

THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Thorverton Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Silver St, Thorverton on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 7:30pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Stephanie Shelton (Chair)
Cllr Andy Price (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Stuart Crang
Cllr Andrew Foster
Cllr John Hodge
Cllr Graham Sims
Cllr Bryanna Uglow
Cllr Karl Wilson

ABSENT

None

IN ATTENDANCE:

1 member of the public, D/Cllr Rhys Roberts,
C/Cllr Steve Keable, Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO)

1 Chair Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting with the following:

As we have not yet had 24 hours without rain since our last meeting I bid you a wet and soggy welcome.

A lot has occurred since our last meeting, least of all the issues with the Thorverton Arms wall, which has caused the re-routing of both pedestrians and traffic, either through the Glebe footpath to and from School Lane, or a 5-7 mile detour around our lanes, which, in themselves, have been impassable at times.

Unfortunately the Parish Council has no magic wand, and our only recourse on your behalf is through our District and County Councillors who, I must say, have worked really hard on our behalf to find, at least, some temporary safe routes and are working really hard with Stonegate, the owners of the property, to find a more convenient way to access School Lane. However, more of that as it appears on our agenda.

I promised when I took over the Chair, that, in order to keep the Councillors we had, to reduce the times of our meetings to 2 hours, wherever possible. With some 49 items on the agenda this equates to only 2 and a half minutes for each item. I therefore ask all present to be succinct in their discussions, to allow more time which really matter this month. Thank you.

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Foster is the Chairman of the Thorverton Community Land Trust Board and is the Parish Council's nominated Board member. Cllrs Hodges & Uglow are members of TCLT. Cllr Uglow is the Council's nominated member of the TMH Committee.

Cllr Sims is a family member re Paws for Pleasure.

Cllr Wilson is a member of TCLT and the owner of Paws for Pleasure.

Cllr Shelton is the WI Representative.

3 Apologies

None, all present.

4 Public Open Session

No items raised

5 Minutes

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 13th January and 28th January 26. Cllrs Sims & Uglow Abstained

.....
Chair
Initials

6 External Reports

6.1 County Councillor Steve Keable

Cllr Keable reported that the weather has meant that the roads are breaking up and he has been extremely busy trying to get action taken where needed and Thorverton’s road closure has featured heavily. He now has a Tracker system to monitor highways issues. The Chair thanked both C/Cllr Keable & D/Cllr Roberts for the time they have taken to tackle the Thorverton Arms problems for which the Council is very grateful.

Cllr Price confirmed that the issues raised with the fences at the bottom of the Glebe-School Lane footpath had been temporary and the users have got used to using this path successfully even with buggies etc.

C/Cllr Keable will address the wet surface at the bottom of School Lane with Neighbourhood Highways Officer.

Cllr Hodge raised the issue of gullies not been sucked out and this will be raised on the tracker. The potholes that have been reported will be added in.

Cllr Sims raised Cleaves Close and C/Cllr Keable asked the Council to check the tracker and raise any issue (with reference numbers). He will then address the issue.

C/Cllr Keable reminded everyone that the test for flooding and drainage issues was that the standing water is still there 24 hours after the rain has stopped.

6.2 District Councillor Rhys Roberts

D/Cllr Roberts reported the following:

He had been advised that emergency funding grants from Devon Communities.org were available for up to £1500 for households in hardship.

The Local Government Review is moving apace. Consultation with the general public has begun and can be accessed via the MDDC website. He urged everyone to make their feelings known.

D/Cllr Roberts advised that the effect of weather on the road network had been significant and that the year-to-date had seen 2900 new potholes requiring repair.

6.3 Saturday Market

None since previous meeting. Council discussed the hearing loop but it only works when the PA system is set up. It is unlikely to work at the Saturday Market with all the background noise.

7 Council Administration

7.1 Discussion re TPC Focus Update February 2026 & MDDC Summary of Precept Increase

Cllr Wilson did not consider the Focus explanation of the Precept increase was a true reflection and described it as spin. He challenged the amount of money given to the play equipment and asked Council to decide whether it needs £4000.

Council noted that once resolutions are made they cannot be changed for six months and the precept had been requested as decided at last month’s meeting. Chair advised that the Focus update had to be succinct.

Council discussed the publication of the agenda and were content that it is published three days before the next meeting as described in the national guidance and the Standing Orders.

A discussion took place about the Parish Council ‘lending’ money.

[Cllr Crang left the meeting

at 8:10pm]

Cllr Uglow explained that the Council hadn’t lent money to anyone but paid bills incurred by working groups that had been published on agenda and agreed at public Council meetings in the correct manner. The grant funding for this expenditure had been paid to the Thorverton Community

.....
Chair
Initials

Land Trust who had transferred the funding to the Parish Council for the outlay concerned.

Some discussion continued without agreement until the Chair asked Council to draw a line and move on to the next item.

Council **RESOLVED** to ask MDDC take out 'and unsafe' from the draft wording.

7.2 Paws for Pleasure Review

This will be discussed at a time when Cllr Crang can be present.

7.3 Publication of Bank Statements

Council discussed the publication of Bank Statements aware that Cllr Crang had stated earlier that this was not done by Public Bodies. The clerk advised against publishing the bank statements pointing out that the audited accounts were published each year, every payment, all income and a bank balance is included in the agenda and the minutes every month.

Council **RESOLVED** to publish the Bank statements unredacted in the additional documents. **Prop** Cllr Price **Sec** Cllr K Wilson **Cllrs Uglow & Foster** voted against this resolution.

[Chair suspended Standing Orders to allow D/Cllr Roberts to speak]

D/Cllr Roberts asked the Chair to run this decision past the Democratic Services team re data protection before publication began.

[Chair resumed Standing Orders]

7.4 Recruitment of Councillors

The clerk suggested persuasion by existing Cllrs was the most effective way of getting new Cllrs to come along. Often ex-Cllrs could be persuaded back.

Cllr Price advised that he often asked parents at the school if they would be interested.

Council noted it was up to Cllrs to put a positive spin on the Council and some considered there had been too much negative feedback. Chair offered to put a poster up and Cllr Foster will include this in the Focus update.

8 Projects

8.01 School Lane Closure & Parking & Bus Stop Damage around The Glebe & Broadlands

[Chair suspended Standing Orders to allow D/Cllr Roberts & C/Cllr Keable to speak]

Stonegate (Thorverton Arms owners) have advised that the damage is more widespread than first thought and repairs may take a lot longer than current expectations.

C/Cllr Keable had had no response to his queries at present.

D/Cllr Roberts reported that a footbridge over the wall was not viable as the highway is not wide enough. The only pedestrian access is a temporary opening through the rear of the car park if neighbouring residents support it.

Council is sensitive to the situation of the residents as well as the school and their various needs.

The increased parking around the Broadlands/Bullens bus stop now runs the risk of no bus service as the vehicle can't reverse into Broadlands. It cannot turn in Dinneford St due to the fencing around the Arms. The Church has offered a field as an overflow car park. The school is sending out letters and newsletter items to encourage responsible parking. Council is less concerned about the verge damage as it happens most years in the winter and the grass does recover each year.

C/Cllr Keable asked if Highways had been contacted. He will ask a few questions of Highways to try and see what can be done.

8.02 Lynch Road Flooding

Council are very grateful to those who cleared the gullies. They are also grateful for the

.....
Chair
Initials

generosity of those who gave donations to the GoFundMe page for the young victim who had his scooter stolen. A big thank you to Trevor Sanders as well for clearing the drains in School Lane.

Cllr Sims reported that the pipe that has been damaged from Lynch to Raddon (then Berrysbridge and to a watercourse) has been identified and can now be repaired.

Gullies can be reported on the DCC Report-a-Problem webpage.

Council will check where all their bollards are and check which road warning signs are Council property.

8.03 Road & Path Surfaces in Broadlands

A pothole has been repaired but the surface of the roads and paths are still very poor. C/Cllr Keable will check.

8.04 Fence at Broadlands

C/Cllr Keable will chase for a reply to his email to MDDC.

[C/Cllr Keable left the meeting at 9:10pm]

8.05 New Cemetery

D/Cllr Roberts wrote to MDDC to confirm that a further application will need to be made and will require a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain. He suggested Bow had a similar application as a guide. Clerk will proceed with the quotes obtained.

[D/Cllr Roberts & 1 member of the public left the meeting at 9:21pm]

[Chair resumed Standing Orders]

8.06 Community Safety with CCTV

Chair has researched the 13% reduction quoted relies heavily on implementation and public acceptance. Residents might rely on the cameras and reduce their own personal security measures. Planning permission will be required on listed buildings or in the conservation area. This will require funding for implementation, ongoing maintenance and someone to monitor the output from the cameras. Clerk will reply giving these points.

8.07 Additional Trees in the School Field

Council asked for more information from the school please; Cllr Price to action.

8.08 Affordable Housing

Council **NOTED** the report from Cllr Foster. Cllr Foster confirmed that 19 affordable homes are planned.

Council is concerned at the level of housing proposed for the village (83 further homes) and there needs to be regular discussions in Council.

Cllr Wilson will provide some ideas for a questionnaire with Cllr Foster.

8.09 Barliabins

Council is enormously grateful to the working party and all involved in the excellent refurbishment of this new space.

8.10 Hedges at Old Pound

Council is grateful that these hedges have now been cut back sufficiently for pedestrians to walk against the wall. Council hopes the residents are able to attend to the problems with the wall. Clerk to write and thank with concern about the wall.

8.11 Electric Vehicle Charging in Quarry & TMH Car Parks

Council will stay on the list for now and await further developments.

8.12 Taking Responsibility for the Churchyard

Council would like to have control of the churchyard to maintain it for the village to a high standard. However, Council will not pursue this without significant repairs to elements of the churchyard and a real understanding of the liabilities it would involve.

8.13 Savills Development Plan & Housing Plans for Thorverton

Council **NOTED** the imminent public meeting and welcomed the developer's (Summerfield) attendance at the next meeting

8.14 Lions Scheme Message in a Bottle

Council encourages all residents to avail themselves of this scheme if they

.....
Chair
Initials

wish to. The bottles are available at the Surgery.

8.15 Renting the Sheep Dip from the Church Commissioners

Council looks forward to the Church Commissioners proposals once the repairs have been completed.

Actions from Previous Minutes (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

9.1 Litter Bins – including Quarry Car Park

9.2 Dinneford St Water Trough

9.3 Clerk CiLCA Training

9.4 Register Dorothy's Triangle

9.5 Change of Bank to Unity Trust

9.6 Tree Inspection/Survey

Nothing to report on these items this month.

10 Planning

Planning Decision

10.1.1 25/01690/FULL Berrysbridge Lodge Removal Agri Occupancy **APPROVED**

Planning Applications

10.2.1 26/00098/PIP NGR 292518 102285 Paddock Wood Three detached bungalows
Council **RESOLVED** to make the following comment:

TPC hopes that the planners will address the issue of collection of refuse bins (currently carried out in Dinneford St) and the visibility when driving into and particularly exiting on Dinneford St.

Prop Cllr Foster **Sec** Cllr Hodge

10.2.2 26/00097/CAT Ivy Cottage, Lynch Road Intention to fell Leylandii

Council Resolved to make no comment on this application

Prop Cllr Uglow **Sec** Cllr Price

10.2.3 26/00076/FULL Ruffwell Inn Demolition and four new dwellings

Council **RESOLVED** to make the following comment:

TPC hopes the planners are mindful of the Silverton Parish Council objections to these plans but hopes that this site can be developed.

Prop Cllr Wilson **Sec** Cllr Foster

10.3 Planning Applications Received Too Late for the Agenda

None received

11 Recreation Ground

11.1 Financial Report for January - nil

11.2 Information & No Dogs Signs

No action this month

11.3 Devon Air Ambulance Landing Site

Chair will be available on the 26th to help with the

11.4 WI Assembly Point Sign

Completed.

11.5 Trustee Records with the Charity Commission

Council **NOTED** this requirement and asked the clerk to update the Charity Commission records.

11.6 Play Area Report Cllr Sims to look at the RoSPA report and report to the next meeting.

12 Grounds Maintenance Contractor

Work for the month incl top end of the Jericho St leat and getting the mud back in the water at Ford bridges

.....
Chair
Initials

13 Finance

13.1 Bank balance

Council **NOTED** the current balance of £ 44,250.32 (5th February 2026) and receipts for January of: Allotments £190.00, Interest £29.76

13.2 Payments

Council resolved to make the following payments

Prop Cllr Wilson **Sec** Cllr Foster Cllr Uglow abstained from this vote.

13.2 Payments To consider the following payments:

13.2.1 ICCM Training Course invoices 20486 & 20551	£	300.00
13.2.2 MDDC Play Area Inspection invoice 20042367	£	100.80
13.2.3 TMH Room hires invs 0382 (25-26) & 0400 (Jan ExtraOrd)	£	299.00
13.2.4 B Uglow Reimbursement for Barliabins signs	£	105.82
13.2.5 J P Roberts Clerk pay for January (£518.69 + Grn Bin £72.00)	£	590.69

14 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th March 2026.

Due to the expected attendance of guests to discuss the development of the Diocese field this meeting will start at 7:00pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.05

Signed Date

Cllr Andy Price, Vice- Chair