



## THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

### The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 in the Conference Room at the Thursford Exhibition

**Present:** Cllr S. Eckworth (Chair), Cllrs J. Bolam, J. Coles, K. Crompton, R. Garrett, R. Wilkes, and Parish Clerk – K. Harris, 2 members of the public, NNDC Cllr Butikofer.

#### **26/19 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 G. Pointer.

#### **26/20 To receive declarations of Interest and request for dispensations in any agenda item**

Cllrs Bolam and Garrett declared an interest in the item on Grant Applications as members of the SAV Team. They were given dispensations to speak and to vote.

#### **26/21 To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026.**

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

#### **26/22 Matters arising on the Minutes (for information only), not included on the agenda**

Regarding firework displays at the Thursford Exhibition, Mr. Cushing informed the Parish Council that they will place a notice on their headed notepaper on the Thursford noticeboard next to the old school at the beginning of the season with known dates when fireworks will be lit and replaced with an updated version when further dates are added. He will also inform the Clerk so this information can be placed on the PC website. Cllr Eckworth will ask him to also put a copy on the Station Road Noticeboard.

#### **26/23 Open Forum for Public Participation**

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

NCC Steffan Aquarone – no report has been received.

NNDC Cllr Butikofer – updated the Council on the North Norfolk Health & Wellbeing Partnership, Invest North Norfolk, the Inspiring North Norfolk event on 10<sup>th</sup> February, Devolution and Local Government reorganisation – there are concerns that the reinstated NCC elections may lead to delays, NNDC Budget – despite North Norfolk residents seeing a projected decrease in Government funding of 23% by 2028-29, NNDC has kept their increase to £5.13 per year for a Band D Property: NNDC retains 7.3% of the Council Tax, Town & Parish Councils receive 3.8%, the Police & Crime Commissioner 14% and NCC 74.9%, Education concerns about school closures, repair of Sheringham Promenade, Norfolk Churches Trust School Art Competition. The Food Waste Collection Scheme will start late as the freighters have not yet arrived – but there was concern about how little food waste would be collected from rural areas.

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 said that she found the website informative, crisp and modern. A resident requested that the “SLOW” notice on Balls Lane be remarked. A resident volunteered to be one of the team to manage the SAM3.

A resident noted disappointment about the blocked gullies along The Street. The resident stated he had reported this and, whilst this case was marked as resolved, it was not clear whether any action had been taken and he has been clearing some of these and the gutters. Cllr Crompton has reported the issue with drainage gullies in Balls Lane and could not see that anything had been done even though she had received an email to say the gullies had been cleared. NNDC Cllr Butikofer will report this to NCC Cllr Aquarone.

1 resident left

#### **26/24 To receive an update on Highways matters**

See also note in 26/23 re gullies.

Heath Lane and Church Lane roadways are full of mud. This will be reported to Highways. Concern was that this may also be due to blocked gullies.

It was requested that residents always report issues to NCC both for roadways and byways.

#### **26/25 Planning matters.**

i. PF/25/2102 Change of use from agricultural land to a dog walking field with associated secure car parking - Approved

ii. Planning Applications since the close of the agenda

There are none.

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

NNDC Cllr Butikofer has been informed that this is recommended for Refusal on delegated authority. NCC Cllr Aquarone will only call it in if it is recommended for Approval.

NNDC Cllr Butikofer left.

#### **26/27 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 13<sup>th</sup> February Bank Statement is £5,702.53 and £6,512.22 in the NS&I Account.

Receipts to be Approved since the last meeting: Stody with Hunworth PC - £7.20 contribution towards Clerks' training, Gunthorpe with Bale PC - £7.20 contribution towards Clerks' training, Briningham PC - £7.20 contribution towards Clerks' training, 2 x adverts for 4 editions each in The Tablet - £40.00, NS&I Annual Interest £64.48.

Payments for Approval since the last meeting: Clerk's salary (Jan-March) £379.38, HMRC (Tax on salary) £94.80, NPTS Annual Subscription £84.00, Clerk's expenses £66.96, Gunthorpe with Bale PC Contribution towards Clerk's training £11.20.

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.

All forms have been completed and sent to Barclays.

NS&I have sent a form asking for additional information which has been signed at the meeting.

iii. To consider and Approve any Grant Applications

The amount remaining from the Community fund of £1,000 was discussed. It was agreed that £300 be granted to SAV and up to £50 be used to provide refreshments for the Annual Parish Meeting in April. This was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Eckworth and Seconded by Cllr Coles.

iv. To Review and Approve any changes to Cemetery Fees

Fees had been increased last year and All agreed no increase was needed this year, on a Proposal by Cllr Garrett and Seconded by Cllr Coles.

v. To Review and Approve any changes to fees charged for adverts in the Tablet

There had been no review of fees for some years. It was agreed that the fees should be reviewed annually. On a Proposal by Cllr Bolam and Seconded by Cllr Crompton unanimously Approved to raise the fees for an advert in the Tablet to £7.50 per edition.

vi. To Approve the following policies: Risk Management, Information Audit, Data Protection for Councillors

The policies were reviewed. Cllr Garrett requested that clarification of how long copies of risk assessments are retained be added to the introduction of the Risk Management Policy. There were no other questions and with this amendment to the polices were Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Garrett and Seconded by Cllr Bolam.

**26/28 To receive an update on the website.**

Compliments for the new website have been received from residents.

There have been a few initial issues with the email system used by the Clerk – which is managed on a platform, so it may be necessary to manage it solely on Zoho.

The Clerk will supply a link and support information to those Cllrs who wish to have a.gov.uk email address (Cllrs Eckworth and Garrett already have this).

**26/29 To note any correspondence**

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

Wcf handlers – savings on heating oil	NPTS full training list
Police neighbourhood meeting – Fakenham	Cllr Butikofer report

**26/30 To note the dates of meetings for 2026:**

**Mondays, 7pm** – 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

**26/31 Any Other Business – for information only**

Cllr Eckworth asked all to invite people to come to the Annual Parish Meeting – it is for the community. She listed the local organisations she has invited so far. It was clarified that the allotments are no longer operating in the Parish.

There have been several volunteers for the litter pick and all areas are covered.

Volunteers are coming forward for the Cemetery clear-up. There are less brambles in the newly cleared area and these need to be kept down.

The churchyard has been cleared.

The Register of Interests at NNDC is not correct. The Clerk will chase.

A plea – please use pins in the Noticeboard, not staples.

**26/32 To close the meeting** – There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed

Date