

THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Thorverton Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Silver St, Thorverton on Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7:30pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Andy Price (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Andrew Foster
Cllr John Hodge
Cllr Bryanna Uglow

ABSENT

Cllr Karl Wilson
Cllr Stuart Crang
Cllr Graham Sims

IN ATTENDANCE:

3 members of the public, D/Cllr Rhys Roberts,
Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO)

Annual Parish Meeting

1 Parish Council Report for the Year

Cllr Price welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting and gave the following report.

We have had a few changes to the council over the year and I would like to take a moment to thank Steph for the help and support she provided us. We will miss the knowledge and experience and level headedness that Stephanie brought to the council.

We also welcomed Karl to the council who's passion and energy for the village and past council experience will be greatly valued.

We have had another busy 12 months on the council with a few long-term activities being progressed and some new ones arriving to see us in to the future. I am delighted to say that the church yard was finally purchased and despite the short delays to the new planning permissions we hope to see this finalised in the coming months.

Another project, that involved not just the council but some parishioners and the School, was the development of the land at Barliabins. With a great effort from the working group has provided a wonderful space for the community to use. Trees have been planted by the children from the village school and the stone circle is in place with seating. I and the council would like to congratulate the Barliabins Working Group on their excellent work and the splendid results.

In spite of the lack of funding and two failed bids for updates to the recreational ground equipment the council has been able to provide a new hardstanding surface and basketball hoop with the aid of the police proceeds against crime fund. We hope that the community have enjoyed using this as I know my kids have. I would like to also thank Councillor Sims at this point for all his efforts keeping the existing equipment safe for everyone to use.

New activities that have arisen over the last few months and are no doubt in the forefront of everyone's mind are the proposed housing developments. The affordable housing initiative started by the parish council and now continued by the Thorverton community land trust has made excellent headway and are in continued discussions about the site on the North side of Silver street. I look forward to seeing this progress over the coming year.

Two further large developments on the glebe land and on the far side of Lynch close are recent news and have received very mixed feelings amongst the community.

.....
Chair
Initials

Although it feels like these are an inevitability with the required increase of housing needs from the government I would hope that the opinions of the parishioners and the lack of suitable infrastructure, drainage, school, roads shop etc that these site will be considered very carefully by the planning department rather than just a means to achieve a housing number.

I would like to finish on a note of thanks to those members of the parish who have helped out and volunteered over the year. Specifically the following people, although if you have not been named I apologise as everyone who has helped out this last year has been fantastic and the village would not be the great place it is without this wonderful community.

The road wardens, Rob, Paul and Ern for filling in as many pot holes as they can whenever there is a warm dry period which up until now was very difficult to achieve. Please don't let their hard work stop you from reporting potholes on the DCC 'Report a Problem' page on their website.

Anne and Felicity who have been maintaining the flower beds at leigh gardens and Dorothys triangle and Harriet who has been developing the flowering boarder towards the glebe entrance.

Alex Fice has done another excellent job of maintaining the grass and flower beds at the jubilee green and I regularly get visitors commenting on how lovely the centre of the village is.

Sam Fice and his team of helpers as usual provided an excellent lights display at Christmas. I'm not sure they can fit any more lights on the jubilee green but I'm sure they will keep trying to.

Finally I would like to thank the rest of the council who have worked hard over the past 12 months and especially the last few meetings as I blundered my way through chairing them. Despite some conflicts over the last 12 months I look forward to a harmonious and productive year together.

3 Questions to the Parish Council

No questions were asked

Annual Council Meeting

1 Election of Chair

Council **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Foster as Chairman. **Prop** Cllr Uglow **Sec** Cllr Price

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Hodges and Uglow are members of Thorverton Community Land Trust. Cllr Uglow is the Council's nominated member of the Thorverton Memorial Hall.

Cllr Foster is Chair of the Thorverton Community Land Trust

3 Apologies

Cllrs Crang, Sims and Wilson sent apologies which were accepted by the Council.

4 Public Open Session

A member of the public asked what the Council was doing to secure s106 funding from the developments that are proposed around the village. The s106 agreement is normally presented as part of the Planning Application and at least one of these are expected soon.

There are projects that may need funds including a possible Community Shop, the new cricket pavilion, the future of the Thorverton Arms and the need for improvements to the Play Area are three of them.

Council is concerned not to 'condone' the planning and may well lead the

.....
Chair
Initials

opposition to development. However, Council recognises it must not miss the opportunity for funding.

D/Cllr Rhys Roberts supported the speaker's stance pointing out that causes the developer wishes to support can benefit significantly from s106 funds. He saw no contradiction should the Council explore s106 opportunities and oppose development.

6 Minutes -

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2026

Prop Cllr Uglow **Sec** Cllr Hodges *[3 members of the public left the meeting at 8:22pm]*

7 External Reports - To receive reports from:

7.1 County Councillor incl Highways

Council **NOTED** the written report from C/Cllr Keable (see Appendix A). Council hopes to see action on the repainting of the white lines in Bullen St which have been an issue for over two years. The clerk will ask for progress on this single issue. The lines were marked up with temporary paint some 2 years ago.

7.2 District Councillor

D/Cllr Rhys Roberts reported:

MDDC has begun a new financial year and it could be MDDC's final year of existence. Thanks to the Chairs Andrew and Steph for their work over the past year as well as the group of Cllrs.

Cllr Gordon Chapieski is Chair again and David Wulff is leader of the MDDC.

MDDC has launched a Crisis and Resilience fund and Heating Oil fund to support households in financial difficulties, full details on the MDDC website.

There is a Landlords Networking Event tomorrow evening at Phoenix House at which a good turnout is expected given the recent Renters Rights Act.

D/Cllr Rhys Roberts urged the Council to ensure the Community Engagement plan emergency responders' details are up to date; Lewis Dyson at MDDC is the contact who needs the information.

7.3 Saturday Market

No issues this month that weren't dealt with at the market.

8 Projects

8.1 New Cemetery

Council **NOTED** that there is an opportunity to save £800 by waiting for the new planning regulations that will exempt our site. The clerk urged the work to continue it has already begun.

Council **RESOLVED** to delay the planning application until the BNG process is cleared

Prop Cllr Hodges **Sec** Cllr Foster

8.2 Wain Homes meeting

Clerk to check hall availability midweek for a 7pm meeting at TMH.

8.3 Summerfield Development

Council **NOTED** the written report from Summerfield as follows:

No update particularly *[this month]* as we have been using quite a bit of time on getting the layout/housetypes sorted. We still hope to submit in the next month or so. I was contacted by Andrew Saunders re the shop and I suggested a way forward for getting this on the radar with the Council. I think that a contribution towards the community shop is a legitimate request and happy to look at the scale of what that contribution might be (subject to the views and sign off from the District Council).

Council's survey has had to be changed from Survey Monkey software to Survey Legend software and will be extended to allow for more responses. The survey will be promoted via Focus. Facebook and noticeboards. The survey can be taken at this web address:

| |
|----------------------------|
| Chair Initials |
|----------------------------|

<https://s.surveylegend.com/-OqaemSITEKxXCPb-RXI?Thorverton%20GLebe%20Field%20Development%20Survey>

Further to the public open session Council **RESOLVED** to seek projects to submit s106 funding as part of its due diligence. Council is fully aware that it might be simultaneously leading the opposition to the developments themselves.

Prop Cllr Uglow **Sec** Cllr Hodge

8.4 Jubilee Green Wall

Council asked the clerk to approach a local contractor to repair the wall for which the PC is responsible. **Prop** Cllr Uglow **Sec** Cllr Hodge

8.5 Water Trough in Dinneford St

Cllr Price has approached another local builder and he will chase.

8.6 Fence at Broadlands

Clerk will expedite this project.

8.7 Mid Devon Transfer of Assets

Council **RESOLVED** to make enquiries about obtaining the land beneath the WI Hut to ensure its future. **Prop** Cllr Uglow **Sec** Cllr Hodges

8.8 Thorverton Arms – Asset of Community Value

Council will informally approach the current management.

8.9 Barliabins

Clerk will chase the survey of the land

8.10 Cobbles by the Berry Dairy

Enquiries will be made about this project with the same contractor as the Jubilee Green. Hopefully this make the work more worthwhile.

9 Planning

9.1 Planning Decisions

Council **NOTED** the following decision:

26/00098/PIP Paddock Wood Thorverton 3 detached dwellings **REFUSED**

9.2 Planning Applications

9.2.1 26/00599/HOUSE & 26/00542/LBC Higher Dunsaller 1m ext. of chimney stack

Council **RESOLVED** to make no comment on this application.

Prop Cllr Price **Sec** Cllr Uglow

9.2.2 26/00541/FULL The Post Yard Bullen Street Change to annex allocation

Council **RESOLVED** to make no comment on this application

Prop Cllr Price **Sec** Cllr Uglow

10 Recreation Ground

10.1 Financial Report

No expenditure in April

10.2 Signs

Delivery of the signs is expected soon.

11 Grounds Maintenance

11.1 Contractor

Work for the month:

Allotment 18

Leat in front of the Church needs attention to the weeds please

Weedkilling in general

12 Council Administration

12.1 Election of Vice-Chair and Allocation of Working Party Roles

Council **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Price as Vice Chair.

Prop Cllr Uglow **Sec** Cllr Hodge

| |
|----------------------------|
| Chair Initials |
|----------------------------|

12.2 Review of Council Orders and Policies

Postponed until next meeting.

12.3 Financial Authorisation

Council anticipates a change to Unity Trust bank shortly and the threshold for purchases requiring three quotes will remain at £3,000 as resolved last year (2025-05 p3 para 10.3)

12.4 Dates and Times of Meetings

Council **RESOLVED** not to change the day of the meeting from the second Tuesday of the month as requested by a community group.

Prop Cllr Foster **Sec** Cllr Hodge Cllr Price voted against and Cllr Uglow abstained.

The meetings for the following year will be held on:

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 9 th June 2026 | Tuesday 12 th January 2027 |
| Tuesday 14 th July 2026 | Tuesday 9 th February 2027 |
| Tuesday 8 th September 2026 | Tuesday 9 th March 2027 |
| Tuesday 13 th October 2026 | Tuesday 13 th April 2027 |
| Tuesday 10 th November 2026 | Tuesday 11 th May 2027 |
| Tuesday 8 th December 2026 | |

12.5 Clerk CiLCA Training

The training sessions commence on 9th June 2026 and Council will need to agree to the Training Contract. This will be presented at the next meeting.

13 Accounts and Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

13.1 Accounts for 2025-26 incl Budget Review

13.2 AGAR Internal Audit

13.3 AGAR Governance

13.4 AGAR Accounting

13.5 Notice of Public Rights

Postponed to the next meeting

14 Finance

14.1 Bank Balance

Council **NOTED** the current balance of £ 61,691.49 (7th May 2026) and the income since the last meeting of Interest £26.69 Precept £22,070.00

14.2 Payments

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

14.2.1 Grounds Maintenance April – no invoice received.

14.2.2 Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd Annual premium £ 854.71

14.2.3 Vision ICT Website hosting to April 2027 £ 175.76

14.2.4 J P Roberts Clerk pay for April (approximate) £ 300.00

Reimbursement for petrol re Road Crew £ 4.71

Reimbursement for Survey Legend subs £ 34.81 £ 339.52

Prop Cllr Price **Sec** Cllr Hodges

15 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th June 2026.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:24pm.

.....
Chair
Initials

THORVERTON RECREATION GROUND TRUST
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1 Annual Report

The Chairman reported the activities this year:

The installation of a basketball hoop and surface which was significantly helped with a grant from the Police.

The repair and servicing of the Night Landing Site lights and the new arrangements to run the lights for an hour each month to ensure longevity of the LED lamps.

The Football Club expects to install stopping nets at the far end of the Rec to stop damage from footballs hitting neighbouring properties,

There is an urgent need for significant funds to improve the play equipment which the Council hopes to raise soon.

There is an ongoing problem with dogs being exercised on the Rec. All residents and visitors are reminded that no dogs are allowed on the Rec and owners are urged to use the many footpaths available in our Parish. There is also a secure dog-walking facility available very near the Rec.

The Chairman thanked the Football Club for their work keeping the grass mown.

Finally, the Chair and Council remain very grateful to Cllr Graham Sims whose efforts on an almost daily basis keeps the Rec equipment in good repair as well as making the Rec a valuable, safe and attractive resource for the village. Many thanks, Graham.

2 Annual Financial Report

Expenditure for 2025-26:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Basketball Hoop purchase | £ 1,990.20 |
| Basketball surface installation | £ 10,556.40 |
| Mower service | £ 713.45 |
| Other expenditure | £ 631.07 |
| Total | £ 13,891.12 |

Income £ nil

All expenditure on the Rec is funded by the Parish Council with invoices paid directly by the Parish Council.

3 Work for 2026-27

The projects to pursue for the coming year are:

S106 Should there be housing development in the near future s106 funds will be sought to improve the Rec.

Stopping nets Hopefully these will be installed soon and the Trust/Parish Council will assist if required.

New Play Equipment After an unsuccessful Lottery bid 2 years' ago the Trust/Parish Council will revive the plans and seek funding again.

Tree survey The Rec will be included in the Parish Council's survey of trees on its open spaces.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:35pm.

Signed Date
Cllr Andrew Foster, Chairman

Cllr Steve Keable

May 2026



Devon County Councillors Report - Creedy, Taw & Mid Exe:
 Bickleigh • Brushford • Cadbury • Cadeleigh • Chawleigh • Cherton Fitzpaine • Coldridge • Cruwys
 Morchard • Dawn St. Mary • Eggesford • Kennerleigh • Lapford • Morchard Bishop • Newton St. Cyres •
 Nymet Rowland • Poughill • Puddington • Sandford • Shabrooke • Silvertan • Stockleigh English •
 Stockleigh Pomeroy • Thalbridge • Tharvinton • Upton Hollions • Washford Pyn • Wembworthy •
 Woolfardesworthy • Zeal Monachorum
Steve.keable@devon.gov.uk

Mid Devon Councillors Report - Taw Vale:
 Chawleigh • Lapford • Nymet Rowland • Wembworthy
Skeable@middevon.gov.uk

Welcome to my newsletter for May. As the days grow longer and spring brings renewed energy, this edition seeks to keep you informed about local decisions, community initiative, local news, recent developments, forthcoming events, and notable achievements within our community. Thank you for reading

Stay informed about local decisions, community initiatives, and opportunities to have your say

Chief Medical Officer, Sir Chris Whitty, explores the health challenges in rural Devon



Sir Chris was told about the challenges around rural deprivation, food insecurity, and fuel poverty, as part of a fact-finding mission looking at the health challenges for people in small towns and rural areas, for an annual report he will publish for government later this year.

He heard about the health inequalities for people living in urban and rural Devon, the challenge of rural deprivation and exclusion, particularly in relation to access to services.

He was told about findings from a recent Devon Youth Council survey, where young people highlighted the barriers that they experience living in rural communities – a need for better local public transport, and more reliable access to broadband for example. And of the work that young people and the council are doing to improve the range of things and activities that young people can access.

He also heard about the challenges that young people in rural areas have accessing education, training, and employment opportunities.

Devon's aging population was also highlighted as a challenge, with health and adult social care services supporting one of the highest percentages of older people in the country.

TIVERTON WORKHUB

At Tiverton Market, a building has been transformed into a vibrant co-working space helping to support local entrepreneurs, businesses and enhance footfall in Tiverton town centre: with a UK Shared Prosperity Fund Grant.

Simon Lloyd, hub manager, said: "We know that more people are working flexibly than ever before, but that can sometimes feel isolating. Tiverton Workhub is about creating a place where people can work productively while also feeling part of a supportive local community".



Devon County Chair, Cllr Caroline Lever, & Mid Devon Chair Cllr Gordon Czapiewski with Cabinet Planning & Economic Development lead, Cllr Steve Keable cutting the 'opening ribbon'.

Events: May 6th European Co-working Day a great opportunity for people to come in, try the space and see what's happening here in the town, and May 27th Open Business Discussion - no agenda, just a chat in a small group to share and help each other and find the work/life balance everyone desires and engage with like-minded people.

Trying a change of scenery during your working week: this month might be a good time to visit your local Workhub.

For more services please follow this Search: Signal Bizhub Tiverton

.....
 Chair
 Initials

Devon County May News Brief

We've installed **Swift nest boxes** on buildings at County Hall in Exeter and at the Grand Western Canal in Tiverton to help summer visitors find safe nesting sites as numbers continue to fall nationwide – down 60% in 30-years.

It's all part of our scheme to support swifts – one of the UK's most distinctive birds – and follows a decision last year to install swift nest boxes across our estate.

Because swifts stay for only a few months, it is essential that they find a nesting site quickly. Numbers have fallen significantly in the last decade, and one of the main reasons is thought to be the loss of nesting spaces.

Swifts nest in small gaps and cavities in buildings and are faithful to their sites, returning year after year.

When repairs block access points – for example during roof works or when soffits are replaced – birds can be forced to search for new sites at short notice.

🔗 booklet to help email: help.swifts@gmail.com

DCC Cabinet

- **Devon Pothole Trial Update** and
- **Library Service - outcome of Consultation and Future Delivery Model**

Both will be debated at Devon County Cabinet, at 10.30 on **Wednesday 20 May**. 🔗search: Devon County Cabinet, to view or join line on-line.

Bus Travel

Progress continues to be made in preparation for the Cullompton Relief Road with a new bus lay-by on Station Road, marking another positive step forward in preparing the local highway network ahead of the wider scheme.

The Station Road lay-by is now being used by services operating along the route. It forms part of a package of early improvements designed to support the long-term delivery of the relief road and bring immediate, practical benefits for the community.

The new lay-by provides a clear and safe stopping area for buses to drop off and collect passengers, while reducing disruption to other road users

Parish action on bus shelters

A new bus shelter has been installed at Half Moon on the A377 by Devon County Council. Newton St Cyres Parish Council are lobbying for a bus shelter at the Langford junction on the A377 and Silverton Parish Council wish to install a bus shelter at Upexe Lane on A396. Both sites are supported by County Councillor Steve Keable and DCC Transport Coordinating Officer undertaking the necessary investigations including safety checks.

Crediton Tesco's road upgrade

Details to follow in June - works to start at A377 roundabout from 29th June.

Mid Devon District May News Brief

5-Year housing land supply statement for 2025

A statement about the housing land supply in Mid Devon at 31st March 2025 is now published on the Mid Devon website. The statement is used for planning purposes and reports that the housing land supply is currently 2.40 years. This reflects the housing need for the district using the Government's standard method and an appropriate buffer, and planning commitments for sites that are deliverable in 5 years.

🔗 Search: [Housing Land Availability - Mid Devon](#).

Since the Council cannot demonstrate a 5 year supply of deliverable housing sites the policies in the current adopted Mid Devon Local Plan which are most important for determining planning applications for the development of new homes are out-of-date. Decisions on such applications should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development and a 'tilted balance'.

The statement will be updated to reflect the housing land supply at 31st March 2026 once the baseline monitoring data is available for this. However, it is expected this updated statement will not result in a notable difference to the figure reported.

As reported last month, the **HELAA** 'call for sites' findings will be published by Mid Devon in June.

Mid Devon Local Plan - Parish Councils will be consulted on 'scoping the plan' at the end of May for 6-weeks. The Local Plan is about setting vision & strategy, allocation of land to meet objectives, produce evidence & policies and undertake public consultation. This must be achieved within a 30-month timetable to be ready ahead of the new Unitary Council.

National Top 10 for Recycling Districts

Mid Devon achieves new record waste and recycling performance achieved its strongest-ever waste and recycling results, with the latest figures placing the district among the very best in the country.

For the year 2024/25, Mid Devon ranked 10th out of 197 local authorities for recycling, with a rate of 57.9%, improving on last year's position of 11th and placing the district firmly within the top 5% nationally.

Mid Devon ranks 6th out of 197 councils for the lowest tonnage collected per household, 296.8kg, an improvement from 9th last year, placing the district in the top 3% nationwide.

"We are extremely proud to continue to climb the national rankings. This success is down to the continued efforts of our residents. By reducing waste, reusing more, and recycling correctly, you are helping to make a real difference – thank you."

Cllr Josh Wright, Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement



Printed & Published by Cllr Steve Keable, Bromstone Cottage, Lapford, Crediton, EX17 6PZ
Issued: 7 May 2026

.....
Chair
Initials