

## THORNAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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### **The minutes of the Thornage Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 at 6.30pm at Gregories Barn, Thornage.**

**Present:** Cllrs Dan Earp (Chairman), Teresa Anderson, Jerry Cox, Peter Hammond, Lisa Moor, Dany Pearce and Nigel Watchorn, Kerry Harris (Clerk)  
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#### **25/69 Welcome and to consider apologies for absence**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.  
NNDC Cllr Brown sent his apologies

#### **25/70 To receive Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations**

There were none.

#### **25/71. To Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

The minutes were unanimously Approved on a Proposal by Cllr Watchorn and Seconded by Cllr Anderson.

#### **25/72. Matters Arising**

There were none.

#### **25/73. Open Forum for Public Participation**

##### **(i) NCC Cllr Dalby**

Cllr Dalby had sent written reports for October and November covering updates on Local Government Reorganisation, NCC Budget consultation, Avian flu in Norfolk; the new Highways contract with Kier, the Norfolk adoption service; SEND education in Norfolk; support package for staff at Lotus cars; household hazardous waste days and AI programme to prevent falls to be rolled out across Norfolk.

##### **NNDC Cllr Brown**

Cllr Brown had sent a written report which addressed local government reform; Mayoral elections in 2026; overdue County Council elections; Crime Commissioner briefing; new voting registration rules; new supermarkets in Holt; Housing supply numbers; the new Local Plan will be taken to Full Council for adoption in December.

Cllr Pearce wanted more information on the Crime Commissioner briefing that 20mph limits could be set locally. She will email Cllr Brown for further information.

##### **(ii) Thornage Hall**

No report received.

##### **Friends of Thornage**

No report received.

##### **The Church**

No report received.

Cllr Earp stated that all events for the Church and Friends of Thornage are now advertised on the WhatsApp Group

**(iii) Opportunity for Members of the Public to raise questions or concerns.**

No members of the public were present.

**25/74. Chair's Report**

All items are on the agenda.

**25/75. Clerk's report**

All items are on the agenda – but Cllrs need to be aware of National Government announcements on Devolution and local government reorganisation and how this will impact their finances.

**25/76 Planning Matters**

**(i) To receive an update on current planning applications**

PF/25/2040 Jarrolds – Retention of existing internal & external alterations - Approved

PF/25/2124 Lambert House – Replacement doors & windows at Stiffs Cottage - Approved

**(ii) To Approve the PC response on new Planning Matters**

CL/25/2622 Lawful development certificate for the existing use of annexe/recording studio ancillary to main dwelling: the PC are not asked to comment, but additional information is requested. No issues have been noted by the nearest neighbour.

**25/77 Highways Matters**

**(i) To note actions taken regarding the NCC Parish Partnership offer and Approve any action**

Not enough time was available to get the required quotes from NCC and their partner organisations before the deadline for the application. A rough estimate provided by the NCC Design Team was £30,000.

Cllr Moor said that a recent ex-resident of the village had a photo showing a pavement on the area of the proposed trod path. Cllr Hammond said there had not been a path at this location while he has been resident, for 50 years. Cllr Cox said that he could find no evidence of a tarmac path, Cllr Moor was asked to get a copy of the photo as this would be important for a future application.

Cllr Cox stated that obtaining a 20mph speed limit through the village should be the focus.

Cllr Earp asked Cllrs to consider what the PC should apply for in the Parish Partnership offer next year.

**25/78 To receive an update on Green Spaces in the Parish and Approve any action**

Lord Hastings has confirmed that the “kissing gate” in the meadow will be installed. There will be a discussion regarding a path around the top of the meadow. A path to the new Church car park has also been requested. Fencing should be requested to make the path safe.

**(i) To consider correspondence regarding the footpath**

Cllrs note that this is a rural area and that it is not illegal for cows and calves to be in a field with a footpath running through it. The Clerk will respond to the email.

**25/79. To receive an update on the Volunteers Group**

A successful litter pick was held Saturday 1st November. With thanks for those who joined in. The other jobs, like the telephone box and signpost, will be done when the weather is better. It was proposed the Council might consider replacing the wooden village signpost with a more durable metal one in view of the costs of maintenance this painted wooden one. Thanks were offered to the resident who has painted the Church gates

**25/80. To receive an update on the Thornage Village Survey**

Cllr Moor has posted the survey results through the door of all residents in the village.

She has now had 2 meetings with the new Road group. 6 people are needed to set up a SpeedWatch Group – there are 7 in the Group. Cllr Moor explained the process.

“20 is Plenty” stickers are to be given to every resident in the village to display (Friends of Thornage have agreed to pay for them) – Cllr Moor has checked that this is not illegal in a 30mph limit area. Cllr Moore said that there are many ways that residents can report people speeding to the police and should log their concerns. She asked that residents log HGVs driving through the village that are too big and to note any agricultural vehicles that cause damage to buildings and walls in the village. She is organising a traffic survey next week to record all vehicles using the road through the village.

**25/81. Finance and Governance Matters**

- (i) To Approve the Cashbook and Budget Update – The balance on the Bank Account from 31<sup>st</sup> October statement was £7,620.29. Since the last meeting: Receipts: £3,300.00 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Precept payment Payments Countrystyle Recycling £21.00 – duplicate payment made which CR have confirmed will be set against next invoice; £175.00 Update of website; £450.00 Grass cutting on the Common; £129.60 Wix Plan Light; £15.00 shared cost with Thursford PC for hire of Hindringham Village Hall for Defib Awareness course; £668.93 Clerk’s salary (October to December); £167.20 (Tax on salary). Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Cox and Seconded by Cllr Hammond
- (ii) To consider and Approve a grant to Thornage All Saints PCC – the PCC have applied for a grant of £470 for Churchyard maintenance for 2026-27, This has been added to the proposed budget for the next Financial Year and was Approved as part of the the Budget discussion.
- (iii) To consider and Approve a donation to Thornage Hall for the use of Gregories Barn for the PC Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December – A donation of £20 was Approved by All as the same cost as the hire of the Church on a Proposal by Cllr Hammond and Seconded by Cllr Pearce.
- (iv) To Approve the Budget and Precept for the 2026-27 Financial Year- Cllrs were concerned that the small level of Reserves which had finally been achieved could be lost quickly if new legislation led to costs for the Council. Cllr Moor informed Cllrs that the national average precept cost is £92 – however Cllrs noted that Thornage is a very small PC compared to the national average. Cllrs decided that resilience was important as the cost to the PC of changes being imposed due to Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation were currently unknown. A precept of £7,200 was Proposed by Cllr Cox and Seconded by Cllr Moor – 6 votes for the motion, 1 vote against. The Motion is carried.
- (v) To Approve the following policies: Reserves, Internal Control, Data Protection – Reserves Policy was Approved by All on a Proposal By Cllr Pearce and Seconded by Cllr Anderson; Internal Control Policy – Cllr Pearce was Approved to be the Internal Control Councillor and the policy was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Moor and Seconded by Cllr Cox; Data Protection was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Cox and Seconded by Cllr Watchorn
- (vi) To Approve £7.20 as a contribution towards Training costs for the Clerk (Online Course by NPTS - Assertion 10: Digital and Data compliance. Total cost.- £36 + VAT. NPTS now add VAT to their invoices so the cost will be paid by Thursford PC and 20% of net cost reclaimed from each of the other Councils the Clerk works with – This was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Pearce and Seconded by Cllr Anderson.

**25/81. To receive an update on the website**

The Clerk informed Cllrs that the update to the website is now complete. The Clerk's .gov.uk email address will be the PC email from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. She will continue to monitor the current email address once a day.

- (i) To Approve training costs for the Clerk in Accessibility & updates to the website: 50% of costs for the 2 PC websites the Clerk works with continuing with wix – maximum £50 (full cost £95-£100).  
This was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Pearce and Seconded by Cllr Anderson.

### **25/82. To Approve actions regarding the Defibrillator access code and monitoring arrangements**

The Defibrillator Awareness session had raised the question about whether the access code should be available to all – which may leave the defibrillator uninsured, but could save a life.

Approved by All on a proposal by Cllr Cox and Seconded by Cllr Moor that the code will be available next to the defibrillator.

Cllr Anderson agreed to be a backup monitor for the Defibrillator.

### **25/83. To consider publication of Newsletters**

Generally a Newsletter is issued after each PC meeting, particularly after this (the budget setting) meeting. It was agreed that the next Newsletter should be published in January. Cllrs will provide updates on The Common and a request for volunteers to join a Working Party, information about the availability of the Defibrillator code. The Clerk will remind Cllrs in early January and the Newsletter will go out in the middle of the month.

### **25/84 To note any Correspondence**

NNDC note re Local Gov't Reorganisation	NCC Cllr Dalby October report
Fakenham & Holt areas police updates	Paper bank update
Closure of B1354	NNDC Planning update
Paper Bin update	NPTS Training invoice update
NNDC Cllr Brown email on speeding	NCC Cllr Dalby November report
NCC Budget consultation	NNDC Devolution & LGR Updates
Little Thornage speeding comments	NNDC Local Plan Update
Affordable Housing Crisis	MP Steff Aquarone PC Report
B1110 Road closure	NPTS Newsletter
Footpath correspondence	

### **25/85. To set the rota for the Bottle Bank**

January – Cllr Cox, February – Cllr Pearce, March – Cllr Hammond, April – Cllr Moor  
The Paperbank has still not been removed. The Clerk will request an update.

### **25/86. Any Other Business (for information only)**

None.

**25/87 Dates for future meetings;** - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 6.30pm – All Saints Church  
Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April

**25/88. To close the meeting:** The meeting closed at 8.19pm.

Signed

Date: