

# Thorverton Parish Council

## Additional Information for Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 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 meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

# Thorverton Parish Council

## 6 External Reports

### 6.1 County Councillor Steve Keable

### 6.2 District Councillor Rhys Roberts

### 6.3 Saturday Market

# Thorverton Parish Council

## 7 Council Administration

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

#### From Cllr Wilson:

Thank you for sharing the Parish Council update for Focus Feb 2024.

Undoubtedly this letter has a huge amount of spin and is not a true reflection of the actions taken by TPC over the last 5 years. Can we please try to be more open with our parishioners?

Please could you (Jim) put the following on our next agenda regarding this letter to the public and associated items for the precept budget.

For discussion regarding TPC letter in focus and related issues

1. New Churchyard. Why was there no mention of the PC missing/ not renewing the planning permission/ constituting the start of a build. Why under the last chairmanship this was allowed to happen? Lets tell Thorverton why this happened please and why we may have wasted +/- £2000 of tax payers money.

## Thorverton Parish Council

2. Why was the explanation of an Eco biodiversity survey and the associated costings played down. Because we missed the planning deadlines, is this a half hearted attempt at a cover up? Why not be more honest with people?
3. Why are we still having £2000 worth of grants when money is incredibly tight for the council. My proposal would be to zero any grants with immediate effect.
4. We have had more than 5 years to build up a reserve for the play equipment. If we had been more mindful of this situation and had some foresight, rather than firefighting at the last minute, we could easily have increased funding by £2k per annum, lessening the effect of increases and spreading over a longer time for those paying the precept. Under the previous Chair, there was a distinct lack of forward planning.

As separate agenda issues, all at no cost, can we please have;-

1. The paws for pleasure review, to the exact same format as January 2026 meeting, much earlier on the agenda as pre agreed with Steph.
2. Discussion and commitment to publishing Monthly bank account statements in our minutes. To be transparent, open and honest to our community.

## Thorverton Parish Council

3. Commitment to publishing next months meetings agenda mid month so parishioners have time to read and make any comments, rather than leaving it to the deadline each month.
4. Commitment from the clerk to stop making cash payments and cheques to creditors, use TT payments for all transactions instead of cheques immediately.
5. Set up a quick approval scheme, for Chair and Vice chair to approve the above payments.
6. Internal review of lending money/grants. Why did the clerk allow a loan to Thorverton Community land trust? Why did the then chair allow a grant/loan to an outside organisation? The correct legal protocols were clearly not followed. I can expand on this at the next meeting. In a private company, such lending would result in a disciplinary action for serious mis-management of company funds and probably instant dismissal. Why did the Ex chair of TPC then attempt on 3 additional occasions, to take money from the TPC for another village project? Questions that I feel need answering, need to be recorded and accepted by those concerned. Imagine if the PC had lent a further £20k to the TCLT, how that would have looked to parishioners in regard to our recent huge precept increase.

# Thorverton Parish Council

## MDDC Summary of Precept Increase for use in Customer Service section

### From MDDC for approval:

Further to my email the other day sharing our proposed shortened version of the increase narrative for MDDC, we have completed a further review and now propose the following executive summary. This version retains the key points while making it easier for our call-centre colleagues to use when speaking with the public.

- *Thorverton Parish Council has set its 2026–27 precept with two major priorities in mind: completing the new cemetery, which requires a further £10,000 beyond work already funded from reserves, and beginning to build funds to replace the ageing and unsafe 25-year-old play area, also allocating £10,000 to help secure future grant funding. With core annual running costs of around £26,000, the Council recognises the size of the increase but believes it is necessary to ensure a ready cemetery and a safe, modern play area for the village.*

# Thorverton Parish Council

## 7.2 Paws for Pleasure Review

From Cllr Wilson:

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.

Email re Cllr Wilson's application:

There is a planning issue that I believe to be unresolved. Years ago the then Clerk to the PC asked the MDDC planners whether Karl's dog walking field required planning consent; I don't think TPC has ever had an answer, but it seems to have been the cause of many contributions that Karl has made to the open session at meetings, email correspondence, involvement of the Monitoring Officer etc. I am told he has also made similar points on social media. In the course of these exchanges Karl has accused the Council of acting unlawfully, Councillors and the present Clerk of lying (as recently as last month) and has even alleged the misappropriation of funds by the Clerk.

## Thorverton Parish Council

His letter of application does not deal with any of this. It is not just the 'rough and tumble' of a local village squabble which Councillors can choose to ignore; the Parish Council is the employer of the Clerk with all the associated rights and obligations.

### 7.3 Publication of Bank Statements

From the Chair:

Is it possible to put a copy of the latest Bank Statement onto the website? I know this is something Alison always did and it would be helpful for everyone to see we are totally transparent - not that I have every felt otherwise!

### 7.4 Recruitment of Councillors

# Thorverton Parish Council

## 8 Projects

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

8.02 Lynch Road Flooding

Thanks to all involved in clearing out the gullies and the generosity of donation to the GoFundMe page for the young victim who had his scooter stolen

8.03 Road & Path Surfaces in Broadlands

8.04 Fence at Broadlands

8.05 New Cemetery

# Thorverton Parish Council

## 8.06 Community Safety with CCTV

### Email from a resident:

I'm writing to enquire about ways to improve community safety in the village. Recently, there has been an increase in criminal damage to vehicles and personal property, which is concerning for residents.

I was thinking about the possibility of installing a small number of CCTV cameras at key points, for example:

Main entry points to the village

The village square

Main roads and bus stop areas

Alternatively, or additionally, it might be possible to bring back some form of neighbourhood watch to support the community.

I'm sure the community would be happy to contribute funds towards this.

Could you please advise:

- Whether this falls under parish or district council responsibility
- What permissions or regulations would apply
- Any existing plans for public CCTV
- Potential funding or community grant options

Thank you very much for your time and guidance.

## Thorverton Parish Council

### 8.07 Additional Trees in the School Field

**From Cllr Price:**

The forest school has asked about adding additional trees (possibly obtained from the woodland trust) that the kids could plant in the wood area as part of their learning

### 8.08 Affordable Housing

**From Cllr Foster:** The CLT met the housing association and their architects on site in Jan; their final internal reports have to be completed but we have recently exchanged an MOU which is an encouraging development. The Church Commissioners, via their agents Savills, will need to see further progress towards the Planning Permission stage before the land will be released for sale. The grant from the Devolution Fund is still available, but needs to have an extension to the time limit; this is currently in the hands of MDDC. While the CLT still expects all of these pieces of the jigsaw to fall into place in the correct order at the correct time, there is still a lot of work to be done.

# Thorverton Parish Council

## 8.09 Barliabins

## 8.10 Hedges at Old Pound

From the Chair: ...However, the good news is I have spoken to */a volunteer/* today, who is more than willing to cut these hedges back in line with the property, for a small donation from the house owner to a local Charity. He would, however, require a trailer to take the debris away and burn it. A plea for a 'man and trailer' to remove the leaves and branches, can anyone help with this please?

From Cllr Wilson: Personally, I wouldn't get involved with any work on this hedge ... The wall is close to falling down. (... Ground movement / subsidence) ... My suggestion would be to give her a week. See what happens. Then report to highways or DDC as well as the subsiding wall.

The Parish council does not need to take on the liability of a 3<sup>rd</sup> persons wall by "helping out" no matter how well meant this sentiment is.

# Thorverton Parish Council

## 8.11 Electric Vehicle Charging in Quarry & TMH Car Parks

Thorverton Memorial Hall Trust	Thorverton Memorial Hall Car Park, Silver Street, Thorverton	EX5 5LT
Thorverton Parish Council	The Quarry Car Park, Bullen Street, Thorverton	EX5 5NG

### Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI). Update and Next Steps.

We previously wrote to you on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025 with an update regarding the installation of Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure at your proposed sites (The Quarry Car Park and Memorial Hall Car Park), but we have yet to receive a response.

Please can you complete the following tasks to confirm your continued interest in this scheme:

1. Review the attached document to ensure that your respective site is listed and the details we hold for this site are correct; and
2. Provide your current contact details to ensure our records are up-to-date.

If the key contact for your site has changed, or if you no longer wish to participate in this scheme, please let us know so that we can update our records accordingly.

## Thorverton Parish Council

### 8.12 Taking Responsibility for the Churchyard

Email from the Church Treasurer:

For your information, there are now only two spaces left for burials in the graveyard. One those are filled we will apply to close the graveyard and responsibility for maintenance will be passed over to MDDC, or whoever is the appropriate seat of local government at the time. I think it is likely that Thorverton will be best served if the Parish Council itself takes responsibility for that maintenance, as then there will be local control over frequency of mowing.

### 8.13 Savills Development Plan & Housing Plans for Thorverton

Attendance at the March Parish Council Meeting

Public consultation 12<sup>th</sup> March

# Thorverton Parish Council

## 8.14 Lions Scheme Message in a Bottle

### Email from a resident:

I was treated to a presentation by Crediton Lions group recently where they told us about the Lions' Message in a Bottle scheme. I have scanned the leaflet and attached it for your information.

**From the Chair:** Unfortunately...the person has to remember to alter the information inside the bottle - medication change, change of emergency contact details etc. Also there is a little sticker that goes onto the door to alert an ambulance crew that a bottle is in situ (normally in the fridge). Unfortunately, and sadly these days, people do not like advertising they may need additional support and therefore do not use the sticker. It would be useful to mention that these are available for anyone from your GP surgery,



#### What is Message in a Bottle?

The Lions Message in a Bottle is a simple idea that encourages people to keep their basic personal and medical details in a common place where they can easily be found in an emergency.

#### How does it work?

The information is kept in a bottle. The bottle is kept in the fridge, where the emergency services will expect to find it in the event of being called to your home.

They will know you have a bottle by two labels. One is fixed on the inside of the front door or the main entrance to your home and the other to the door of your fridge.

#### What is the cost?

It's **FREE!** All costs are paid for by local Lions who have received generous donations from the public and businesses.

#### Where can I get a bottle?

Health centres, doctor's surgeries, chemists who should have supplies.

If you have difficulty, please contact your local Lions Club, the address and phone number are on the back of this leaflet.

## Thorverton Parish Council

### 8.15 Renting the Sheep Dip from the Church Commissioners

#### Email from the Church Commissioners:

I am having a contractor look at the wall.

I expect that subject to terms, the Church would be looking at a longer term lease with the PC taking on repairing obligations at a nominal rent.

## Thorverton Parish Council

### 9 Actions from Previous Minutes (not covered elsewhere)

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

# Thorverton Parish Council

## 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

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

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

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

# Thorverton Parish Council

## 11 Recreation Ground

### 11.1 Financial Report for January

### 11.2 Information & No dogs Signs

### 11.3 Devon Air Ambulance Landing Site

### 11.4 WI Assembly Point

### 11.5 Trustee Records with the Charity Commission

# Thorverton Parish Council

## 12 Grounds Maintenance Contractor

Work for the month

Attend to the leat at the top end of Jericho St nr the garage/barn

## 13 Finance

13.1 Bank balance £ 44,250.32 (5<sup>th</sup> February 2026)

Receipts this month Interest £ 29.76

Allotments £ 190.00

13.2 Payments To consider the following payments:

13.2.1 ICCM Training Courses 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) £ 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

7:30pm Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026