

Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council

Meeting Agenda

Dear Parish Councillors

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council to be held on Wednesday 18 October 2023 at The Oliver Roper Meeting Room at 7pm where the undermentioned business will be transacted.

There will be a 20 minute public forum at the start of the meeting followed by updates from our County and District Councillors. Your presence is required during this time.

Signed: **K. Vickers**, Parish Clerk.

1. Chair's welcoming remarks and note to public to remind them of the Standing Orders regarding public participation in meetings - Notably there can be no participation in meetings once public time has ended. Members of the public raising issues or questions should be aware that only items on the meeting agenda can be debated or decided at the meeting, unless the Parish Clerk has delegated powers to deal with it as urgent, e.g. highway repairs. The Chair may decide to answer a question asked by a member of the public or call on a fellow councillor to do so, or, direct that a written response be given.
2. **Public time (20 mins)** - members of the public may ask questions or make short statements to the Council.
3. To receive updates from District and County Councillors.
4. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 to include any declaration of gifts and hospitality over £25 and note training courses; Procurement – Parish Clerk £30.00.
5. To consider and sign the meeting minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 September 2023 as a true reflection of the meeting. Available on the Parish Council website. Click [here](#) to view.
6. To consider whether the Parish Council will move any items on the agenda to the closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as per Standing Order 7h. Should this resolution be passed the public and press will be required to leave the meeting at this stage.
7. Discuss and authorise payments & note income received. **Appendix A**
8. Consider the financial report for this financial year to date **Appendix B**
9. Discuss and review Parish Clerk report. **Appendix C**
10. To consider if a member of the Wildlife Group has approval to write to Eagle and Swinethorpe and Doddington and Whisby Parish Councils to explain our Wildlife Friendly Community status and invite them to become similarly involved.
11. Fosse Green Energy Update. To approve the Parish Council response to the Fosse Green Energy Non-Statutory Consultation. **Appendix D**
12. To consider forming an allotment working party to include users of the allotments.
13. To consider request from the Scout Groups to amend the current hall access system.
14. Staffing matters.

To consider amending the clerk's contract to include the requirement to grant overtime when necessary.

To consider moving the clerk up to the next salary point following recent appraisal.

To consider the pay increase for the litter picking operative following recent appraisal.

15. Note the following planning applications. N/A

16. To receive and consider correspondence received that has not been circulated to the wider Parish or is not on the agenda.

i. An email has been received from a resident regarding the traffic issues when walking to and from the school.

17. To receive verbal updates from portfolio holders

Future meeting dates

Parish Council Meetings

6 December 2023,

17 January 2024, 6 March 2024, 17 April 2024, 29 May 2024,

10 July 2024, 4 September 2024, 16 October 2024, 4 December 2024

Lake Committee Meeting

TBC

Portfolio holders

- Lake Management Committee – Cllr's, Bindley, Bramford, Lyons, Sheldon
- Staffing Committee – Cllr's Ives, Lyons and Sheldon MBE
- Whisby Quarry Liaison meeting – Cllrs Lyons and *vacancy*
- Whisby Nature Park Steering Board – Cllr Sheldon MBE
- Allotments – Cllr Lyons
- Planning – Cllrs Bindley, Lyons and Williams
- Finance – Cllr Bramford
- Tennis court – Cllr Bramford
- Oliver Roper playpark – Cllr Owen
- Wildlife – Cllr Lyons
- Oliver Roper Parish Meeting Room – Cllrs Bindley, Lyons and Owen

Appendix A - Finance Report Expenditure to authorise/income to note

Expenditure			
07/09/2023	BT	Broadband	39.54
11/09/2023	EDF Energy	Electricity	24.1
12/09/2023	Lloyds Bank	Microsoft + monthly fee	4.99
12/09/2023	PKF Littlejohn	Audit	378
12/09/2023	NKDC	Election fee's	49.7
12/09/2023	Arbuthnot Latham	Playground inspections	134.64
18/09/2023	Emma Hughes	Trinity Scroll	78
18/09/2023	Lincolnshire Pension Fund	salary	233.16
18/09/2023	HMRC	salary	41.2
18/09/2023	Ms K Vickers	salary	717.15
18/09/2023	M Scott	salary	83.5
18/09/2023	Mr J Burden	salary	165.2
30/09/2023	Unity Trust	Service Charge	18
03/10/2023	Mike Daubney	Architect Fee's	1200
03/10/2023	RC Wetherill	Hedge Cutting	45
09/10/2023	BT	Broadband	39.54
09/10/2023	EDF Energy	Electricity	35.15
			3286.87
Income			
12/09/2023	Mrs Peacock	Hall Hire	52
14/09/2023	Brown Bob North	hall hire	52
15/09/2023	Ofgem	Feed in tariff	2.23
18/09/2023	TOTH Playgroup	Hall hire	24
19/09/2023	Lincoln Radio Sailing Club	Hall hire	45.5
25/09/2023	Murray JY	Hall Hire	16
27/09/2023	27th Lincoln Scout Group	Lake Licence	100
27/09/2023	Metcalf J	Tennis key	10
			301.73

Appendix B

	Budget 2023/24	Actual 2023/24
Precept	24,500.00	(24,500.00)
VAT Refunded	2,500.00	(4,537.62)
Allotments and lake	450.00	(1,380.00)
ORPMR	3,000.00	(3,331.47)
Interest Received / Bank charges	1,000.00	0.00
Grants / donations	130.00	0.00
Total income	31,580.00	(33,749.09)

Love Your Parish week (section 137)	300.00	0.00
Insurance	1,800.00	1,804.50
Audit	300.00	558.00
Salary	15,000.00	7,550.48
Training + expenses	500.00	149.88
Subscriptions	330.00	237.65
Repairs & Maintainance of Lake	2,000.00	362.13
Repairs & Maintainance of assets	3,500.00	2,242.13
Various assets	500.00	565.99
Stationary, stamps, office running costs	250.00	400.07
Election	3,000.00	49.70
Grants and donations (Section 137)	2,500.00	1,604.97
ORPMR, bowls and tennis courts	1,500.00	1,391.43
Christmas (Section 137)	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	100.00	133.80
Reserves - items not budgeted for		1,331.80
Total Expenditure	31,580.00	18,382.53

Campaigning/planning issues		1,000.00
Traffic calming		10,000.00
Tennis court deposits		400.00
Purchase of additional assets		0.00
Election		2,000.00
		13,400.00

Balance Sheet

1. Balance Carried Forward	241,836.41
2. Precept	(24,500.00)
3. Other receipts	(9,249.09)
4. Staff costs	7,550.48
6. Other Payments	12,832.05

Unity Bank Current Account	19744.89
Skipton BS	237507.81
Total in bank	257,252.70

Appendix C Parish Clerk report outstanding/ongoing Parish Council decisions

Date raised	Issue	Current position	Person/s responsible
June 2022	Possible extension to ORPMR	<p>Application for planning permission submitted with a determination date of 21 November 2023.</p> <p>Actions PC to discuss process needed to produce a list of quotes received and a recommendation of which one to accept, to place before the PC meeting on 6th December.</p> <p>PC to consider nominating a group of councillors to interview a short list of builders with the Parish Clerk</p>	<p>Cllrs Lyons/Bindley/Owen Parish Clerk</p> <p>All</p>
July 2022	Refurbishment of circular seat on village green	<p>Current position Update – bench has been restored.</p> <p>Actions Landscaping to be completed prior to bench being returned. Possibilities being explored.</p>	Parish Clerk/Caretaker
Sept 2023	Fencing between 2 Westfield Drive and ORPMR play area.	<p>Current position Following lengthy meetings and discussions, the ownership of the fence has not been definitively agreed. An application has been submitted to Land Registry for additional documents which may assist in this matter, but it is unlikely a mutual agreement will be established.</p> <p>Actions Discuss proposal for the PC to demolish and remove the existing fence, and for the resident concerned to replace the fencing therefore taking ownership moving forward.</p>	Parish Clerk
Sept 2023	Bowls Club	<p>Current position Cllrs Lyons and Sheldon have met with representatives of the bowls club to discuss a suitable licence.</p> <p>Actions Cllr Lyons will produce the licence to be agreed by the PC in due course.</p>	Cllrs Lyons/Sheldon
Sept 2023	Bowls Pavilion Repairs	<p>3 quotes have been received. Quotes circulated to PC members Quote 1 - £3236.00 Quote 2 - £1760.00 Quote 3 - £3170.00</p>	All
Sept 2023	Little Miss Muffet play equipment	<p>Current position A minor design fault has been identified.</p> <p>Actions Clerk in contact with supplier.</p>	Parish Clerk
Sept 2023	Playpark annual inspection	<p>Current position Minor actions to be taken following annual inspection.</p>	Cllrs Owen/Lyons/Bindley/ Parish Clerk

All other actions from Parish Council Meetings are either completed or itemised above

Appendix D THORPE ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO FOSSE GREEN ENERGY NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council has many concerns about the proposed Fosse Green Energy Solar Farm and believes that the negative impact of this development far outweighs any envisioned benefits.

Our concerns are based upon:

- The loss of agricultural land, including high quality Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land, both in isolation and cumulatively. This loss will impact on both national and local food security.
- A belief that you have not complied with Planning Inspectorate direction in terms of the Soil Survey you have undertaken. You were instructed to agree that location and number of samples with statutory consultees. We believe you have undertaken the survey without the necessary agreement with North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council. We therefore believe that any application you make will be based on an inadmissible Soil Survey.
- The sheer scale of the project and the consequential unprecedented significance of the impact on the landscape and visual amenity of the area.
- The impacts on Public Rights of Way, their recreational value, and consequential negative impacts on the visitor economy.
- The impact on the mental health of residents if a predominately rural location changes to a predominately industrial landscape. Currently residents live near the centre of the Witham Valley Country Park. This proposal, if approved, will turn 2,500 acres, at the very heart of that park, into an ugly industrial landscape.
- The impact of the development upon the existing natural environment and wildlife, and the potential to compensate for and mitigate such impact.
- The significance of disruption to the community during the construction and decommissioning phases, as well as any significant maintenance/ replacement works during the operational life of the project.
- We have received no clear explanation as to why your boundary includes short stretches of both Lincoln Lane and Station Road and a significant stretch of Fosse Lane. We feel a clear explanation is necessary as to how and why you can lay claim to public roads.
- The fact that Stocking Wood remains within the site boundary and there is no written guarantee that it will be protected as woodland.
- The selection of the areas within the boundary of the farm where solar panels will be located. We note that many fields in close proximity to Thorpe on the Hill have been designated for panels, whereas large areas to the west of the village have been allocated for buried cables and habitat creation. We feel this shows very little consideration for the concerns of residents and ask you to interchange the solar panels fields closest to the village with those fields further away designated for buried cables and habitat creation.
- The uncertainty of the operational lifespan of the project. It is very unlikely that renewable energy technology will remain unchanged for forty years. Decommissioning could be needed well within the projected forty-year lifespan if new technologies emerge.
- The uncertainty over battery storage safety, and the capacity of the emergency services to deal with accidents and fires, and the consequence risk of physical and respiratory injury to residents.

- The uncertainty over the ethical sourcing of the solar panels, batteries and supporting infrastructure, both hardware and software.
- The involvement of overseas companies with little local, or even national, oversight or accountability.
- We do not believe a true assessment has been made of the environmental impact of sourcing the solar panels, batteries and supporting infrastructure. Therefore, the carbon saving benefits of the project are not clearly established.
- A spreading rumour among residents that this project could result in reduced electricity bills. We do not believe this is true and call upon you, as the developers, to refute this false rumour.
- A predicted and uncompensated fall in house prices. Even a 5% fall in value would see a collective loss in equity of £5,000,000 for Thorpe on the Hill householders.

We would add to our concerns the fact that many residents feel overwhelmed by the sheer scale of this development and the resources that you, the developers, can deploy.

Documents prepared by your consultants already run to hundreds of pages and are far beyond the capacity of any ordinary person to absorb and respond to.

Put bluntly, you are an investment group seeking to completely change the nature of the area surrounding our homes for your shareholders' financial gain.

This is creating great anxiety among residents.

We ask you to cease and desist.