

THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held in the Village Hall,
on Thursday, 5th February 2026 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Tim Cherrett (c), Stephen Marshall, Andrew Owens, Will Sherlock, Ian Smith, Jill Wilson, Nigel Williamson

In attendance: Odile Wladon (Clerk), District & County Cllr Andrew Stringer, Mr Claude Brand – Neighbourhood Watch and 4 members of the public.

Item ref	Description
26.02.01	<p>Chairman’s welcome Cllr Cherrett chaired the meeting and welcomed Nigel Williamson to his first meeting as a Councillor.</p>
26.02.02	<p>Apologies for Absence (a) Councillors received apologies for absence from Cllr Milton and Cllr Jenkins (b) Councillors resolved to accept the apologies received</p>
26.02.03	<p>Declarations of Interests: no declarations of interest were received.</p>
26.02.04	<p>Dispensations: No requests for dispensations were received.</p>
26.02.05	<p>Minutes: Councillors resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the business conducted at the meeting held on 8th January 2026.</p>
26.02.06	<p>Reports:</p> <p><u>County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely that May 2026 elections will be postponed again. • Elections will take place in May 2027 for Unitary authorities. • Budget 2026-27 proposed increase of 4.99% reflecting serious financial concerns. • Net zero carbon report will be reviewed shortly • Suffolk roads were rated red by UK government • A new 20pmh policy has been adopted. • A local County council engineer is looking at drainage issues and will report back. <p><u>District</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget has been set • Norwich to Tilbury pylon projects – monthly drop in sessions are being held. • Nature recovery fund of £1.8m has been launched. • Sewage sludge – the council is lobbying the government to ensure guidance is updated. • Bin changes – information on the upcoming changes is being sent out to residents. • New Joint Local Plan – there has been a overwhelming response to the recent call for sites, including some sites for “new settlements”.
26.02.07	<p>Public forum: Comments were raised on the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TLC is underway; 18 people attended this afternoon. • Review of village signs will take place shortly. • Dog bin near Church has been knocked over. • Play area – access to areas near the play area is restricted during the works. Clerk advised that Cllr Milton was in discussion with the contractor. Cllr Smith advised

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	<p>that he had a possible solution to the access issue, which will be discussed at the next full Council meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall village is looking shabby, and there has been no update on the development at Kerrisons. Cllr Wilson felt that the recent heavy rain has not helped.
26.02.08	<p>Planning:</p> <p>(a) Councillors reviewed the following planning consultations received: DC/26/00006 – Erection of single storey, self-build dwelling with shared access. The Hovell, 25 High Street. Councillors resolved to support the application.</p> <p>(b) Councillors noted the outcome of planning decision reached by Mid Suffolk: DC/25/04703 Ivy Cottage: GRANTED</p>
26.02.09	<p>Finance:</p> <p>(a) Councillors resolved to approve the following payments: Bank charges £6.00 Graeme Cann £45.00 Freedom of the Parish certificate frame</p> <p>(b) Councillors resolved to budget £500 for the Clerk to buy a laptop for the Parish Council.</p>
26.02.10	<p>Clerk's report:</p> <p>(a) Correspondence received by the Clerk. Thorndon Village Hall have applied for a grant Broken dog litter bin – Cllr Wilson will look at this and see if it can be fixed. The Clerk will be informed if further assistance from Under One Roof is needed. SALC update on planning reforms</p> <p>(b) Councillors received updates from Thorndon Primary School as follows: Long awaited Ofsted inspection has recently taken place, and the school are awaiting the official outcome. All staff are happy that the inspection has taken place. Councillors were thanked for the support of school events.</p> <p>(c) LGR/Devolution: no updates.</p> <p>(d) Land off Clint Road: Councillors reviewed an email re fruit trees and agreed this was a good way forward.</p> <p>(e) Policies for approval: None for this meeting.</p>
26.02.11	<p>Councillor Training & External meetings or briefings.</p> <p>(a) No requests for training were received.</p> <p>(b) No reports from training or external meetings/briefings were received.</p>
26.02.12	<p>Highways:</p> <p>(a) Councillors received updates as follows: (i) Lorry Watch – 3 reports in 5 weeks. (ii) SIDs – no updates this month</p> <p>(b) Other highways issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Smith is following up on the report of flooding at Castle Hill, potential reasons were discussed. Cllr Wilson reported that pot holes have been marked by highways A fallen tree on the footpath to Black Horse has been reported. Community Speed Watch – no additional volunteers came forward following request in Village Life. Mounds of earth at Kerrisons is being used for footings, area is very muddy following rain.
26.02.13	<p>Emergency Planning:</p> <p>Flooding has happened twice in the Village. No contact information in Village Life. This</p>

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	needs to be reviewed. Emergency bags are yet to be purchased.
26.02.14	<p>Play Equipment: Areas where further information is required: Councillors enquired whether there is a maintenance contract for the new equipment. New signage is required when the works are complete. Access for pedestrians was discussed during the public forum, Cllr Smith will circulate idea for solution ahead of the next meeting. Gate to adjacent land is locked – what happens if there is an emergency?</p>
26.02.15	<p>Meeting opened for brief matters of report/agenda items for next meeting. See agenda items 26.02.14 Is it possible to revisit the idea of a post box in the centre of the village? Flooding in the village – is it possible to keep a log and add information to Village Life? Reinstatement of Community Speed Watch Grass cutting contract needs to be renewed.</p>
26.02.16	<p>Neighbourhood Watch report Site meeting took place on 22/1/26 with officer re flooding and was productive Police drop in session attended. Next sessions at Eye Library are scheduled for 14th April and 5th May, 10am till noon. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Owens and Cllr Jenkins for replacing neighbourhood watch signs. Post box has been repaired. Lost and found: 3 items were delivered to wrong address and all were redirected. 18/2/26 – Mr Brand will have completed 29 years in Neighbourhood Watch.</p>
26.02.17	Date of next meeting: 5th March 2026

Meeting closed at: 8.45pm

Signed: _____

Date: