

THORNAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of the Annual Thornage Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 6.30pm at All Saints Church, Thornage.

Present: Cllrs Dan Earp (Chairman), Dany Pearce (Vice Chair), Teresa Anderson, Jerry Cox, Peter Hammond, Lisa Moor and Nigel Watchorn, Kerry Harris (Clerk),
0 residents.

25/24 Election of Chairman

Dan Earp was unanimously elected Chair of the Council for 2025-26 on a Proposal by Cllr Cox and Seconded by Cllr Pearce. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

25/25 Election of Vice Chair

Dany Pearce was unanimously elected Vice Chair for 2025-26 on a Proposal by Cllr Earp and Seconded by Cllr Cox. She signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

25/26 To welcome those present to the meeting

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting

25/27. To consider apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from NNDC Cllr Andrew Brown.

25/28. To receive Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations

There were none.

25/29. To Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th March

These were unanimously Approved on a Proposal by Cllr Hammond and Seconded by Cllr Pearce.

25/30. Matters Arising

There were none.

25/31. To review the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr Earp thanked all for their contributions. There were no amendments

25/32. Open Forum for Public Participation

(i) NCC Cllr Dalby

Cllr Dalby had sent 2 written reports

Annual Report: Council delivers Balanced Budget – while costs have risen by £121million, funding has only increased by £32million and the Government has eliminated the Rural Services Delivery Grant and reallocated funds from rural to metropolitan areas. Council Tax will increase by 4.99%. Norfolk announced as priority area for new powers and funding – as part of this the Government is seeking to create a devolution deal for Norfolk and Suffolk which would include the introduction of an elected mayor. The Government also intends to replace the 2-tier structure where services are shared between County & District Councils with unitary authorities. Norfolk signs agreement with Ukrainian region of Lviv. Norfolk CC opposes National Grid pylon scheme. Highways – Norfolk is set to receive more than £65million for highways maintenance this year. Norfolk took the top spot for the 2nd year in a row in the National Highways & Transport survey on roads and transport. The new

Herring Bridge in Great Yarmouth has received national recognition. NCC committed over £1million to keep people warm last winter. NCC's New Strategy puts Norfolk at the forefront of the UK economy – Norfolk is a global leader for offshore wind. and, the local Agri-food & Agri-tech economy puts Norfolk at the centre of addressing challenges around food security and climate change, the Visitor Economy accounts for nearly 20% of all employment, the New Anglia Growth Hub acts as the 'front door' for local businesses looking for support.

Street Lighting – starting in November 2024 100% of NCC's street lighting will use LEDs with an estimated saving of £380,000 pa.

Working Well Norfolk, launched in October 2023, is a scheme to support people in Norfolk with long-term health issues get back into work. For further information tel. 01603 561054

Explore 1,500 miles of Scenic Trails for Walking, Cycling & Horse Riding. For more information – www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/42852/Norfolk-Trails

May Report – Local Government Reorganisation – NCC anticipates receiving feedback from the Norfolk & Suffolk Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation consultation within this month; Norfolk's Local Government Nature Strategy (LNRS) is a plan for restoring wildlife across the County. The consultation closes on 11th June.

NNDC Cllr Brown

Cllr Brown has sent a written report:

Planning Reform – The new Government's planning reform has proposals for easier acquisition of building land by local authorities, localizing planning fees and increasing capacity/power for planning officers with the abolition of Planning Committees. Local Plan – The Govt. Inspector announced that recent changes agreed with the Council are acceptable so the annual target for housing will be 575 new houses over the next 15 years instead of 900+. Food Waste Collections – this is a national requirement from April 2026 and each household will receive a 5l food waste caddy; New Bank Hub – a temporary hub was opened at The Venue in Holt until a permanent venue is ready later this year.; Holt Primary School – NCC will not commit to building the new school due to falling numbers; New Lidl in Holt – NNDC are expecting a planning application.

(ii) Thornage Hall

No report had been received.

Friends of Thornage

No report had been received.

The Church – Jerry Pearce

No report had been received.

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

There were no residents present.

25/33. Chair's Report

All items are on the agenda.

25/34. Clerk's report

The Clerk reminded Cllrs that all invoices must bear the name of the PC. She noted the following changes will take place over the following year: Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation, and potential impact on the PC.

25/35 Planning Matters

(i) To receive an update on current planning applications

ADV/25/0185 Back to the Garden – Replacement of existing signs – Approved

LA/25/0422 Lambert House – Internal & External works and Solar panels – Approved

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5 pages 0 appendices

DRAFT until AGREED at following meeting.

PF/25/0607 Hill House – partial alterations to existing loft accommodation – Pending consideration

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

There are none

25/36. Highways Matters

(i) To consider and Approve any action on funding for a bus shelter

Cllrs agreed that a bus shelter would be nice and useful for keeping bus users sheltered from the rain. It was agreed however that the timescale would not allow progression at this stage as Cllrs would require time to liaise with the bus company, landowner and residents regarding the location of a bus shelter and whether one or two would be required.

Cllr Moor said that of the 65 Surveys returned so far, approximately 10 of them had mentioned buses: she will collate this information and give a fuller report at the next meeting.

Cllrs expressed concern that bus times were not convenient for residents: it was not possible to return by bus from Holt in the afternoon and Thornage Hall employees could not use a bus for working hours

(ii) To consider any action on signage along the B1110

The Clerk will contact NCC Highways to ask about the missing sign restricting long vehicles from Thornage.

(iii) To consider the impact of vehicle weight in Thornage

The Clerk will contact NCC Highways to ask about concern that water pipes are being damaged due to weight of vehicles passing through Thornage. Cllr Earp will also raise this with MP Steffan Aquarone.

25/37 To receive an update from the Working Party on Green Spaces in the Parish and Approve any action

Cllr Watchorn is waiting to hear from the Estate Manager before progressing with further action on the path through to the Common. The spring near the bottlebank is exiting onto the lane rather than the main road now that the ditch has been dug out.

25/38. To receive an update on the Volunteers Group

Cllr Cox has all necessary equipment and will start painting the telephone box now that the weather is improving. Cllr Earp has purchased the paint.

25/39. To receive an update on the Thornage Survey

Cllr Moor has received 65 responses and is collecting a further 8 tomorrow. There remains about 25% of the village to survey. The biggest issue noted so far is the road: residents would like to walk through the village without being concerned by cars. NCC Highways will be contacted to uncover parts of the pavement which have become silted up.

Cllrs also wanted hatched walkways painted and lines in the middle of the road. A Community Speedwatch Group would indicate to Highways concern of residents and the PC.

Another area of note from the Survey was a positive response to the Church being used as both a place of worship and a place for the community to meet.

25/40. To receive an update on Defibrillator and CPR Training

A number of people have now expressed an interest. A date has yet to be arranged.

25/41. Finance and Governance Matters

(i) To Agree the Internal Audit undertaken for y/e 31st March 2025–. The Internal Audit was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Earp and Seconded by Cllr Anderson.

- (ii) To Approve the Signing of the Exemption Certificate for 2024/25 - As the PC has income and expenditure of less than £25,00 signing of the Exemption Certificate was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Earp and Seconded by Cllr Hammond.
- (iii) To Approve the Governance Statement for 2024/25 (AGAR Form 2) - The Governance Statements were read by Cllr Earp and Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Cox and Seconded by Cllr Hammond.
- (iv) To Approve the Accounting Statement for 2024/25 (AGAR Form 2) - The Accounting Statement was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Cox and Seconded by Cllr Pearce.
- (v) To note the dates of the Notice of Public Rights – Public Rights will take place this year from Monday 9th June until Friday 18th July.
- (vi) To Approve the Cashbook and Budget Update – The balance on the Bank Account from 30th April statement was £7,020.37. Since the last meeting: Receipts: 2024-25 – none, 2025-26 NNDC (first half of precept) £3,300.00; Payments 2024-25 – ICO (Subscription) £47.00, 2025-26 - Countrystyle Recycling (bottlebank collection) £24.00, D. Dann (Internal Audit) £40.00, Thornage All Saints PCC (hire of church) £20.00. These were Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Pearce and Seconded by Cllr Cox.
- Cllrs want to transfer the Reserves into a separate account. Cllr Moor suggested CAF Bank. The Clerk will investigate this and other possibilities and report to the next meeting.
- (vii) To Approve a Grant to Thornage All Saints PCC - £450 was included in the budget for the PCC to use on the Churchyard. Cllr Hammond wanted the PC to pay after receiving receipts. Cllr Earp stated that the receipts could be requested at the end of the season. The grant of £450 was Proposed by Cllr Watchorn and Seconded by Cllr Cox: 6 votes for the Proposal, 1 vote against. The Proposal was carried
- (viii) To Approve the Asset Register – This was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Anderson and Seconded by Cllr Moor. Cllr Earp will take photos of the assets and forward them to the Clerk.
- (ix) To Approve the Insurance for 2025 - 26– Zurich Municipal were Approved by all as the Council's Insurer, at a cost £241.00, for the forthcoming year on a Proposal by Cllr Earp and Seconded by Cllr Hammond.

25/42. To consider the recommendations in the Practitioner's Guide regarding the website and email addresses effective from 1st April 2025 and Approve any Action

It was agreed that the PC needs to purchase a Domain and it was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Pearce and Seconded by Cllr Watchorn that the Clerk can investigate and purchase a Domain once one has been found. A full discussion on the way forward regarding the host platform and email addresses will take place at the next meeting.

25/43. To Approve the publication of the next Newsletter

The next Newsletter will be issued in mid-July. Topics to be included – a report of the Annual Parish Meeting, the PC meeting and the Chair & Vice Chair for 2025-26, a summary of results from the Survey, any update on the Common and forthcoming events.

25/44 To note any Correspondence

NCC LGA interim Re-organisation Submission
 Recycling credits audit
 NNDC Response to LGA Re-organisation
 Briston Invite to VE Day for PC Chairs
 NCC funding for bus shelters
 NNDC Planning Training

NPTS Spring update
 Resident's email on Highways matters
 M Dalby April report
 Domain name requirement for PCs
 May closure of B1354
 Environment Agency – local work

25/45. To set the rota for the Bottle and Paper Banks

July – Cllr Cox, August – Cllr Watchorn, September – Cllr Moor

25/46. Any Other Business (for information only)

Cllr Cox volunteered to cut the small triangle opposite the Common, using a long arm hedge trimmer. The cherry tree will be removed this year and replaced with a tree, suitable to the wet conditions and not large to ensure that it doesn't take light away from neighbouring properties

25/47 Dates for future meetings; - Wednesdays 3rd September and 3rd December 6.30pm

The September meeting will take place in the Church, the venue for the December meeting will be agreed in September.

25/48. To close the meeting: The meeting closed at 8.33pm.

Signed

Date: