

Thorverton Parish Council

Additional Information for Tuesday 13th January 2026

1 Chair Welcome

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs to declare any interests in items on the agenda and any changes to their Registers of Interests

3 Apologies for absence

Thorverton Parish Council

4 Public Open Session

15 minutes for members of the public to raise any issue of concern, 5 minutes maximum per speaker

5 Minutes


To approve the minutes of the [9th December 2025](#) meeting

Thorverton Parish Council

6 External Reports

6.1 County Councillor Steve Keable

Cllr Steve Keable
Devon County Councillors Report - Creedy, Taw & Mid Exe:
Bickleigh • Brushford • Cadbury • Cadeleigh • Chawleigh • Cheriton Fitzpaine • Coldridge • Cruwys
Morchard • Down St. Mary • Eggesford • Kennerleigh • Lapford • Morchard Bishop • Newton St. Cyres •
Nymet Rowland • Poughill • Puddington • Sandford • Shobrooke • Silverton • Stockleigh English •
Stockleigh Pomeroy • Thelbridge • Thorverton • Upton Hellions • Washford Pyne • Wembworthy •
Woolfardisworthy • Zeal Monachorum
Steve.keable@devon.gov.uk

January 2026


Mid Devon Councillors Report - Taw Vale:
Chawleigh • Lapford • Nymet Rowland • Wembworthy
Skeable@middevon.gov.uk
To follow the internet links use the words provided in your web search

With the close of another year, as your Devon County Councillor and Mid Devon District Councillor, I would like to extend warm season's greetings to all residents, partners, and parish councils as we start 2026, a new year which will be full of change and challenge.

Don't pick a fight with farmers

CAMPAIGN WIN: Government makes significant changes to the Family Farm Tax, raising the Agricultural Property Relief (APR) and Business Property Relief (BPR) threshold from £1 million to £2.5 million & £5m to spouses. This concession, to help small squeezed farms, has been hard won with Devon MP's working with farmers, NFU and other campaigning groups, who in the New Year will press hard to scrap the tax all together.



Devon cabinet member & farmer Cllr Simon Clist with Rachel Gilmour MP

Active Travel funding welcomed

Devon County Council welcomed confirmation of over £13 million in funding from Active Travel England to support walking and cycling schemes, with delivery linked to the new Devon & Torbay Combined County Authority from April 2026.

This is great news for the Boniface Trail (Credon Exeter) and the adoption of preferred route which is to be considered by Devon's Cabinet on Wednesday 14th January. This largely follows the A377, except for the section of trail between Newton St Cyres and Langford, where it follows a 'Quiet Lanes' route for a short section, before rejoining the A377 and then onto Exeter St Davids.

In 2024, public consultation was made on two different routes - A377 or Quiet Lanes. While there was overwhelming support for the trail there was no majority support given to either option with a balanced split between both. This outcome has led to this proposal which now costed circa £15.5m (2025 prices) without any land purchase, ecology or inflation.

In April 2026 responsibility for the transport capital programme will transfer to the newly formed Devon & Torbay Combined County Authority (DTCCD). Upcoming active travel plans, such as the Boniface Trail, will make use of these funds and will form part

of a capital programme report planned for the DTCCA Board meeting in March.

Liberal Democrat farming spokesperson Tim Farron MP said: "It is utterly inexcusable that family farmers have been put through over a year of uncertainty and anguish since the government first announced these changes.

"We demand that the government scraps this unfair tax in full and if they refuse to, Liberal Democrats will submit amendments in the new year to bring it down."

Councillor Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin, who is a farmer and the Devon County councillor for Torrington rural as well as cabinet member for rural affairs, hailed the news a very welcome concession and said it was 'a significant win' for farmers and rural communities across Devon.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/>

The purpose of the Devon Cabinet report is to endorse the preferred route and approve the start of negotiation on land acquisition. As the local Councillor I have ensured consultation with the Boniface Trail Association and Newton St Cyres Parish Council.



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DCC Have your say on public libraries

Devon residents are being asked to help shape the future of the county's 50 libraries. The consultation runs until Sunday February 22 2026. Forms can be completed online, at local libraries, or returned by post. Residents are encouraged to take part and share their views before final decisions later in the year.

No libraries will close under the proposals. We currently have 50 libraries, run by the charity Libraries Unlimited, alongside a Home Library Service and outreach programmes. Last year there were 2.6 million visits, more than 14,000 events, ranging from children's story sessions to digital skills workshops. Our consultation comes as we face mounting financial pressures which means that we must now look at how services are delivered.

Councillor Cheryl Cottle Hunkin, Cabinet Member for Libraries, said:

"Devon's libraries are trusted spaces at the heart of our communities, and we remain committed to keeping all 50 libraries open. As the way people use libraries continues to change, this consultation is an important chance to rethink and update the service, so it better reflects how people use libraries now and how they hope to use them in the future.

"By making sensible use of new technology, we can support libraries to develop further as community hubs, giving local people and organisations more opportunities to make good use of their library

Local Government Reorganisation:

My personal view

Now government has received proposals from all local councils in historic Devon, it will examine these submissions. Government will then decide which proposal(s) will go to statutory stakeholders for consultation during the first half of 2026.

A final decision is expected by government next summer and shadow elections are due to be held in May 2027. The *chosen* new authority/authorities will take on its new powers and responsibilities from April 2028.

a) Devon County Council is proposing that it continues by absorbing the existing (9) district councils & Exeter into a **single Devon** unitary authority serving around 840,000 residents, and the existing authorities of **Plymouth** (1) and **Torbay** (1) also continue. (Aka 9:1:1)

Councillor Julian Brazil, Devon County Council Leader, said: "At the end of this process we all have to come together. Our duty is to deliver the services that our residents deserve. Within that is proper funding for local government. The fact children in Devon get less than nearly every other area in the country is grossly unfair and affects their life chances". *I totally agree with this point.*

There's a sense of frustration that councillors are not making the decision, I have witnessed this in both DCC and MDDC council debates. The consensus is that we are all being pushed and pulled, and forced to do this by government.

Thorverton Parish Council

spaces. We've seen this technology used successfully in other parts of the country to extend opening hours, improve access, and offer more flexibility for residents.

"We've also looked at how other authorities, such as Lincolnshire and Cornwall, manage a mix of council-run and community-led libraries to help inform our thinking.

"This consultation will play a key role in shaping the long-term future of the library service, and we want to hear directly from everyone – residents, young people, library users and community groups so we can work together on a sustainable future for Devon's libraries."

 <https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay>

Local Elections and Democracy

The Leader of Devon County Council, **Councillor Julian Brazil**, strongly criticised government proposals to postpone local elections planned for May 2026, describing the move as undemocratic. The council has urged neighbouring authorities such as Exeter to follow Plymouth in committing to go ahead with elections despite uncertainty about the government's plan.

A special council discussion will happen in January as Devon County Council considers its formal response to the government's election proposals. This issue will dominate council business in 2026.

b) Seven District Council are proposing a 5:4:1 model a bold plan for 'Reimagining Devon' with reorganisation by 3 unitary councils: the **north** *East Devon, Mid Devon, Exeter, Torridge & North Devon* (5), the **south** *South Hams, West Devon, Teignbridge and Torbay* (4), and **Plymouth** (1).

My view: is that there is no point in dying on the hill of Local Government Reorganisation when a government minister will decide what happens. We will be told late spring when the government formally goes to consultation. Shadow elections will be held in May 2027. This is the point when will must come together to deliver the service our residents deserve.

My view: on balance 'Reimagining Devon' is my preferred option but I recognise the Devon case for children and vulnerable people. As we wait for the Minister's decision there is work to be done.

Links for details of both proposals a) & b):-



Devon County Council

A trusted, inclusive and innovative council

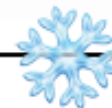


a) <https://www.devon.gov.uk/devolution-and-lgr/>

Reimagining Devon



b) <https://www.reimaginingdevon.org>



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6.2 District Councillor Rhys Roberts

6.3 Saturday Market

6.3.1 13th December 2025 (Cllr Crang)

Garages - Two people raised the issue of sending demands for the ground rent - they miss having them. ... Both asked whether the PC could be sure they received all the rents if they weren't demanded; I assured them everyone paid - and for allotments - and if our checks did not spot non-payment it would be picked up by the auditors. The one who has sold their house also asked about the mechanism for transferring their lease - I told them to contact you.

Cobbles - One complaint about the state of the cobbles "worst ever" and question of who is liable if someone falls. My replies were that the pavements are part of the Highway and therefore the County Council is responsible; due to their budget cuts the PC had relatively recently taken on the weeding; that work requires an individual with the rare combination of both highways and spraying qualifications and our contractor had been unwell during the summer but had now resumed work.

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6.3.2 10th January 2026 (Cllr Foster)

Peter Griffiths spoke to me at the Sat Market this morning in regard to his query back in 2024 about the evening bus services. Here's his email which I have taken from the AddInfo pages for the PC meeting in Sept 24. As Chair I wrote to Silverton PC about this a few days later, but got no reply. The minutes show you were going to write to Stagecoach, so Peter asks what was their response?

7 Actions from Previous Minutes

7.1 Litter Bins

7.2 Dinneford St Water Trough

7.3 Untaxed Vehicle in the Quarry Car Park

7.4 Clerk CiLCA Training

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7.5 Register Dorothy's Triangle

7.6 Change of Bank to Unity Trust

7.7 Rec Ground Lottery Bid

7.8 Tree Inspection/Survey

8 Budget and Precept for 2026-27

8.1 Third Quarter 2025-26 Budget Review

8.2 Budget and Precept for 2026-27

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9 Projects

9.1 New Cemetery

Email from Cllr Wilson:

Here is a note from a parishioner regarding the cemetery.

"From additional documents, it seems that someone has suggested a solution to the clerk to avoid reapplying for planning permission

It would be interesting to know who suggested this to the clerk to enable the pc to properly consider this avenue of action – it would be even better if there existed written evidence to support the suggestion – in the interests of transparency and honesty" (Name can be provided if necessary.)

Today, I have had time to read and properly digest the facts regarding the planning for the churchyard (Expired June 21 2024) which would require the TPC to reapply for planning due to the old planning expiring and having an eco-biodiversity survey. (to comply with all new planning applications)

We are representatives of the village and have to do things the proper and correct way.

We cannot chance getting this wrong. It does not sit well with me taking a gung-ho approach to planning and its rules.

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Whilst I am in agreement with majority of the comments in Jims statement, I would not feel comfortable in starting the project until MDDC have confirmed we are ok to do so, either with the old or new PP (if necessary.)

As a council, we cannot take chances on such projects. Ultimately, the council has messed up with its timings and is likely to incur costs of around £2000 to put the situation right.

If MDDC would give us a letter of dispensation to continue as per Jims suggestion, then fair enough. If not, we will have to pay the associated fees due to our own lack off diligence.

An official approach need to be made to MDDC planners ASAP.

I feel this is the best way off approaching the issue.

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9.2 Road & Path Surfaces in Broadlands

Email 18th Dec from a resident

The road is full of potholes and covered in mud and slippery decaying leaves and all paths are covered in slippery green moss and grass, both road and paths not safe to walk on and inviting a serious accident.

We also have a street light not working, I have complained in the correct manner numerous times since October regarding the light by the garages which has had at least four visits by an Energy Company but is still not working. My two request to Devon Highways regarding the unsafe condition of the road and paths had a response that and inspection of the conditions will be carried out around the 11th of January 2025 prior to any possible action at a later date, this is obviously not acceptable and should be treated as a safety issue. (MDDC Road Sweeper makes many visits during Summer months but few during if any during the winter after leaves fall).

Perhaps a few members of our Parish Council should have a look prior to any serious accident occurring and take any necessary action to force issue

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9.3 Fence at Broadlands

9.4 Affordable Housing

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9.5 Barliabins

From Cllr Uglow:

1. Name plaques -

We decided that a composite sign would be preferred, to fix on the slate of each gate with the wording BARLIABINS. We know of two suppliers so will draft a picture and ask each for a costing. Council asked for a proof for final approval but is in favour of name plaques.

2. Extra signage -

We felt that not much other signage would be required but possibly one more to fix to the upper slate of fence/appropriate area will source cost from same two suppliers with the wording - Thorverton Parish Council. - Public Open Space.



Thorverton Parish Council



Wooden House Signs

★★★★★ [\(2145 customer reviews\)](#)

Prices from £12.99 – £340.99

- Machine Carved
- Oak, Iroko or Abodo Timbers available
- Oiled or Painted Finish
- CAD drawing sent for confirmation prior to cutting

3. Extra planting -

We thought that it would be good for the area to “grow into itself” as the trees are young, the bank and ground can settle. However the addition of some snowdrops/cyclamen/primrose would be beneficial and maybe sedum or similar later.

Costings for first three to be sought.

(Update -primroses varied from £1.00/2.00 per plant, cyclamen £2.50/£3.00 per plant and snowdrops in the green from £2.50 per pot)

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4.Final report -

It was felt that once the above and AOB was completed a final project report could be submitted to the council for record.

5.AOB -

Remaining sand needs removing to council shed.

Railing at top end to be repaired/erected.

Tree plaques from the school to be placed. (Trevor will liaise with school)

Resolution required:

Approval to spend up to £75 on planting to include primrose, cyclamen and snowdrops.

9.6 Christmas Trees and Lights

Email from a resident

The Xmas tree is down and ready to be cleared (in 3 pieces).

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9.7 Hedges at Old Pound

9.8 Cake Shed in the Quarry Car Park

Email from a resident

Objective



To have a cake shed placed on the car park near the Post Office.

Goals

to offer a selection of cakes, biscuits, brownies and other sweet n savoury snacks for the village. In addition

we hope that this increases footfall to the much loved and needed Post Office! We are now in a position to set this up.

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Dimensions

67 cm wide x 55 cm deep x 153 cm tall

Shed to include

- CCTV to record trade and deter theft
- suitable storage
- payment method will be a tiny cash box (secured) plus a QR code
- locked and no items will be stored overnight.

Opening Hours

10.00 am to 6.00 pm Thursday to Sunday during March till October.

Dream Scenario

Ideally I would like to have an electrical supply (one socket) so as to power the cctv. not essential but beneficial to have. Long term i would like to have ambient temperature items is there (cheesecakes and the like) but let's not run before we can walk!



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9.9 Taking Responsibility for the Churchyard

Further to the enquiry from the Parochial Church Council about the closure of the churchyard and transfer to Council ownership (either District Council or Parish Council)

9.10 Savills Development Plan

Email from Savills Planner

I am just getting in touch in relation to an emerging development proposal for a site we are bringing forward south of Thorverton, and we wanted to request the availability of the Parish Council in January to meet with some of our project team.

We are looking to hold a public exhibition in February to consult local residents but would like to meet with the Parish beforehand to discuss the emerging scheme.

If you could let us know what dates would work best for you that would be greatly appreciated.

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10 Planning

10.1 Planning Decisions

10.1.1 25/00709/FULL Thorverton Cricket Club New Pavilion APPROVED

10.2 Planning Applications

10.2.1 25/01604/HOUSE & 25/01607/LBC Perry Barn, Perry Farm
Reroof & new door, heating system, bathroom & kitchen fixtures, log burner etc

10.2.2 Information only – no consultation 25/01610/FULL
Land & Building at NGR 293324 105064 Stone Bungalow Thorverton
Retention of change of use of an agricultural building & associated land to
equestrian use

10.3 Planning Applications Received after the Agenda
Council to consider the need for an Extraordinary Meeting

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11 Recreation Ground

11.1 Financial Report for December

11.2 Information & No dogs Signs

11.3 Devon Air Ambulance Landing Site Quote for repairs to the light - £408

11.4 WI Assembly Point

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12 Grounds Maintenance Contractor Work for the month

13 Council Administration

13.1 Implications of Planning Application

Email from Cllr Wilson:

Could you please record in section 5 that I asked later in the meeting " what ramifications applying for planning in a 3rd parties name the TPC may have to endure." "What possible pitfalls and negative effects may the TPC have with this proposal." Especially if the planning is not adhered to as we have had with other sites recently in the village.

Lights, white lines, speed signs and fences spring to mind as well as reducing the number of low cost/self-build houses and *[... section removed for legal reasons]*.

This application worries me immensely. Especially without any details of how it may work or a risk assessment by TPC

I also stress, i am in favour of social and low-cost housing.

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13.2 Publication of Agenda

Email from Cllr Wilson:

Could we continue to publish draught minutes within 72 hours of meetings finishing in the future?

This would enable agendas to be published 2 weeks prior to the next meeting for public viewing. Any additions, comments or changes could then be made within the usual and required timescales.

(I note that several alterations to the agenda were made after the agenda was published in December. This should not happen)

Please can you add this item to our next agenda.

Thorverton Parish Council

13.3 Co-Option of Cllr Wilson (admin)

Email from Cllr Wilson:

Following up from last months meeting, and grasping at straws really, could you please send me a dated copy off the invoice for fencing at the new cemetery site. Many Thanks.

I gather there was a rather difficult internal email sent before my re-election as councillor regarding Paws for Pleasure and it's planning status. Could you please send me a copy of this email. I would suggest a full review is necessary depending on the content of the letter and that we may like to include this as an agenda item in the next meeting.

13.4 Publication of Names in Council Documents

Council to consider publishing names in agenda, minutes and additional information etc.

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14 Finance

14.1 Bank balance £ 46,181.55 (8th January 2026)

Receipts this month Interest £32.71

14.2 Payments To consider the following payments:

14.2.1	BRN Fitch Grounds Maintenance December	£	168.43
14.2.2	T Sanders Reissue cheque (depositing issues)	£	256.00
14.2.3	GX Accountancy & Bookkeeping Payroll servs	£	153.00
14.2.4	HMRC Clerk PAYE & NIC qrter 3 2025-26	£	354.73
14.2.5	J P Roberts Pay (Dec £532.19 + Seeds £77.90)	£	610.09

14 Next Meeting

7:30pm Tuesday 10th February 2026