

THORNAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of the Thornage Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th March 2026, 6.30pm at All Saints Church, Thornage.

Present: Cllrs Dan Earp (Chairman), Teresa Anderson, Jerry Cox, Peter Hammond, Lisa Moor, Dany Pearce and Nigel Watchorn, Kerry Harris (Clerk) NNDC Cllr Andrew Brown
1 resident

26/01 Welcome and to consider apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.
NCC Cllr Dalby sent his apologies

26/02 To receive Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations

Cllr Watchorn declared an interest in the Church car park planning application. He was given a dispensation to speak and to vote.

26/03. To Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd December

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

26/04. Matters Arising

Cllr Earp asked about the photo of the pavement near the church. Cllr Moor said that it had not been possible to obtain it.

26/05. Open Forum for Public Participation

(i) NCC Cllr Dalby

Cllr Dalby had sent a written report – County Council elections to take place on 7th May; County Council budget agreed with a 4.998% increase in Council Tax; Update on number of emergency and non-emergency calls to the Norfolk fire service last year; Highway Improvements: NCC has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting local communities with the approval of 99 new highway improvement schemes for 2026-27 in the Parish Partnership scheme, and gave national updates on the Schools White Paper, the Post Office Green Paper and Environment Agency teams protecting waterways from pollution.

The Chair noted thanks to Cllr Dalby for fulfilling his role as County Cllr.

NNDC Cllr Brown

Cllr Brown is standing to be a County Cllr. Study with Hunworth is in the new Holt Division; Anglian Water have announced a new round of the Thriving Communities Fund to provide grants for better drainage features such as ponds and rain gardens; an update on the closure of Corpusty School; concerns about fly-tipping; emergency help with fuel bills announced; new Vodafone mast at Saxthorpe.

(ii) Thornage Hall

No report received.

Friends of Thornage

No report received.

The Church

No report received.

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

A member of the public provided a report to Councillors from the Thornage Road Group on HGVs and the B1110 and requesting a feasibility study.

Cllr Earp reminded Councillors of the December 2024 meeting with the Highways Engineer and the cost of a feasibility study which, with no guarantee of the findings Councillors had agreed not to pursue.

After some discussion on the course of action, NNDC Cllr Brown suggested the Council could request a copy of the Road Traffic Regulation Order to ensure the signage on the road is legally compliant.

1 resident left

26/06. To receive an update from the Chairman since the last meeting

All items are on the agenda.

26/07 Planning Matters

(i) To receive an update on current planning applications

PF/25/2686 Stiffs Cottage: erection of garden shed - Approved

CL25/2622 Recording studio – confirmed lawful use

(ii) PF/26/0386 change of use of land from agriculture to car parking area: All Saints Church – On a Proposal by Cllr Earp and Seconded by Cllr Cox, supported by All

- (iii) PF/26/0390 change of use of building from agriculture to covered seating area/hospitality and further building from covered seating area to retail use including external alterations to existing buildings and associated cycle parking - Back To The Garden** – Concern was expressed about this additional expansion, particularly from the perspective of access to the highway. There was support for additional employment offered. Councillors wanted additional signage and expected NCC Highways to look critically at the application. On a Proposal by Cllr Cox and Seconded by Cllr Watchorn the Council agreed to support the application: 3 votes for support + the casting vote, 3 votes for Neutral, 1 abstention. The application is supported.

26/08 Highways Matters

There were no updates.

26/09 To receive an update on Green Spaces in the Parish and Approve any action

The permissive path to the Common was walked by residents prior to the coffee morning and was well supported. Councillor Watchorn will contact Lord Hastings for an update on the Kissing Gate.

Cllr Pearce asked about a path to connect the Church with the car park. This would need to be a new agreement with Lord Hastings and would require steps.

26/10. To receive an update on the Volunteers Group

Volunteers have trimmed around the gates, hedges and the 30-mph sign. The milestone is the responsibility of the village to maintain and previously Friends of Thornage have paid for the sign writer.

The Telephone Box is still waiting: the paint has been purchased. The cost of hiring a professional to do the work will be investigated as it is a large job.

26/11. To receive an update on the Thornage Village Survey

Cllr Moor has collated the results of the survey with respect to the B1110. A Working Party will be convened to work on the findings of the Survey and periodically report to the PC for on their discussions and suggested actions. Cllr Pearce agreed to be on the Working Party with Cllr Moor. Cllr Moor said that members of the Thornage Road Group would like to be members of the Working Party but will also act as a separate lobbying group independently of the PC Working Party.

The Clerk will contact NCC Highways regarding sharing the costs of feasibility studies between a number of Parish Councils.

Cllr Moor is waiting to receive a letter from Thornage Hall of support for a 20-mph speed through Thornage for their vulnerable adults.

The Road Group have 9 members allowing 3 teams of 3 people for Speed watch. The Police will allocate stations where the Group can stand for Speedwatch sessions as part of the training session taking place in April.

Cllr Moor informed the PC that the Road Group have formulated a letter to be delivered to all residents asking them to drive at 20-mph through the village and this includes a list of the actions residents can take if they note speeding or oversize vehicles.

26/12. Finance and Governance Matters

(i) To Approve the Cashbook and Budget Update – The balance on the Bank Account from 27th January statement was £6,066.36. Since the last meeting: Receipts: none; Payments Countrystyle Recycling £24.00 – (£45.00 - £21.00 duplicate Payment); £72.00 NPTS course – Chairing with confidence; £668.96 Clerk's salary (October to December); £167.20 (Tax on salary). £86.40 NPTS Annual Subscription; £45.24 Clerk's expenses; £20.00 Hire of Church for meeting 18.03.26 - Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Pearce and Seconded by Cllr Earp.

(ii) To Approve the following policies: Privacy Statement, Risk Management, Information Audit, Data Protection for Councillors, Equality & Diversity – One typing error was noted in the Equality Policy. There were no further questions. The 5 policies were adopted on a Proposal by Cllr Pearce and Seconded by Cllr Anderson. Councillors completed the Data Protection for Cllrs information.

(iii) To Approve a contribution towards Training costs for the Clerk to attend the following courses:£11.00 to be paid to Thursford PC (Internal Audit course) & £11.20 to be paid to Gunthorpe with Bale PC (NPTS Spring Seminar) plus 20% contribution towards mileage for each course – held in venues in Costessy. The training costs were Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Earp and Seconded by Cllr Pearce.

26/13. To consider full Council Training for Thornage PC and Approve any action

The Clerk will send round the list of proposed topics – 6 topics can be included. The session will last for approximately 2 hours. Councillors would like it to take place on an evening in the summer. Full Council Training was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Cox and Seconded by Cllr Anderson.

26/14. To receive an update on the website

There were no comments on the website. The Clerk reported that the Trident App did not always send all attachments, so requested Councillors to contact her if a listed attachment was not there.

26/15. To consider and Approve any action with regards to replacing the Village Sign

Concern was expressed about the deteriorating condition of the Village Sign. It was agreed that the recent £500 renovation cost was not good value for money. Councillors considered a replacement

sign in either aluminium or wood. Cllr Cox agreed to donate a piece of oak and a simple design including "Thornage" on the top was discussed. It was agreed to consult the views of residents in the next Newsletter.

26/16. To Approve the date for publication of the next Newsletter

It was agreed that the next Newsletter will be published after the Annual Parish Council meeting in May and will include articles on the Village Sign, suggestions for replacing the Cherry Tree on the Green and an update on the Speed Awareness Group.

26/17 To note any Correspondence

NCC Cllr Dalby updates & reports	Notice of Adoption of NNDC Local Plan
NNDC Response to MHCLG consultation on Local Gov't Reorganisation	
Police priorities – winter 2025	B1149 closure 4-5 March
Wcfchangers proposals for heating consortium	NCC Cllr Dalby March report
NPTS Training course list	

26/18. To set the rota for the Bottle Bank

April – Cllr Moor, May – Cllr Earp, June – Cllr Anderson, July – Cllr Watchorn

The Paperbank has now been removed.

Trees and drainage around the Bottlebank will be added to the Autumn agenda

26/19. Any Other Business (for information only)

Parish Council meetings will be advertised on the Village WhatsApp Group.

Cllr Watchorn noted that NCC Highways did not collect their signs after carrying out work.

Cllrs will contact the Estate Agent as the property is for sale where the Lobster is located as there is concern that this is a distraction to motorists.

26/19 Dates for future meetings; - Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 15th April
Annual Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 26th May

26/20. To close the meeting: The meeting closed at 8.03pm.

Signed

Date: