



## THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

### The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 in the Conference Room at the Thursford Exhibition

**Present:** Cllr S. Eckworth (Chair), Cllrs J. Bolam, K. Crompton, R. Garrett, G. Pointer (Vice Chair), R Wilkes and Parish Clerk – K. Harris, 1 member of the Public, NNDC Cllr Butikofer.

#### **26/01 Welcome and to consider apologies and reasons for absence**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for coming. Apologies were accepted by All for Cllr J. Coles. NCC Cllr Aquarone sent his apologies.

#### **26/02 To receive declarations of Interest and request for dispensations in any agenda item**

There were none.

#### **26/03 To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025.**

The minutes were Approved by All and signed by Cllr Eckworth on a Proposal by Cllr Pointer and Seconded by Cllr Crompton.

#### **26/04 Matters arising on the Minutes (for information only), not included on the agenda**

Cllr Eckworth thanked Cllr Coles and the Clerk for installing the Noticeboard in the Cemetery.

#### **26/05 Open Forum for Public Participation**

- i. Receive reports from NNDC Cllr Butikofer, NCC Cllr Aquarone

NCC & MP Steffan Aquarone – has sent a report as MP: the banking hub in Holt is now open and hubs are also planned for North Walsham and Cromer; he has expressed the concerns of local constituents regarding mandatory digital ID; he has raised the issue with the Ministry of Defence regarding RAF and American fighter jets performing manoeuvres over populated residential areas.

NNDC Cllr Butikofer – Key changes to the Public Space Protection Order (Dogs) include the addition of 3 play parks, permitting dogs on leads in Fakenham churchyard, modifications at Mundesley and the inclusion of the beach at East Runton; car parking fees will increase from 1<sup>st</sup> April by 3.8% in tourist areas, there will be no increase in standard towns; £250k has been added to the Capital Works Programme for Cromer Pier – Cllr Butikofer has asked to be informed of the amount collected last season from the donation boxes for support of the Pier; the New Local Plan was adopted at Full Council in December; information was also provided on Norfolk Warm Homes and Water Fountains.

Receive report from local Police Beat Officer - No report has been received.

- ii. An opportunity for members of the public to raise questions or concerns – A resident requested the time and location of PC meetings to be included in the Tablet.

#### **26/06 To receive an update on Highways matters**

A member of the public contacted the PC as she needed to be pulled from the ditch at the Walsingham exit to Thursford as a result of icy weather and she has been informed that NCC gritting stops immediately prior to the double bend. Cllrs noted that 4 vehicles had driven into the ditch over the past year, during all seasons. It was noted that it is a dangerous corner. The Clerk will

email NCC Highways to request that gritting is extended around these bends on a Proposal by Cllr Bolam and Seconded by Cllr Crompton.

It was also noted that the condition of the tarmac on these bends is deteriorating and this will be reported to NCC Highways.

Cllr Eckworth thanked the local residents who are using the gritting bin to grit the junction of Station Road and Brick Kiln Road.

### **26/07 Planning matters.**

#### **i. To receive an update on current planning applications**

PF/25//2758: Church Cottage, Church Lane: Renovation of house, rear 2-storey extension, demolition of garage & replacement with ancillary accommodation, balconies to rear – pending consideration.

ii. PF/25/2102 Change of use from agricultural land to a dog walking field with associated secure car parking, shed for use by dog walkers, associated vehicular access improvements and a car park for Thursford Cemetery: Land to the north of Thursford Cemetery – This has been called in. Cllr Bolam will attend the Planning meeting on behalf of the PC.

Cllr Butikofer confirmed that a major issue was the exit from Gunthorpe Road at both ends. The PC clarified that NNDC have acknowledged ownership of the old recreation Ground – Cllr Butikofer will contact the Monitoring Officer to clarify what will happen to this land with Local Government Reorganisation. She will let the PC know.

Cllr Eckworth encouraged residents to comment on the planning portal to express their support or objection to Planning Applications.

#### **iii. Planning Applications since the close of the agenda**

There are none.

### **26/08 To receive an update and Approve any action on the Tyre Bundling Plant in the Parish of Fulmodeston with Barney**

This has been called in by NCC Cllr Aquarone. Cllr Eckworth will attend on behalf of the PC. Cllr Butikofer will find out the date of the meeting and inform her.

NNDC Cllr Butikofer left.

### **26/09 To receive an update on residents' concerns regarding the Thursford Fireworks and other Exhibition activities and Approve any action**

It was agreed that Museum staff can put their own posters informing residents of events (such as the release of fireworks) onto the Parish Council Noticeboards and they will also be uploaded to the PC website – it was felt important that the information was produced by the Museum in their own branding. Information can be put into the Tablet if supplied. It was suggested that the Museum might like to leaflet drop the village themselves, but that this could not be the responsibility of the PC. Cllr Eckworth will clarify this with the Museum.

The PC have no jurisdiction over activities (such as the bonfire) on land not owned by themselves. Cllr Eckworth informed the PC that the Museum were considering options regarding fireworks and is conducting an environmental report on other activities.

### **26/10 To consider the Proposal for non-invasive Grave location for the Cemetery and Approve any Action.**

Having read the Proposal and the Provisos, Cllrs were not convinced that they could Approve the money at this time. Space for at least another 20 graves has been released and, as there are more cremations than in earlier years, this should give some time to review actions. They thanked Cllr

Coles for getting the quote, which they understood was a favourable rate, but, as the quote was only valid until the end of this month All agreed to do nothing at this stage on a Proposal by Cllr Pointer and Seconded by Cllr Wilkes.

## **26/11 Financial and Governance Matters**

### i. To Approve the Cashbook and Payments List and note Spending against Budget

The balance in the Community Account balanced to the 12<sup>th</sup> December Bank Statement is £5,746.93 and £6,477.74 in the NS&I Account.

Receipts to be Approved since the last meeting: Thornage PC - £7.20 contribution towards Clerks' training and £15.00 half payment for Hire of Hindringham Village Hall for Defib training.

Payments for Approval since the last meeting: ICO re-registration £47.00, Clerk's salary (October – December) £379.38, Tax on salary £94.80, Clerk's Training (Internal Audit) £55.00 + VAT – to be shared with other PC's: net total £11.00 + share of Milage £3.78.

The cashbook and payments were Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Garrett and Seconded by Cllr Bolam.

### ii. To receive an update on signatories to the Barclay and NS&I Bank Accounts and Approve any action.

Cllrs Bolam and Garrett will be added as signatories to the Barclays Bank Account and sign up for internet banking. Cllr Crompton is a signatory and will sign up for internet banking.

Cllrs Bolam and Garrett will be added as signatories to the NS&I account. Karen Drake will be removed.

This was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Pointer and Seconded by Cllr Wilkes.

### iii. To consider and Approve any Grant Applications

There were none.

### iv. To Approve the Budget and Precept for the 2026 – 27 Financial Year

The Clerk explained the proposed budget and where she thought prices were likely to increase. There was also an awareness that local Government reorganisation and digitisation of the Council may lead to increased costs and building up reserves would be better than having to find the extra funds immediately. As the Tax Base has decreased percentage increases appeared high even when the monetary increase was not large.

A Precept of £7,000 was Proposed by Cllr Garrett and Seconded by Cllr Pointer – 5 votes for the motion, 1 abstention. The motion was carried. Cllr Garrett will write an article for the Tablet.

### v. To Approve the following policies: Reserves, Data Protection

The two policies were reviewed. There were no questions and they were Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Garrett and Seconded by Cllr Bolam.

## **26/12 To receive an update on the website.**

The new website has now been launched and there is a link from the old website to the new website.

Cllr Eckworth thanked Cllr Garrett for her copious amount of work on the website.

Cllr Garrett and the Clerk are in the process of arranging a meeting to discuss the operation and administration of the website going forward.

Cllr Garrett noted residents have engaged and already supplied information and ideas for website content and that Cllrs were asked to ie help build up a gallery of images; write copy for news articles, events etc. All ideas, suggestions etc welcome and these will be given due consideration for inclusion.

A new Header picture with greater clarity was also requested.

**26/13 To Approve the date for the Spring Litter Pick and the Cemetery Clear Up**

Spring Litter Pick – 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Cllr Eckworth will be the contact  
 Cemetery Clear Up – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Cllr Bolam will be the contact

**26/14 To request contributions for the Tablet before 13<sup>th</sup> February.**

The Newsletter should go out before the end of February to advertise all March events.  
 Copy needs to be with the Clerk before Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

**26/15 To note any correspondence**

The following correspondence has been sent to Cllrs since the last meeting:

Fakenham Police area update	NNDC Local Plan Update
Devolution & local gov't reorganisation briefings	NNDC Affordable Housing Update
MP Steffan Aquarone Report	NPTS Newsletters

**26/16 To note the dates of meetings for 2026:**

**Mondays, 7pm** – 16<sup>th</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2<sup>nd</sup> November

The PC have permission to use the Pavilion if disabled access is required.

Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**26/17 Any Other Business – for information only**

Cllr Bolam - Thursford Open Gardens is taking place on Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>

Cllr Crompton – Highways piled up soil next to the rainwater drains along Balls Lane and did not dig them out when they last cleared them which has now been washed into them by the rain so they are no longer draining the roadway. She will put a complaint into NCC Highways.

This has also been reported along Brick Kiln Road.

Cllr Eckworth thanked everyone for their courtesy and allowing all to speak at these meetings.

**26/18 To close the meeting** – There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed

Date