

Thurloxtton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th November 2024 at 7.30pm in Thurloxtton Village Hall

Present:

H Coombs (Chair)
A Hooper (Vice Chair)
A Quick
J Trott
P Mackay
H Barrington (Clerk)
A Bradford (SC)

Members of the public present: Mr C Trott

Public Session: There were no issues raised.

1. **Apologies:** B Revans (SC)
2. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 12th September 2024 were agreed and duly signed, proposed by P Mackay, seconded by A Hooper.
3. **Matters arising from last meeting:** none.
4. **Planning Applications:**

Update on existing applications:

48/24/00001 Mr & Mrs Greenslade, 53 Knutscroft Lane, Thurloxtton. Erection of single storey rear South extension, removal of flat roof above existing extension and formation of pitched roof.

Application supported by parish council-permission granted (with conditions) by Somerset Council-Planning North 25/9/24

Somerset Local Plan-City, Town and Parish Councils Engagement Questionnaire:

The councillors discussed the questions relevant to our parish and the Clerk will submit the answers online.

5. Finance

Bank balance:

	Income	Expenditure
Opening Balance £8670.98 as at 12/9/24		
SALC Affiliation fee		£47.90
D Lock work September		£104.00
Clerk's salary & HMRC deductions		£577.53
D Lock work October		£117.00
TEEC Ltd -hosting support package		£187.20
Closing balance £7637.35 as at 14/11/24		

Payments: Payments have been made to SALC affiliation fee £47.90, D Lock for work in September £104.00 and work in October £117, Clerks salary and HMRC deductions £ 577.53, TEEC hosting support package Jul 2024-June 2025 £187.20.

Payments due: A payment of £25 is due to be made to SALC for the Code of Conduct Training session attended by J Trott on 13/11/24. The Clerk is authorised to pay the invoice when it is issued: proposed by A Quick, seconded by J Trott.

6. Highways and Footpath issues:

Highway issues:

Grit bins: The grit bins have been put out for the winter.

Overgrown central reservation Knotcroft Lane/A38 Junction: This safety issue for anyone using this junction has been reported by the Clerk to Highways 3 times, and B Revans escalated the issue to the Service Director for Infrastructure and Transport. On all occasions it was inspected and assessed as not being a safety issue and not severe enough to require action. In the meantime, the road was closed for North Petherton Carnival on 9th November and the carnival floats parked on the central reservation have flattened the grass and improved the visibility considerably.

Footpaths Issues:

Public Rights of Way Maintenance-guidance for parish councils: All councillors have received a copy via email. The guidance encourages parish councils to deal with footpath matters e.g. vegetation clearance at a local level.

7. Lengthsman Scheme:

Mr Lock continues to keep the drains clear, but leaves are a persistent problem at the moment. He will cut the grass once more before the winter.

8. Village Hall:

The quiz has been postponed until March, Soups and Puds is due to start on 17th January 2025 and the barn dance has been booked for 5th May 2025 in the Fruit Farm shed. Finances are very healthy although there will be extra heating costs in the coming months.

9 . Book Exchange:

The book exchange has had its autumn tidy up: old books have been removed and donated to Barnardos, over 150 freshly donated books have been stacked on the shelves. We have still not had an invoice from Mr Greenslade for the re-painting materials and A Hooper will chase it up.

10. Website:

The councillors were sent a link to the test website. It was felt that it could do with some more content eg photos of the parish as it is looking a bit bare and the councillors' declaration of interests need to be uploaded. The Clerk reported that the support provided by the Parish Support Desk works well and she will contact them about setting a "live" date.

11. Hestercombe LCN update

Report from LCN meeting 19th September:

H Coombs attended the last LCN meeting on 19th September with two main issues on the agenda: highways and provision for children and young people. The next LCN meeting is on 22nd January 2025 at North Newton Village Hall starting at 7pm which H Coombs and the Clerk hope to attend.

12. Councillor Training:

Jade Trott completed her Code of Conduct training on 13/11/24. There is availability on the remaining sessions in November and December and more sessions will be arranged in January/ February 2025 which the other councillors may be able to attend.

13. Clerk's contract of employment: There are several variables in the NALC template contract that need alteration so the councillors agreed that the Clerk should prepare an amended draft contract to present at the next parish council meeting.

14. Matters of report and items for the next meeting:

Clerk's contract of employment, budget and precept.

15. Date of next meeting: Thursday 9th January 2025 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.16pm

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