



THURSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18th May 2026 in the Conference Room at the Thursford Exhibition

Present: Cllr S. Eckworth (Chair), Cllrs J. Bolam, R. Garrett, R. Wilkes, Parish Clerk – K. Harris, NCC Cllr V. Holliday, 3 members of the Public

26/33 Election of Chair

Cllr Eckworth was unanimously elected Chair for 2026 – 27 on a Proposal by Cllr Garrett and Seconded by Cllr Wilkes.

26/34 Election of Vice Chair

Election of the Vice Chair was deferred.

26/35 Welcome and to consider apologies and reasons for absence

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for coming. She congratulated Cllr Holliday on her election to NCC. Apologies have been received from J. Coles, K. Crompton, G. Pointer. These were accepted by All on a Proposal by Cllr Bolam and Seconded by Cllr Wilkes.

26/36 To receive declarations of Interest and request for dispensations in any agenda item

There were none.

26/37 To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th March 2026.

The minutes were Approved by all and signed by Cllr Eckworth on a Proposal by Cllr Garrett and Seconded by Cllr Wilkes.

26/38 Matters arising on the Minutes (for information only), not included on the agenda

The Clerk confirmed that Barclays and NS&I had updated their records with the new signatories.

26/39 Open Forum for Public Participation

- i. Receive reports from NCC Cllr Holliday and NNDC Cllr Butikofer

NCC Cllr Holliday – reported on NCC help with living costs; Road safety and maintenance: she has arranged a meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner to discuss speeding and a meeting with the Highways Engineer to discuss road maintenance – she invited Cllrs and members of the public to send details of any issues to her; Environmental Services – due to the fire at Thetford the waste centres are unable to accept batteries and fridge-freezers for recycling; the next Hazardous Waste Days at Hempton are at the end of this month – bookings will be open about 1 week before; the New Anglia Growth Hub provides support for businesses.

NNDC Cllr Butikofer No report has been received.

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

- iii. An opportunity for members of the public to raise questions or concerns

A member of the public requested additional signage to tackle owners not clearing up after their dogs. The Chair will look into small, low-level signs which can be put on PC land and available to property owners. This will be considered again at a future meeting.

26/40 To note the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting (20th April)

There were no comments.

26/41 To Approve any action on the Tyre Bundling Plant in the Parish of Fulmodeston with Barney

The Planning Application has been refused by NCC. No Stop Notice has been sent and the applicant is likely to appeal. Cllr Eckworth brought NCC Cllr Holliday up to date with the issues of noise, highways movements and concern about the fire risk in a residential area, next to an established wood yard and informed her that the site had been operating without planning permission since 2023. Cllr Holliday will write a letter on behalf of the Council in the first instance and requested all information be sent to her.

26/42 To receive an update on Highways matters

Cllr Eckworth is waiting to receive an update from the Highways Engineer regarding work on the bus stop.

Any additional Highways signage in the Parish will need to be purchased by the PC.

It was noted that the 50-mph sign near Parkside garage is obscured by vegetation. This will be reported on the NCC Highways portal.

i. To receive an update on the SAM3

The SAM3 is on order. We do not yet have an arrival date. It may be necessary to purchase additional posts for the sign to be positioned on.

A resident has volunteered to ensure that the SAM3 is moved site as required.

ii. To appoint Councillors to undertake a survey of footpaths as suggested by Norfolk Ramblers

Cllr Crompton has volunteered to do this and a report will be given at the Annual Parish Meeting. This was agreed by all

26/43 Planning matters.

i. To receive an update on current planning applications

PF/25/2102: Land north of Thursford Cemetery – Approved

FUL/2025/0030: Old Station Yard, The Street, Barney – Refused

ii. Planning Applications since the close of the agenda

NR 131 Gunthorpe WR – pre-planning consultation for a smart meter network for Anglian

Water – no issues.

26/44 Financial and Governance Matters

i. To Approve the Internal Audit undertaken for y/e 31st March 2026

Cllrs noted the recommendations on the Internal Audit and it was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Bolam and Seconded by Cllr Garrett.

ii. To Approve the signing of the Exemption Certificate for 2025/26

Signing of the Exemption Certificate was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Garrett and Seconded by Cllr Bolam.

iii. To Approve the Governance Statement for 2025/26 (AGAR Form 2)

Cllr Eckworth read the Governance statements which were Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Garrett and Seconded by Cllr Wilkes

iv. To Approve the Accounting Statement for 2025/26 (AGAR Form 2)

The Accounting Statement was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Bolam and Seconded by Cllr Garrett.

v. To note the dates for the Notice of Public Rights

The dates for the Notice of Public Rights are Monday 15th June to Friday 24th July 2026.

vi. To appoint the Internal Control Councillor

Cllr Garrett was appointed as Internal Control Cllr on a Proposal by Cllr Bolam and Seconded by Cllr Wilkes.

vii. To Approve the Cashbook and Payments List

The balance in the Community Account, balanced to the 13th April Bank statement, was £5,185.73 and, £6,512.22 in the NS&I Deposit Account.

Receipts since the last meeting: £3,500 NNDC (first half of precept).

The following Payments are awaiting Approval: £40.00 Internal Audit; £241.00 Zurich Municipal (Insurance) £156.00 NNDC - Dog Waste Bins collection, £33.07 Refreshments for the Annual Parish Meeting. This was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Bolam, Seconded by Cllr Garrett.

viii. To Approve the Asset Register

The Asset Register was unanimously Approved on a Proposal by Cllr Garrett and Seconded by Cllr Bolam.

ix. To Approve the Insurance policy from 1st June

The Insurance Policy with Zurich Municipal at a cost of £241.00, was Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Wilkes and Seconded by Cllr Garrett.

x. To Approve any Grant Applications

There were none.

26/45 To consider the request at the Annual Parish Meeting for a second dog waste bin.

All noted the costs of a second bin and considered where to locate it. A decision was deferred until the next meeting. An article will be written for the next edition of the Tablet noting the environmental health impact of dog waste.

26/46 To consider any action resulting from the PSTN (landline phone) switch off.

An article will be written for the next edition of the Tablet.

26/47 To consider repairs and costs for the Noticeboard on the Green.

Thank were offered to Cllr Wilkes who has renovated the Noticeboard at no cost to the Council.

26/48 To request contributions for the Tablet before 25th May.

To include a piece the phone switch off, the Tyre Baling Yard, environmental impact of dog waste, "Finding Veterans" organisation. A resident has offered to help with delivery.

26/49 To note any correspondence

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

LGA Reorganisation & updates	Highway works on B1110
NPTS Updates	Footpath audit
Notice of election (County)	Register of Interests update check
MP Steff Aquarone update	Landline switch off guide
Finding Veterans information	NCC Cllr Holliday report

26/50 To note the dates of meetings for 2026:

Mondays, 7pm –14th September, 2nd November

26/51 Any Other Business – for information only

Cllr Bolam reported that the new area in the cemetery is taking shape. He needs some help to cut off small protruding tree stumps.

26/52 To close the meeting – There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.38pm.

Signed

Date