

## 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 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**Present Councillors:** B. Clark (Chair) C. Walker, H. Bell, V. Burford, T. Murphy, D. Oxley, C. McCartan, R. Butler, A Winsborough, J. Richardson, D. Brown

**Apologies were received from Councillors:** M. Wordsworth

**Absent:** None

**Officers:** S. Wilkinson

~~There were two members of the public in attendance.~~

The meeting started at 6.30pm

#### **FC0053. To receive and consider reasons for absence**

The Council noted the apologies received from M. Wordsworth

#### **FC054. To receive declarations of personal and pecuniary interest<sup>1</sup> for members and officers**

There were no declarations of interest received

#### **FC055. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)**

None received.

#### **FC056. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate**

No requests to grant.

#### **FC057. To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**Resolved:-** That the minutes be approved

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

#### **FC058. 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:-** No Items noted are confidential

#### **FC059. Public Participation Session**

No public present.

#### **FC060. To note the minutes for committee meetings held since the last ordinary meeting of the council**

Chairperson Initial:



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a) **Finance and General Committee held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

b) **Recreation and Environment meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

Both Attached Separately

Both noted.

**FC061. To receive an update regarding instructing a financial a regarding investing in the CCLA**

**Resolved:** Clerk has contacted the SLCC, who do not recommend financial advisors.

Clerk has contacted a financial advisor who confirmed that they would not be able to help due to the public nature of the investment. It was decided that the council would progress the application with the CCLA. Clerk to arrange an appointment with Lee Jaggar to confirm the investment.

**FC062. To receive an update regarding co-option of current councillor vacancies.**

Vacancies have been advertised on Facebook, on the council website and in the notice boards. The application deadline is to be left open ended. It was agreed that leaflets would be printed and distributed to the houses in Laughton Common. One application has been received, and the applicant is to be invited to the next full council meeting.

**Resolved:-** The Clerk has re-advertised opportunities for Co-Option and will print 1000 leaflets for Laughton Common. Co-option applicant to be invited to April 24<sup>th</sup>'s full council meeting.

**FC063. To consider changes to the current IT provision in the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall**

Clerk brought to the attention that we require an internet log on for both customers of the Gordon Bennett and the chambers. Clerk has obtained 2 quotes. Quote 1 requires a new internet line, and a monthly subscription. Option 2 requires an extra router adding on to the existing internet and no additional monthly cost.

**Resolved:-** Option 2 was the preferred option. Clerk to arrange the works.

**FC064. To consider changes to our current payroll provider.**

Brightpay our current provider is no longer available for 25-26. Clerk has obtained quotes for a new payroll provider ranging from £35 per month to £80 per month. The best value quote was from Parkins Accountants in Wickersley at £100 per year and £2.50 per payslip produced.

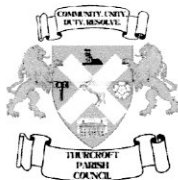
**Resolved:-** Council to swap from Brightpay to Parkins Accountants from April 2025.

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

**FC065. To receive an update from RMBC highways regarding road safety near the Co-op, Spar and Memorial Gardens.**

**Resolved:-** Meeting with Mick Hill at highways has been rearranged to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2025.

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### **FC066. To discuss potential summer events for Thurcroft.**

Summer event for Thurcroft to be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August at the Gordon Bennet Memorial Hall. 3 quotes have been obtained to supply obstacle course and bouncy castles and many more summer fun items. Council voted for option 1. Council to provide wristbands to paying customers, and pop and crisps as part of the entry fee.

**Resolved:-** The Clerk to contact the company and book the event – booking ref 12382 from quote.

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

### **FC067. To note accounts for payment and note contractual payments made under the clerk delegation**

Payments and Receipts for February shown to council and noted.

**Resolved:-** That the payments and receipts be noted.

### **FC068. To note expenditure outside of the meeting between the Clerk and the Chair in line with Financial Regulation 4.1**

Nothing to note.

### **FC069. To receive and consider any grant applications received by the council**

Three grant requests have been received:

Grant 1: received from Thurcroft playgroup for £500 for a base for a shed at the back of the Gordon Bennett to allow the children to play outside.

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

Grant 2: Received from the Willows school in Thurcroft for £30 to cover paper plates and cups for a fund-raising event and £250 contribution for coaches for the school summer day out.

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

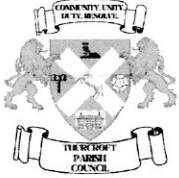
Grant 3: Received from Maltby Lions for £250.00. Maltby Lions Santa's sleigh was a huge hit last Christmas with 2 evenings around Thurcroft. Councillors supported these community events.

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

### **FC070. To receive an update from the meeting regarding Whitestone solar farm run by YLCA 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7pm.**

See attached notes from the meeting from Cllr R Butler.

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**FC071. To consider a request for a fairground 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August on Thurcroft recreational ground.**

**Resolved:-** Fairground has already been approved previously by council. Clerk to inform RMBC and fairground owner.

**FC072. To receive an update on the administration of the cemetery**

**Resolved:-** Clerk informed council that all paperwork sent from Rotherham Crematorium has been sent to a previous clerk's home address since his resignation in 2022. Clerk has contacted the Crematorium and has received all the missing paperwork. The paperwork will now be sent via email to both the clerk and administrator.

**FC073. To receive an update from the clerk (information only)**

- We have obtained quotes for both moving the memorial stone and installing the stone
- A meeting has been arranged with RMBC regarding the position of the notice board in Thurcroft next Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April
- The lights are out on our games area, clerk is awaiting a quote to have them replaced
- The lock at Hangman's Lane was broken, and has been replaced by Cllr Oxley
- The clerk is now on the parish council's bank account, and card purchases can now be made. The address is now the Gordon Bennett and not a personal address
- Waste managed for the cemetery is increasing from £10.80 a month to £95. Clerk has queried this, and it appears that we have been underpaying. Clerk awaiting confirmation from Waste Managed
- The lock on the notice board at Thurcroft had broken and has been replaced by Cllr Oxley
- Lyndsey and David Hutchinson are stepping down from Thurcroft FC. We are awaiting a new contact for them regarding the 25-26 season contract
- We have a meeting with the payback team Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April to arrange the painting of Brampton Park, The Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall and the skate park
- Clerk has obtained quotes for a 1<sup>st</sup> aid course as requested by council
- Clerk is looking into new memorial stone/obelisk for Thurcroft Cemetery

**FC074. To consider relevant planning applications as published on RMBC's weekly lists (40-47) along with any associated submissions received and any reports on previous planning applications/issues;**

RB2024/1317 Erection of 8 dwellinghouses at the land behind 3-61 Katherine Road, Thurcroft

**Resolved:-** No objections

Chairperson Initial:

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### **FC075. To notify the clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting**

Nothing to note.

### **FC076. To confirm the date and time of the next ordinary meeting of the council on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber of the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall**

**The meeting closed at 19.44pm**

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### Update from YLCA meeting 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 regarding Whitestone solar farm from Cllr R Butler

#### The what

It's a 3 section Solar farm the size of Conisbrough. Expected to utilise underground cables following old HS2 route which will be government decision.

#### The why

There is capacity at Brinsworth with the substation being built and Whitestone would connect to this which is why we are seeing so much around Rother Valley at the moment. Whitestone have easily acquired some land and whilst Conisbrough farmers do not want to sell the offers are extremely lucrative therefore it is expected they will secure more land as per their proposal. There are some details on the [gov website](#) where you can track the progress of the application.

Labour's manifesto included increasing housing and clean energy therefore their stance is they are following through on the promises they were voted in on.

THE PLANNING FRAMEWORK HAS CHANGED. It now favours green technology (and some housing developments) and the government have made it clear they support this. If anyone application is refused they can apply for the secretary of state to look at this again. In the past 6 weeks 3 major applications have done this and been overturned despite refusal from local government and planning inspectors.

#### Consultation

This [booklet](#) details most of the information on the consultation process from Whitestone which, taking out the favourable wording, is an accurate description of the process.

They are currently in the pre planning stage. Due to the size of this the decision will go straight to central government as a matter of national interest and us and RMBC are likely to have no formal involvement outside of raising concerns.

#### Concerns to push

- Impact on landscape
- Loss of good quality agricultural land (they will argue this is all temporary and land will be restored after 20 to 30 yrs)
- Impact on biodiversity (again they will argue no impact). They are likely to get an external expert who will do 1 or 2 visits and say all is fine but there was someone on the meeting who is involved in this area of work and will try to get involved as he has 20 years of experience monitoring wildlife. He raised that biodiversity is really a valid concern in our area.
- Impact on local amenities (gov have said Local communities should directly benefit from this mainly financially and developers should engage with parish councils to arrange this) We were warned be careful as this money can have restrictions. Ulley have struggled to spend theirs from the wind turbines that were put up!

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- Access to build everything. Not just the solar panels it's will be the entire infrastructure.
- Visual glare with nearby traffic
- May need to engage landscape experts to support concerns

### **Other comments from meeting**

Some councils were concerned and want everyone to be completely against it but we have a better chance if councils engage. Make your views known but we don't want it to go ahead and be left out of the conversation.

Wickersley seem to be engaging a lot suggesting buffer zones, biodiversity gains, protecting footpaths. Even mentioned a community gain could be they install Solar panels on community buildings for us. Treeton raised that Whitestone we're unaware of their parish boundaries. A farmer there leases the land so they will get no say.

Many parishioners are against. We haven't heard many for. Rotherham council planning officer is in Thurcroft in next few weeks apparently.

Many owners areas included in the plan have not yet been contacted regarding sale. Whitestone are being very slow to respond to these enquiries but have pushed this meeting on 31 Mar saying they have made 'significant changes' to the plan after feedback.

Phase 1 is gone but us as a parish council can voice our parishioners concerns. I think we should engage our community on this so we can do the same. Formal application isn't in yet so there's still time to push.

We want them to know we are working together so they can't divide parishes but certain discussions will differ (I.e. Ulley is currently impacted more than most).

We want assurances on the exact size so they can't change plans and add to it later on as a smaller plan.

1 council asked Whitestone for a tour of one of their sites to see how it looks. Ideally one of their larger ones.

### **Outcome of meeting**

Has to be the right scheme for the right area in moderation.

The main concern is Cumulative impact. Someone suggested trying to ask RMBC to change their policy to consider this when looking at the smaller applications as it pre dates the renewable energy scheme. (I think there's a meeting somewhere on 6 may for chief planning officer).

YLCA is going to write on behalf of their members to Whitestone and RMBC. However, we may want to consider also writing to them to increase numbers.

They are also going to write to the 3 MPs affected Jake, Sarah Champion and John Heeley. All Labour so won't oppose but Jake has said he will support developments in moderation.

Mayoral elections on 5 may so they will write to the candidates to ask each their view on this.

Next YLCA meeting is 18 June at Aston.

Chairperson Initial: