

**MINUTES OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MEETING**  
**THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE**  
**3 MARCH 2026**

**Present:** Parish Councillors Mrs. P. Maddison (Meeting Chair), Mr. D. Smith Ms. E. Bramfitt, Mrs. A. Galley, Mr. K. Joyce and Mr. G. MacPherson.

**In attendance:** J Walter, Parish Clerk

**Public:** two members of the public were present for part of the meeting.

**Meeting Commenced: 6:30pm**

**460. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies have been received from Councillors, Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair) and Mr. T. Unsworth

**Resolved (1):** that the apologies from Councillors received.

**461. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda**

No declarations of interest were made.

**Resolved:** the information is noted.

**462. To confirm the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 13 January 2026**

The draft minutes of the above meetings had been circulated.

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 13 January 2026 be approved, confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

**463. Public question and answer session**

The members of the public raised safety regarding the A181.

**Resolved:** the issue regarding the A181 has already been added to agenda and the clerk will undertake some research speaking to surrounding parishes, including possible public consultation.

**464. To receive the report of the Unitary County Councillor**

Parish Councillors requested the Clerk to advise County Councillor Craggs that they wish to escalate the matter of problems with the A181 for which responsibility lies with Highways England and Durham County Council.

**Resolved:** the Clerk to contact County Councillor Craggs to raise the problems with the A181.

**465. To receive the Police Report**

No Police report had been received.

**Resolved:** to note the information.

**466. Financial and Governance Matters**

**a) To approve the finance report and payment schedule**

The Clerk advised that the Council's bank balances at 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 was **£155,896.22**.

**December**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date Paid/ Invoiced</b>	<b>Payme nt Method</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1.	01.12.25	Direct Debit (DD)	Tesco Mobile	Mobile Phones 3x	£21.00
2.	01.12.25	BACS	Halls of Durham	Janitorial	£23.94
3.	01.12.25	BACS	LIDL	Christmas event party food	£129.50
4.	01.12.25	BACS	Aldi	Christmas event party food	£14.73
5.	02.12.25	BACS	Treadx	Tyres for lawn mower	£71.98
6.	02.12.25	BACS	AJ Guthrie & Son	Wildflower Meadow	£972.00
7.	02.12.25	BACS	Document Solutions	IT Maintenance	£227.16
8.	04.12.25	BACS	Mazars LLP	Limited Assurance	£756.00
9.	05.12.25	BACS	D.C.C Pension Fund	Local Government Pension	£2033.95
10.	05.12.25	BACS	HMRC	Employer Liabilities	£2131.48
11.	03.12.25	BACS	ASDA	Confectionary for Panto	£8.32
12.	12.12.25	DD	British Gas	Electricity Bill TVC	269.67
13.	15.12.25	DD	ITC Services Ltd	Printing & Photocopying	£38.93
14.	15.12.25	DD	ITC Service Ltd	Website Domain & Hosting	£32.40
15.	15.12.25	BACS	ASDA	Refreshments TVC	£1.20
16.	15.12.25	BACS	ASDA	Event Refreshments TVC	£4.00
17.	15.12.25	BACS	ASDA	Refreshments TVC	£1.18
18.	15.12.25	BACS	ASDA	Refreshments TVC	£1.18
19.	15.12.25	BACS	Bowburn Services	Petrol for Mower	£54.01
20.	15.12.25	BACS	North East Employers	Job Advertisement for Clerk	£180.00
21.	16.12.25	DD	Wave	TVC Water	£380.90
22.	16.12.25	DD	Wave	Welfare Park Water	£83.99
23.	16.12.25	DD	Wave	Coopers Close Water	£283.79
24.	16.12.25	DD	Wave	Thornley Colliery Site Water	£34.79
25.	16.12.25	BACS	Sandz entertainment	TVC event	£200.00
26.	18.12.25	BACS	Party Time Inflatables	TVC Easter event	£354.00
27.	19.12.25	BACS	Staff	Mileage x4	£62.55
28.	19.12.25	BACS	Staff	Wages (Dec)	£8,804.62
29.	29.12.25	DD	British Gas	Electricity The Pavillion	£43.40

30.	23.12.25	DD	British Gas	Electricity TVC	3459.04
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## January

No.	Date Paid/ Invoiced	Payment Method	Payee	Description	Amount
1.	02.01.26	DD	Tesco Mobile	Mobile Phones 3x	£21.00
2.	02.01.26	BACS	D.C.C Pensions Fund	Local Government Pension	£2,0932.32
3.	02.01.26	BACS	HMRC	Employer Liabilities	£2,131.48
4.	05.01.26	DD	Co-operative Bank	Bank charges	£30.00
5.	12.01.26	BACS	NSALG	Nation Allotment Society	£84.00
6.	12.01.26	BACS	Document Solutions	IT Maintenance	£227.16
7.	12.01.26	BACS	ADT	Maintenance of Fire Alarm System	£467.28
8.	12.01.26	BACS	ADT	Maintenance of Emergency Lighting	£467.28
9.	12.01.26	BACS	ADT	Monitoring intruder system.	£1758.54
10.	12.01.26	BACS	ADT	Provision for keyholding service	£901.88
11.	15.01.26	DD	ITC Services Ltd	Printing & Photocopying	£32.40
12.	15.01.26	BACS	Morrisons	After Christmas promotion	£28.78
13.	21.01.26	BACS	Staff	Mileage x2	£8.55
14.	21.01.26	BACS	Staff	Wages (Jan)	£7068.35
15.	21.01.26	BACS	County Durham CTP	Councillor Training	£20.00
16.	21.01.26	BACS	County Durham CTP	Councillor Training	£20.00
17.	21.01.26	BACS	ASDA	Refreshments TVC	£1.20
18.	21.01.26	BACS	ASDA	Refreshments TVC	£1.18
19.	21.01.26	BACS	ASDA	Janitorial supplies	£11.52
20.	21.01.26	BACS	ASDA	Postage	£6.95
21.	22.01.26	DD	British Gas	Electricity The Pavillion	£34.72
22.	23.01.26	DD	British Gas	Thornley Village Centre	£444.42
23.	29.01.26	BACS	SLCC	ILCA	£168.00
24.	29.01.26	BACS	Tesco	Mobile Phone	£184.00

## Future Dated Purchases for consideration:

No.	Payee	Description	Amount
1.	DCC	Contribution to stones for pump track	£6,000.00

## Monies received over £100.00

No.	Date Received/ Banked	Payer	Description	Amount
1.	15.12.25	British Gas	Renewable Energy Income	£314.78
2.	31.12.25	Unity Trust Bank	Interest	£501.38
3.	30.01.25	ESC Lottery Fund	Badminton	£850.00

## Interest rate changes

Bank	Account type	Former rate	New rate	Date of change
Nationwide	Savings	1.55%	1.5%	23.01.26
Unity Trust Bank	Instant Access	2.10%	1.95%	23.03.26

### Resolved:

(1) to note the bank balances.

(2) to approve the payments in the schedule and the future dated purchases.

(3) to note the monies received over £100.00.

#### **b) To note the new Pension employer contributions for the new financial year**

Resolved: (1) Pension contributions noted.

#### **c) To consider Parish Council fees for Allotments, hire of Welfare Park sports facilities and Thornley Cemetery**

Resolved: (1) councillors agreed that all Parish Council fees for Allotments, hire of Welfare Park sports facilities and Thornley Cemetery will remain the same.

#### **d) To consider the renewal of the Gas contract and agree to be dealt with by the clerk.**

Resolved: (1) councillors agreed to be dealt with by the Clerk.

### **467. Progress Reports from Officers and Councillors**

#### **a) Parish Clerk's Report including correspondence**

Resolved (1): to note the Parish Clerks Report

i) Update on request to take the freehold of Thornley Village Centre

Resolved (2): to note the update provided.

ii) Update on the actions taken and progress made regarding A181 safety.

Resolved (3): to note the update provided and continue undertaking research with surrounding areas Wheatly hill and Cassop.

iii) To update on the matters relating to Parish Council Allotments water supply and drainage issues.

Resolved: to note update provided.

**b) Reports from Parish Councillors**

i) County Durham Association of Local Councils Smaller Councils Meeting

Resolved: to note the information provided regarding the above Smaller Councils Meeting.

**c) Grounds Officers' Report**

Resolved: to note the Grounds' Officers' Report.

**468. Thornley Village Centre Provisions**

**a) Community Workers Report**

Resolved: to note the Community Workers Report

**b) To consider the sale of refreshments and merchandise**

Resolved: Council agreed for the sale of refreshments and merchandise at events and groups.

**c) To consider the use of volunteers for events**

Resolved: Council agreed for the use of additional volunteers.

**469. To consider any response to Durham County Council regarding Planning Matters**

**a) To consider any response to Durham County Council regarding planning applications**

1. [DM/25/02618/FPA](#) Land to the South of South Parade, DH6 3EG

Resolved: planning application [DM/25/02618/FPA](#) is noted.

2. [DM/25/02865/RM](#) Plot 49, Dunelm Stables, Thornley

Resolved: Planning application [DM/25/02865/RM](#) is noted.

4. [DM/25/02255/FPA](#) Land To The North West of High Crows House, Wheatley Hill DH6 3QL.

Resolved: planning application [DM/25/02255/FPA](#) is noted.

**b) To consider any planning applications received after the agenda was issued, to be dealt with by the Clerk using delegated authority**

Resolved: to note no planning applications had been received after the agenda was issued.

**470. To note the clerks update on the pump track hardening.**

Resolved: to note update provided.

**471. Members' issues and suggestions**

No matters were raised.

Resolved: to note the information.

**472. To consider items for the agenda of a future meeting**

Resolved: Councillors requested that the A181 be added as a standing item on future Council ordinary meeting agendas.

**473. Date and time of the next meeting of the Parish Council**

To confirm the date and time of the next ordinary meeting.

Resolved: to confirm the date and time of the next ordinary meeting as 6.30pm on Tuesday 5 May 2026.

**474. To consider a resolution that the following items are classified as being of a confidential nature in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960; at this point, if agreed, all members of the press and public would be asked to leave the meeting**

Resolved: to ask all members of the press and public to leave the meeting in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

**475. To consider various staffing matters**

**a) To agree working group dates for sifting job applications for Lead Hand.**

Resolved: council agreed date for application sifting.

**b) To agree on interview date for Lead Hand.**

Resolved: interview date agreed.

**d) Approval of further training for J Walter**

Resolved: approval of the training presented for J Walter

**Meeting closed: 7.30pm**