

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### Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**Present Councillors:** B. Clark (Chair), H. Bell, V. Burford, R. Butler, C. McCartan, D. Oxley, C. Walker, A. Winsborough and M. Wordsworth (9 councillors present).

**Apologies were received from Councillors:** D. Brown, T. Murphy.

**Absent:** C. Alsop and J. Richardson

**Officers:** Thomas Collingham

There were no members of the public in attendance

The meeting started at 6.30pm

**9782. To receive and consider reasons for absence**

The Council noted reasons for absence from D. Brown and T. Murphy.

**9783. To receive declarations of personal and pecuniary interest<sup>1</sup> for members and officers**

No declarations were received.

**9784. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)**

There were no written requests for dispensation.

**9785. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate**

No dispensation requests to grant.

**9786. To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**Resolved:-** That the Council approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting and that the Chairman proceed to sign the bottom of each page of the approved minutes.

**Voting:-** 8.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

**9787. To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

**Resolved:-** That the Council approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting and that the Chairman proceed to sign the bottom of each page of the approved minutes.

**Voting:-** 8.Councillors present. 6 councillors voted in favour. 2 councillors abstained.

**9788. To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Resolved:-** That the Council approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting and that the Chairman proceed to sign the bottom of each page of the approved minutes.

**Voting:-** 8.Councillors present. 4 councillors voted in favour. 4 councillors abstained.



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**9789. 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))**

**Resolved:-** That the Council identified that Item 8 B, C, D and E, and Item 22 be held in confidential session due to the commercial sensitivity.

**Voting:-** 8.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

**9790. Public Participation Session**

No public were in attendance.

**9791. To note the minutes for committee meetings held since the last ordinary meeting of the council**

**a) Recreation and Environment Committee held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

The Council noted the minutes of the meeting.

**b) Finance and General Committee held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

The Council noted the minutes of the meeting.

**9792. To receive any recommendations from the Recreation & Environment Committee;**

**a) To discuss spring bulb planting locations and receive a quote for consideration**

**Resolved:-** That the Council approve Supply of Crocus, Daffodil and Snowdrops - 22,000 bulbs. To plant in the verges of School/Laughton Road, Green Arbour Road. For a total - £4850.00.

**Voting:-** 8.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

**b) To discuss and consider suspension of Financial Regulation 5.8**

The Clerk advised that if the Council wish to commit to a three-year contract for the provision of Hanging Baskets – which is believed to be a unique contract in the services included within the contract – it would be advised to suspend Financial Regulation Order 5.8 that stipulates getting three quotes over £5,000.

**Resolved:-** That the Council agree to suspend Financial Regulation 5.8 to enable for the Council to make a decision on the provision of hanging baskets for the next financial year.

**Voting:-** 8.Councillors present. All voted in favour.



## Cllr R Butler entered the room

### c) To receive and consider a quote for the provision of hanging baskets

**Resolved:-** That the Council approve Hobson Nuseries Ltd to provide Hanging Baskets for the Parish Council over the next three-years based on the quotation received on 24/09/2024. Based on 103 hanging baskets filled and watered from May till October at £48 per basket in 2025, £49 per basket in 2026 and £50 per basket in 2027 – Totalling £15,141 over three-years.

**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

### d) To note an update from the Horticulture contractor and consider any further action

The Council noted an update regarding the contract for Horticulture. The Clerk advised he met with the contractor prior to the Summer break to identify how the flowerbeds could improve, and he had highlighted the struggles in obtaining plants when the contract began in April. We walked each individual bed to highlight where we needed increased flowers, better weeding and which beds could be left until the winter season as they were being built up.

After the summer, a further complaint was raised that none of the work has been completed – including the cutting of a tree, planting out road entry signs, beds half weeded, and no extra flowers have been planted.

At the pre-summer meeting, the contractor agreed to provide a quote for earth for beds. The quote was received after the summer, to provide soil and fill newly built-up beds. The quote was expensive and there are cheaper options available from local providers. It has been agreed with the contractor that we will use the local providers instead and be able to fill beds as and when completed – due to the flower beds still requiring completion on Green Arbour Road.

The contractor has committed to putting extra employees on the ripping out and replanting over the winter season. He has committed to emptying all beds at the start of October, and that these will be ready for planting, and that this is committed to be completed before Remembrance Sunday – especially in the case of the Memorial Gardens.

The Recreation and Environment Committee have agreed to set up a Working Party, and to meet within the next two weeks to provide designs and plant ideas for the contractor for



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next year's beds – and that the contractor has autonomy to do the beds as he likes for this winter.

**Resolved:-** That the council would like to receive monthly updates on the horticulture contract at the meeting in October and November.

**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

### **9793. To receive an update from the Facilities & Events Committee**

#### **a) To note an update regarding the Council events taking place this year**

The Council noted an update from the Chair of the Facilities and Events Committee covering the events taking place over Halloween with a best dressed house competition judged by the Mayor of Rotherham. Christmas Event on 30<sup>th</sup> November at the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall and the work to provide an extra sleigh route for the village.

### **9794. To receive and note correspondence from RMBC regarding the investigation works being undertaken on Eel Mires Flood Alleviation Scheme**

The Council noted as part of flood alleviation works, access is to be granted for investigation works to take place at the bottom of the field on Hangsman Lane in Laughton Common.

### **9795. To receive correspondence from RMBC and to consider appointing a councillor to attend the Transport Advisory Group**

**Resolved:-** That Cllr M Wordsworth be appointed as a member of the Transport Advisory Group to Rotherham Council.

**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

### **9796. To receive and note correspondence from RMBC in regard to the councils objection to the Traffic Regulation Order proposed for New Orchard Road**

The Clerk shared the response from Highways at Rotherham Council to the Council's recent objection to the Traffic Regulation Order for New Orchard Road. The Assistant Director for Regeneration and Environment, has recently considered my report on the introduction of the proposed restriction, which included the two objections that were received (including the Parish Councils). The outcome of the report, is that the Assistant Director has given approval to implement the restrictions as consulted upon in June / July 2024. It is their intention to implement the lining on site October / November 2024.

### **9797. To receive a draft copy of the Parish Newsletter and consider any further action**



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The Clerk shared a draft copy of a Parish Newsletter that had been developed. The Council felt that the newsletter needed further work, and doubling in the size to cover all the past work that the Council has achieved.

**Resolved:-** That the Clerk collect further ideas by 10<sup>th</sup> October from Councillors via email and that these be incorporated into a further draft for Councils approval.

**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

**9798. To discuss and consider any further action for the waste bins in Thurcroft Cemetery**

**Resolved:-** That no further update to the bin provision at Thurcroft Cemetery is necessary and the current levels are sufficient.

**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

**9799. To receive recommendations from the Finance and General Committee**

**a) To appoint an Internal Auditor for the financial year 2024/25**

**Resolved:-** That Phil Parkin be appointed as the Internal Auditor for 2024/25 completing one interim audit and the end of year audit on the agreed fees highlighted in the letter of engagement received on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024. That the Clerk sign the engagement letter and return this back to the Internal Auditor.

**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

**b) To receive and consider contract templates for the provision of football pitch hire**

**Resolved:-** That the contract be updated to reflect the required insurance liabilities required by the FA and that a meeting be organised with the current teams to implement the contracts.

**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

**c) To consider the pricing for football pitch hire**

**Resolved:-** That the Council adopt the new pricing structure and that this is uploaded to the website for transparency, as well as communicated to current teams that use football facilities to retrospectively apply new pricing from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.

**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

**d) To receive and consider the pricing for Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall**

**Resolved:-** That the Council agree to the new business rates for regular users and that the Clerk inform all user groups that are affected by the changes to ensure that all hire rates are retrospectively adopted on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.



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**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

**e) To receive and approve the cemetery regulations and consider any updates to the prices for Thurcroft Cemetery**

**Resolved:-** That the Council approve the new pricing for 2024, and that this be communicated to all funeral directors for implementation from the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024.

**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

**f) To receive and consider any updates to policies**

**a) Social Media**

**Resolved:-** That the Council agree to update the policy to reflect councillors access to the social media page for the Council. That the Clerk will update and upload the version to the website.

**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

**b) Internal Controls**

**Resolved:-** That the Council agreed to make no changes to the policy, but reflect that the policy has been reviewed.

**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

**c) Antibullying and Harassment**

**Resolved:-** That the Council agreed to abolish the policy in line when Dignity at Work is adopted by the Council.

**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

**d) Homeworking**

**Resolved:-** That the Council agreed to abolish the policy as this is not relevant to any employees currently.

**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

**e) Loneworking**

**Resolved:-** That the Council agree to make no updates to the policy, but highlight that further implementation is needed on the policy.

**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.



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### 9800. To approve accounts for payment and note contractual payments made under the clerk delegation (attached)

**Resolved:-** That the payments schedule be agreed by the Council for payment, and that any payments within the Clerks delegation be noted. A copy of the payment schedule will be included with the minutes to be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting of the Council.

**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

### 9801. To note expenditure outside of the meeting between the Clerk and the Chair in line with Financial Regulation 4.1

No items of expenditure were raised.

### 9802. To consider relevant planning applications as published on RMBC's weekly lists (29-37) along with any associated submissions received and any reports on previous planning applications/issues;

DATE	LIST NO.	P/A NO.	CASE OFFICER	PLANNING DETAILS
22/07/2024	30	RB2024/1048	Trees & Woodlands	1 Brookhouse Dell Thurcroft Application to undertake works to a tree(s) protected by TPO No. (No.6) 1987 <a href="http://rotherham.planportal.co.uk/?id=RB2024/1048">http://rotherham.planportal.co.uk/?id=RB2024/1048</a>
06/08/2024	32	RB2024/1134	Bethany Jackson	125 Laughton Road Thurcroft Demolition of garage and erection of rear extension with rooms in the roof & first floor balcony, canopy to front porch and detached outbuilding to rear <a href="http://rotherham.planportal.co.uk/?id=RB2024/1134">http://rotherham.planportal.co.uk/?id=RB2024/1134</a>
19/08/2024	34	RB2024/1109	Bethany Jackson	28 Sandy Lane Thurcroft Rotherham Removal of boundary treatment allowing vehicle access and dropped kerb facing Sandy Lane. <a href="http://rotherham.planportal.co.uk/?id=RB2024/1109">http://rotherham.planportal.co.uk/?id=RB2024/1109</a>

**Resolved:-** That the Council agreed to take no action on matters included for consideration on the Weekly List 29-37 for the Planning Department received from Rotherham Council.

**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

### 9803. **CONFIDENTIAL SESSION** - To receive correspondence from the local funfair and consider any further action

**Resolved:-** That the Council would like to approve the use of Thurcroft Recreation in line with the current field hire costs at the time of the event, with suitable security fencing to help keep a



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reduction in antisocial behaviour. The Council approved for the funfair to attend on the weekend after the August Bank Holiday.

**Voting:-** 9.Councillors present. All voted in favour.

**9804. To notify the clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting**

There were no items for inclusion on the next agenda.

**9805. To confirm the date and time of the next ordinary meeting of the council on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber of the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall**

**The meeting closed at 8.15pm.**