

## THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held in the Village Hall,  
on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 commencing at 7.30pm

**Present:** Tim Cherrett, Stephen Marshall, Emma Milton (c), Will Sherlock, Ian Smith, Jill Wilson, Nigel Williamson

**In attendance:** Odile Wladon (Clerk), District & County Cllr Andrew Stringer, Mr Claude Brand – Neighbourhood Watch and 2 members of the public.

Item ref	Description
<b>26.03.01</b>	<p><b>Chairman’s welcome</b> All were welcomed to the meeting and the Chairman apologised for not being able to attend the February meeting.</p>
<b>26.03.02</b>	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b> (a) Councillors received apologies from Cllrs Jenkins and Owens (b) Councillors <b>resolved</b> to accept the reasons for absence received.</p>
<b>26.03.03</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interests:</b> there were no interests declared.</p>
<b>26.03.04</b>	<p><b>Dispensations:</b> there were no requests for dispensations</p>
<b>26.03.05</b>	<p><b>Minutes:</b> Councillors <b>resolved</b> to accept the minutes as a true record of the business conducted at the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026.</p>
<b>26.03.06</b>	<p><b>Reports:</b>  <u>Mid Suffolk District Council</u>                      Postponed elections for from 2025 Suffolk County Council from 2025 will take place in May 2026 under new boundaries.                      Elections for the new unitary authority and Thorndon Parish Council will take place in May 2027, with mayoral elections in May 2028.                      Council tax will rise by 2.99% following information received from the government which contained information on why this needed to take place.                      Call for sites for Joint Local Plan – all submitted sites can be viewed on the website; no decisions have been made at the moment.                      New bins have been delivered ahead of the start of the new recycling programme.                      A14 litter – litter pick has been on hold following health and safety concerns. It is hoped these will recommence soon.  <u>Suffolk County Council</u>                      Energy, water, transport, commercial and adaptive infrastructure policy (new name) – changes to policy approved.                      Vehicle removal trial during resurfacing works – council will trial removing cars which block resurfacing work despite advance notice and requests to leave area free of cars.                      CEO has resigned and given LGR, it would be difficult to recruit, therefore 2 Directors have agreed to share the role until LGR is complete.                      Lidar survey has been completed and has produced extensive maps which can be used in hydrology reports for planning.                      Dates have been requested for visit from highways.</p>
<b>26.03.07</b>	<p><b>Public forum:</b> Question to Cllr Stringer – is there an update from SCC on SEND budget? It is crashing into the red, Government fund 90% but still leaves a £15m shortfall. Also, early years is</p>

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	struggling for capacity due to staffing issues, as “free” hours are not fully funded. Comment to Parish Council: very pleased to see request for donation to help improve village is on the agenda.
<b>26.03.08</b>	<b>Planning:</b> there were no planning matters to review at this meeting.
<b>26.03.09</b>	<p><b>Finance:</b></p> <p>(a) Councillors <b>resolved</b> to approve the following payments due in month or paid in month to fulfil contractual obligations. Bank charges £7.00 – monthly charge 121 Computers £399.00 – new laptop for Clerk Elan City £2,867.99 – new SID HAGS £1,166,40 – additional works to ensure trampoline could be installed HAGS 159,600.00 – new play equipment at Fen View</p> <p>(b) Councillors noted receipts in month. MSDC Grant for SID £769.50 SCC Grant for SID £1620.50</p> <p>(c) Councillors <b>resolved</b> to continue with the current grass cutting contract with Mr Fiebelkorn subject to a formal quote being received.</p> <p>(d) Any other financial matters. MSDC have advised that bin emptying will increase w/e 1<sup>st</sup> April from £50 per bin to £51.50 Unity Trust have advised that FSCS limit has increased to £120,000</p>
<b>26.03.10</b>	<p><b>Clerk’s report:</b></p> <p>(a) Councillors reviewed correspondence received by the Clerk: Letter re May elections going ahead. No action needed. MSDC – meadow management, supporting pollinators. Noted SCC – survey on highways. Clerk to complete on behalf of the parish council</p> <p>(b) Update from Thorndon Primary School. Ofsted report not yet received, so unable to share outcomes. School is doing very well and looking forward to getting involved in new play area.</p> <p>(c) LGR/Devolution: Government due to issue decision on whether there will be 1 or 3 Unitary Authorities in March.</p> <p>(d) Land off Clint Road: Fruit trees will not be planted until the Autumn The ditches will be investigated Hedge planting has started - signage about provisional no parking has been installed A draft management plan is being prepared Cllr Wilson commented that work is underway to reinstate boundaries and that a good job has been done so far.</p> <p>(e) Policies for approval: Councillors <b>resolved</b> to approve the IT Policy.</p>

Item ref	Description
26.03.11	<p><b>Councillor Training &amp; External meetings or briefings.</b></p> <p>(a) No requests for training were received – Clerk to send Cllr Williamson link to SALC training portal.</p> <p>(b) No reports from training or external meetings/briefings</p>
26.03.12	<p><b>Highways:</b></p> <p>(a) Councillors received updates as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Lorry Watch – 6 reports in February 2026</li> <li>(ii) SIDs : Monitoring exercise is underway. Additional SID – Councillors noted that the additional solar powered SID, which is to be sited on the Rishangles Road, has been received and will be installed shortly.</li> <li>(iii) Dog litter bin and post repair – Dog litter bin has been reattached. Post repair, Cllr Wilson waiting to collect new post, cost will be approximately £30.</li> </ul> <p>(b) Other highways information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Councillors <b>resolved</b> to approve the following donation towards works in the Village: Planted areas - £600 to Community Council</li> <li>b. Village gateways – can only be done by SCC following a request by the Parish Council, cost likely to be £3,500 per site, this will not be progressed at the current time.</li> <li>(i) Parking at Fen View: complaints received about parking on grassed areas. Councillors were recommended to advise residents to contact Mid Suffolk District Council as the area is their responsibility.</li> <li>(ii) Community Speed Watch – no volunteer has come forward to lead the project, therefore Councillors agreed to put the proposal on hold.</li> <li>(iii) Flooding – Cllr Wilson is keeping a log of flooding in areas in the village. She is happy to be the communication point.</li> <li>(iv) Inspection cover – leaking and causing flooding, has been reported to Suffolk County Council</li> </ul>
26.03.13	<p><b>Access to area at Fen View</b></p> <p>Councillors <b>resolved</b> to accept the following proposal: move 1.6m of the fence to allow pedestrian access to the field. No cost involved.</p>
26.03.14	<p><b>Signage at Fen View</b></p> <p>Councillors <b>resolved</b> to purchase a sign to comply with RoSPA suggestions. Existing signs to be reviewed to see if contact details can be added to report damage.</p>
26.03.15	<p><b>Post box</b></p> <p>The matter was discussed; a request has previously been submitted but was not accepted. A further request will be resubmitted once the relevant contact information is identified.</p>

Item ref	Description
26.03.16	<b>Emergency Planning:</b> no update for this meeting.
26.03.17	<b>Play Equipment</b> HAGS attending site on 6 <sup>th</sup> March. Anticipated that project will be signed off. Heras fencing will be removed. Launch event will be organised.
26.03.18	<b>Meeting opened for brief matters of report/agenda items for next meeting.</b> Add Mr Cattermole's name to Honour Board Playground accident insurance – Zurich Insurance to be reviewed.
26.03.19	<b>Neighbourhood Watch report</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> February a neighbourhood police drop in session took place at Stoke Ash to coincide with Rural Coffee Caravan visit. Next visit 17 <sup>th</sup> March from 2-4pm. Drop in sessions at Eye: 14 <sup>th</sup> April and 5 <sup>th</sup> May. Blue bins have been delivered in the village. Police and Crime Commissioner meeting took place via Teams. 26 people attended. No lost and found or misdelivered items. Road sweeper visited but due to parked cars couldn't sweep all areas – advance notice would be useful. Litter picking – youngest picker is 8 years old, and has picked over 100 pieces of litter from footpaths. 21 people currently litter pick and all will be contacted to see if they need any new equipment.
26.03.20	<b>Date of next meeting:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026

Meeting closed at: 8.45pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: