THORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held in Thorndon Village Hall,
on Thursday, 1st October 2026 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Tim Cherrett, Robert Jenkins, Andrew Owens, Will Sherlock, Jill Wilson

In attendance: Odile Wladon (Clerk), Mr Claude Brand (Neighbourhood Watch) and 6 members of the public

Item ref	Description
26.10.01	**Chairman's welcome** Tim Cherrett as Vice Chair, chaired the meeting.
26.10.02	**Apologies for Absence** (a) Apologies for absence were received from Stephen Marshall, Emma Milton, Ian Smith, Nigel Williamson. (b) Councillors **resolved** to accept the apologies received.
26.10.03	**Declarations of Interests:** (a) Pecuniary Interests - none (b) Other registerable interests - none (c) Non-registerable interests - none
26.10.04	**Dispensations:** No requests for dispensations were received
26.10.05	**Minutes:** Councillors **resolved** to approve the minutes as a true record of the business conducted at the annual meeting held on 3rd September 2026.
26.10.06	**Reports:** Councillor Stringer sent apologies and his County and District reports were noted
26.10.07	**Public forum:** Thorndon Primary School – a member of the public advised that the school is doing really well and that there are now 72 pupils on roll as a result they are back to 4 classes with some of them full. They had a good write up in the local press following their successful Ofsted. Children have settled in well and FOTS have lots of activities planned. It is encouraging to see some parents are cycling to school. A member of the Community Council followed up a written apology they had sent to the Parish Council with a verbal one at the meeting for their untimely exit at the last meeting and apologised again. They spoke about a proposal which has been submitted to the Parish Council to create a community field on the Land adjacent to the Church, this would not be known as a village green as this may put off the Town Trust however in essence that is what the submitted paper describes. The Community Council wants to work in collaboration with the Parish Council, a financial collaboration would be advantageous, and the Community Council may not be able to move forward with the project without the Parish Council's support. The Community Council believe the Parish Council should be the lessee but also suggest that both councils could be joint lessees. 7th October is the deadline for submissions to the Town Trust as this is when they will vote on a way forward. The member of the public was happy to answer questions when the matter is discussed later in the meeting.

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	Planning – a member of the public spoke about planning reference DC/26/03678. They noted they had objected to the planning consultation. When it was initially published it took 10 days for the formal letter to reach the nearby householders. Several residents have objected to the application due to the outlook and loss of amenity, alongside the very large nature of the scheme, the impact on biodiversity as there are many protected species on the site and they have seen lots of wildlife. The area could be a hay meadow. But is not a regularly managed lawn.
26.10.08	**Planning:** (a) Cllrs reviewed the following consultation and approved a response: **DC/26/03678** - Change of use of land for solar panel array installation. Mill House, The Street RECONSULTATION Councillors considered the additional comments which were not available at the time of the original consultation and noted that the co-owner of the land is not in favour of the application. Councillors **resolved** to withdraw their support for the application and further **resolved** to object to the application on the grounds of harm to the amenity of the neighbouring properties and the harm to biodiversity, therefore the Council recommends refusal. (b) Cllrs noted decisions reached by Mid Suffolk District Council: **DC/26/03277** - The Hovell, 25 High Street, Thorndon, Eye Suffolk IP23 7LX Discharge of Conditions GRANTED
26.10.09	**Finance:** (a) Cllrs **resolved** to approve a donation of £288 to the TLC Club to assist with the running of the club. (b) Cllrs **resolved** to approve payments due in month or paid to fulfil contractual obligations as follows: i) Freethought – MS365 accounts and support £879.84 ii) SALC – payroll services £54.00 iii) Donation - to Community Council for TLC £288.00 iv) O Wladon salary for 2nd quarter £1337.30 - this payment includes the nationally agreed pay rise back dated to April 2026 v) HMRC – PAYE & NI for 2nd quarter £397.65 vi) Lloyds Bank – service charges £3.00 vii) Zurich Insurance – annual renewal fee £1653.83 viii) Unity Trust Bank service charge - £7.00 ix) Poppy Appeal £200.00 (c) Cllrs to note receipts in month. i) £30.00 refund from Clerk for overpayment of expenses ii) £360.91 in credit interest from Unity Trust Bank iii) £15.83 Wayleave payment from UK PowerNetworks iv) 2nd Half year precept £11,870 v) Internal transfer of £10,000 was made from current account to deposit account on 13/9/26. (d) Cllrs noted the half year accounts review. The Clerk advised that the potential CIL has

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	been amended on the Mid Suffolk database. Cllrs were concerned that DC/23/00526 - Pheasant Fields Barn, The Street is recorded as not commenced with permission lapsed. Cllrs requested that the Clerk advises MSDC that work is almost complete on the barn and therefore it is possible that CIL should have been paid.
26.10.10	**Clerk's report:** (a) Cllrs reviewed correspondence received by the Clerk and **agreed** a way forward. • Email from Suffolk Implementation Board regarding LGR - noted • Letter from Andy Mellen (Leader MSDC) regarding community emergency planning - noted • Email from Green Access Officer at SCC re Mid Suffolk Footpath – noted. Clerk to follow up. • Further email regarding Clint Road noted. Cllr Wilson noted that the traffic coming from Eye direction is coming around a corner and the drivers do not see the housing until they turn the corner. It is used as a cut through and there are many HGVs using it. Pedestrians using the land off Clint Road has increased, including wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs. It was noted that the SID near the Village Hall could be used at the location, but this needs a post and new batteries. • Further emails regarding destruction of woodland. Cllr Wilson noted that as land in the village is being developed mature trees are being lost. She is concerned how many mature oak trees are being cut down and asked if there are there enough TPOs to protect the heritage of the village. It was noted that MSDC do consider trees etc as part of planning applications. Councillors noted that the correspondence is clear, the works carried out and referenced in the email were done with the permission of Mid Suffolk District Council as the trees were diseased. Councillors felt there were sufficient TPOs in place at the current time. • Land adjacent Church (see item (e) below). (b) Cllrs received updates from Thorndon Primary School – see public forum. (c) LGR/Devolution - Cllrs noted the recent decision to halt the LGR timetable (d) Land off Clint Road – Cllrs **resolved** to take the following names forward for a public consultation: • Glebe Nature Reserve • Brackenham Nature Reserve • Ganderwick Nature Reserve • Dove Nature Reserve (e) Land adj Church – Town Trust • Councillors reviewed correspondence received from the Community Council regarding a potential joint venture proposal for the land and agreed that a joint venture would not be taken forward for further discussion.

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	• It was noted that should the Community Council be successful in their bid, then they could apply for a grant from the Parish Council which could be paid from s.137 funds depending on the expenditure already made in year and the amount requested. • The Cllrs noted that Cllr Jenkins has spoken to someone connected to both the Church and the Town Trust who has stated that installing a gate off the car park at the Church to access the land would not be an issue. Cllr Wilson noted she had a gate that could be used. • Mr Fiebelkorn has indicated he could undertake grass cutting on the site as part of the work he carries out for the Parish Council already. Councillors **resolved** to continue with the Parish Council bid only and to wait for the outcome of the Town Trust vote on the matter before any further discussions take place and budgets agreed. (f) Posts on triangle – opp Church: the insurance company have agreed to one of the quotes submitted and the contractor will be advised shortly. Once an invoice for the work and evidence that work completed has been received by the insurance company, then a full refund will be paid. (g) Policies/Procedures: none for this meeting
26.10.11	**Councillor Training & External meetings or briefings** (a) Requests for training - Cllr Wilson is booked on a planning webinar (b) There were no updates from training or external meetings/briefings
26.10.12	**Highways** (a) Cllrs received updates on: (i) Lorry Watch – 2 sightings this month. Lorry watchers on Clint Road would be beneficial. (ii) SID – Councillors **resolved** to purchase new batteries for the SID currently at the Village Hall. A quote will be obtained for an additional post on Clint Road. If the application is successful, then the SID at the Village Hall will be moved between the 2 sites. (iii) Parking at Fen View - County Cllr Stringer's report highlighted that site visits have taken place and plans will be drawn up. (iv) Flooding at Castle Hill – 24/9/26 Highways advised that works will be carried out within 20 working days (v) Missing signs on Rishangles Road – 21/9/26 Highways advised works will be carried out within 10 working days. (b) Cllrs received updates on other highways information as follows: • Cllr Wilson has reported the broken boardwalk on the footpath near the play area to Suffolk County Council. • Cllr Wilson noted the pavement in the village is in a poor state of repair and has been advised by Highways that there are no works required – Cllr Wilson to contact Cllr Stringer for advice on the matter.

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26.10.14	**Emergency plan:** Cllr Cherrett to add something to Village Life to see if there are any volunteers for Community Co-ordinators from the village. High viz vests to be purchased and one emergency bag. It was noted that the plan will not be published as it contains lots of personal information, it will be shared with the necessary authorities and used in the event of an emergency.
26.10.15	**Kerrison Bell:** Cllr Cherrett has picked up the bell; Burgess Homes are happy for it to be displayed somewhere on the old Kerrison site and will fund the work. Unfortunately, there is damage to the bell and Cllr Cherrett has asked Burgess homes if they are able to repair it. If Burgess Homes cannot repair it, the Parish Council will budget a figure to repair the damage.
26.10.16	**Fen View:** Cllrs received updates on the following: (a) Car park replacement wooden rail and fencing – quote to be reviewed in closed session (b) CCTV – quotes to be reviewed in closed session (c) Harnesses for play area – no update for this meeting (d) Metal gate for play area – advice is adjustment may be possible, if not a replacement gate could be £500 and if repair to the posts is required this could cost a minimum of £1500.00. (e) Metal bollard repair – Clerk has asked the original manufacturer to visit site and is awaiting information on whether it can be repaired, or whether it needs to be replaced. (f) Picnic benches – Councillors **resolved** to order 2 by colour benches at a cost of £411.99 each and 1 x brown accessible bench at a cost of £917.99 (all plus VAT). Cllr Cherrett to ask a local tradesman to remove the existing benches – cost (if any) to be paid by the Council.
26.10.17	**Meeting opened for brief matters of report/agenda items for next meeting.** Agenda items: 1. Clint Road SID post quote 2. Old Kerrison field 3. During the closed session a request to add the planters around the village was made. Matters of report: A member of the public raised the matter of monitoring the chicken farm at Castle Hill – Cllr Wilson has not noted anything untoward since annual clean. Member of the public noted there were 5 cars outside the house, plus an estate car. They also commented that a barrier has been installed to show a height restriction and feels that the area needs to be monitored. Cllr Wilson confirmed it used as a layer unit and will monitor it and will liaise with the owner on the matter. It was noted that the environment agency will monitor the activities in accordance with their licence.
26.10.18	**Neighbourhood Watch report** • Received a phone call today that Thorndon Post Office van will not be in the village tomorrow. • Next police drop will be in the Eye library in November date to be confirmed. • 15th September PCSO Hassler held a drop-in session at the rural caravan near the

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	village hall in Stoke Ash. • Missing parcel from Hestley Green has been located. • 1 set of keys still not claimed. • 2 new residents have received welcome pack and 1 has signed up. • 1 resident asked to be removed as they have moved. • Mr Brand will attend the Area East policing meeting next Tuesday. • Food bank – a list of items needed has been received and posters will be placed in the village. • Cllr Stringer's reports will be circulated.
26.10.19	**Date of next meeting:** 5th November 2026
26.10.20	**Closed session:** (i) Councillors **resolved** to close the meeting to review the following confidential items in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960. (ii) Councillors **resolved** to accept the following quotes: Wooden rail at Fen View: Under One Roof - £2380 (plus VAT). CCTV: Security Solutions plus annual service visit and annual monitoring. Costs: CCTV £1445.93, annual maintenance £85.00 and annual monitoring £275.00 (all plus VAT). (iii) Cllrs **resolved** to appoint Mark Knight to the role of Clerk/RFO on a salary of SCP23 for 7 hours per week – start date to be agreed. Cllrs further **resolved** that Odile Wladon would stay in post on her current contract and would be paid SCP23 from 1st October 2026. She will work 7 hours per week until 31st October 2026 and then, assuming Mark Knight can take up post during the last week in October, 1 hour per week thereafter until transfer of banking is sorted out and a full handover has taken place.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed: _____ Date: