

THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held in Thorndon Village Hall,
on Thursday, 4th June 2026 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Tim Cherrett, Robert Jenkins, Emma Milton, Andrew Owens, Ian Smith,
Nigel Williamson

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

MINUTES

Item ref	Description
26.06.01	Chairman's welcome The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.
26.06.02	Apologies for Absence (a) Councillors received apologies from Stephen Marshall, Jill Wilson and Will Sherlock (b) Councillors resolved to accept the apologies received.
26.06.03	Declarations of Interests: no interests were declared.
26.06.04	Dispensations: no requests for dispensations were received.
26.06.05	Minutes: Councillors resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the business conducted at the annual meeting held on 14th May 2026.
26.06.06	Public forum: no questions or comments from the public on agenda items
26.06.07	Planning: there were no planning matters discussed at this meeting.
26.06.08	Finance: (a) Councillors noted the updated Asset Register and that the new play equipment has increased increase in the Council's insurance premium by £190.94 (b) In month: (i) Councillors resolved to approve payments due in month or paid to fulfil contractual obligations: Zurich Insurance £190.94 O Wladon EE data SIM card £53.45 Bank Charges £7.00 Multi pay card charges £3.00 (ii) Councillors noted receipts in month. VAT Refund £29,565.77 (£29,000 was transferred to deposit account)
26.06.09	Clerk's report: (a) Correspondence received by the Clerk. An email was received concerning a request for allotments to be included on the land off Clint Road. This will be passed to Richard Parmee at Mid Suffolk. (b) Thorndon Primary School Since the successful Ofsted report there have been many enquiries from families wishing to look round. The school is getting ready for Thorndon in Colour and are very grateful to Diss Garden Centre for the donation of a planter and plants for the children to display. All children are looking forward to the opening event for the play area, scheduled for 26 th July from 3pm at Fen View.

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	(c) LGR/Devolution SALC recently hosted Arthur Charvonia, CEO at Mid Suffolk, who spoke about the work being undertaken across all councils preparing for the move to 3 unitary authorities from the current 6 councils. Both Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils will need to reaffirm the previous commitment to have a Mayor across both areas before the Devolution part of the reorganisation can move forward. (d) Land off Clint Road All fencing and hedge reinstatement work has been completed for this season. Our staff have been watering the planting during the recent dry spell and we are pleased to see rain at long last. Should there be substantial losses due to drought, there is provision to replace these in the late autumn. 14 native black poplar cuttings have been planted across the site, in areas where the ground is dampest. These are unrooted, but we have had considerable success using large cuttings on other sites, often out-growing rooted trees. If any of these fail, we can replace in the autumn with rooted trees. A management plan is being drafted, with the hope it will be available for consultation in June. A consultation event will be organised to allow the village the opportunity to feed into the management plan. It is hoped to have the final plan in place in July, so work can commence work on it soon after. 40 fruit trees from the Woodland Trust have been obtained, which it is intended to in the autumn to start creating a community orchard. The location of this will be determined via the management plan and public consultation. A planting event will be organised in the autumn and the village invited to help plant the trees. Discussion have taken place on potential restoration of former ponds with Suffolk Wildlife Trust, who have good experience of doing this. There is a partially filled-in pond next to the existing pond, with good scope to excavate and restore. The second former pond is within trees a little further to the south. There is lots of rubble in this area and we believe the former farmhouse has been used to fill-in this pond. Given the trees, rubble and whatever else may be buried there, this former pond will be left untouched. The existing pond is in good condition and there are no current plans to carry out any work on it. However, any final decision on pond restoration will be made once we have the management plan agreed. The Inland Drainage Board dredged sections of the Thorndon Brook in late winter, leaving piles of cut trees and shrubs on our land. This work does not form part of our management. We understand this may be repeated periodically and we hope to engage with them over future work. General management – hedges along Clint Road have been cut back and will continue to do this as required. The need to maintain ditches to prevent flooding that affected some properties previously is being looked into to establish is required and the frequency. Management of the grass will be shaped by the management plan, but may include a more mixed approach than before, perhaps with some areas cut annually and others less frequently, to create more diversity. Some species, such as barn owls, prefer tussocky grass that doesn't get cut that frequently. A clearer picture of the necessary approach will be seen once there is an agreed management plan. All plans are on hold for now until this is in place and the village has been consulted. (e) Policies/Procedures: none for this meeting
26.06.10	Councillor Training & External meetings or briefings (a) There were no requests for training. (b) There were no reports on training undertaken or external meetings/briefings attended.

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26.06.11	Highways (a) Updates were received on: (i) Lorry Watch – 3 reports were made in May (ii) SID – Cllr Williamson recently took readings and will look at any issues this highlights. (b) Other highways information on reports previously submitted: (i) Signs – Cllr Cherrett advised he is continuing to review the signs in the village. (ii) Dog litter bin – was never removed following concerns raised after the last meeting. (iii) Castle Hill – Cllr Smith is keeping in touch with highways on this matter to ensure that the issue remains an ongoing concern. (iv) Lychgate – Cllr Jenkins advised that the repairs are on going.
26.06.12	Signage at Fen View Gym equipment is for use up to age 12 so no new signage needed. Contact sign to be ordered once issues with using payment card online have been resolved.
26.06.13	Emergency plan Emergency bags will be ordered when issues with using the payment card online are addressed. A resident asked if there was a list of first responders in the village? It was noted that this information is not usually published as first responders are contacted by the emergency services as they have a log of who is on call at any time.
26.06.14	Play Equipment Councillors noted that the grass and meshing were part of the original plan. Cllr Milton met the contractor onsite to discuss the fencing issues and it was noted that the footings for the fencing have rotten and that the gate has collapsed. Under One Roof will be approached to quote for repair works. The harness is on order but not yet received. Councillors resolved to agree a budget of £5,000 for new benches made from reclaimed plastic. There will be 4 benches, colours to be determined, and 2 will be accessible.
26.06.15	Meeting opened for brief matters of report/agenda items for next meeting. A member of the public wanted to compliment the bin men on the excellent work they have done implementing the new rota, the operatives have been very helpful. Mr Brand supported this and noted that although a few bins have been missed, they have worked hard to rectify issues.
26.06.16	Reports: <u>County Council</u> A motion was debated on the previously agreed support for a northern relief road for Ipswich. It was noted that the relief road would need to be self funding and this would have to come from increased housing, this would be in addition to the new housing targets issued by the government. The opposition suggested that upgrading rail junctions should be a priority. The Councillors voted to review all options again. A pre-action protocol letter has been sent to the government by the new administration concerning the decisions on local government reorganisation. Officers are currently work on the reorganisation and the opposition is concerned that legal work could detract from this. <u>District Council</u>

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	Armed Forces Day will take place in Stowmarket on 27th June 2026. Stowmarket Innovation Gateway is set to open in July. It offers spaces for high growth start-ups, collaboration and innovation areas, meeting rooms, a cafe and high-quality training spaces Locality Awards are open for bids. New bin collections are up and running, any issues should be reported to Cllr Stringer. Regarding the parking at Fen View – no answers yet. Castle Hill – issue with drainage has been kept open.
26.06.17	Neighbourhood Watch report Police drop-in sessions took place in Eye and outside the Debenham Co-op. Lost parcels – mis deliveries are still happening despite suppliers being contacted. Bottle bank – the village hall have confirmed they have received a one off payment to March 2027 based on an average of previous payments. No further payments will be received. No new residents have been signed up, but a copy of the welcome pack has been left at local holiday lets. Mr Brand will be writing to complain about the very late postal deliveries in the area.
26.06.18	Date of next meeting: 2nd July 2026
26.06.19	Closed session: (i) Councillors resolved to close the meeting to the press and public to review this item in closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. (ii) Councillors noted that the Chairman has received the Clerk's resignation who will be leaving post on 31st August 2026 at the latest. Councillors agreed a vacancy advert, job description and person specification. It was agreed that an interview panel of Cllrs Milton and Cherrett alongside the Clerk would be established. With any candidates being interviewed w/c 20th July 2026.

Meeting closed at: 9.00pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____