

MINUTES OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL AND MONTHLY MEETING
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE
4 MAY 2026

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

In attendance: J Walter, Parish Clerk, N Craggs, County Councillor.

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

Meeting Commenced: 6:30pm

476. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies have been received from Councillors, Mr. T. Unsworth and Mr K Joyce.

Resolved: that the apologies from Councillors received.

477. To elect a Chairperson and receive their Declaration of Office.

Resolved: Councillor Mrs. P. Maddison is elected Chairperson for the ensuing year and the signed Chairpersons Declaration of Office was received.

478. To elect a Vice Chairperson and receive their Declaration of Office

Resolved: Councillor Mr. D. Smith is elected Vice Chairperson for the ensuing year and the signed Vice Chairpersons Declaration of Office was received.

479. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda

No declarations of interest were made.

Resolved: the information is noted.

480. To confirm the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 3 March 2026

The draft minutes of the above meetings had been circulated.

Resolved: that the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 3 March 2026 be approved, confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

481. Public question and answer session

The members of the public raised safety regarding the A181 and wanted to know what actions had been taken and how we can proceed going forward.

Resolved: the issue regarding the A181 will remain on the parish council meetings agenda. The clerk will speak directly with the members of the public and work with them on moving forward.

Further resolved: that agenda item 10 a. clerks update on the A181 Safety was brought forward at this point in the meeting. Update was noted.

Update was also received from Councillor N Craggs regarding the A181.

482. To receive the report of the Unitary County Councillor

County Councillor Craggs gave an update on various.

Resolved: update noted.

P Maddison 7.7.26

483. To receive the Police Report

No Police report had been received.

484. Financial and Governance Matters

a) To approve the finance report and payment schedule

The Clerk advised that the Council's bank balances at 31 March 2026 was **£230,475.28.**

February

No.	Date Paid/ Invoiced	Payment Method	Payee	Description	Amount
1.	02.02.26	Direct Debit (DD)	Tesco Mobile	Mobile Phones 3x	£21.27
2.	03.02.26	DD	British Gas	TVC electricity	£196.76
3.	05.02.26	BACS	HMRC	Employer Liabilities	£1,249.99
4.	05.02.26	BACS	D.C.C. Pension	Employer pensions contributions	£1,459.44
5.	06.02.26	BACS	Hartz entertainment	Christmas entertainment	£740.00
6.	13.02.26	BACS	Budgens	Toddlers' refreshments	£9.04
7.	13.02.26	BACS	Toolstation	Ground maintenance supplies	£42.00
8.	13.02.26	BACS	Screwfix	Engine oil	£19.99
9.	13.02.26	BACS	Halls of durham	Janitorial Supplies	£74.04
10.	13.02.26	BACS	SLCC	Regional Training seminar	£102.00
11.	13.02.26	BACS	Document solutions	IT Maintenance	£247.61
12.	13.02.26	BACS	Viking Office	Office Supply's / Postage	£120.17
13.	16.02.26	DD	ITC Service	Domains and Hosting	£32.40
14.	19.02.26	BACS	Staff	Mileage	£17.55
15.	19.02.26	BACS	Staff	Wages (February)	£9,867.00
16.	24.02.26	BACS	British Gas	Gas Bill	£716.05
17.	27.02.26	BACS	British Gas	Pavilion Electricity	£37.95
18.					

March

No.	Date Paid/ Invoiced	Payment Method	Payee	Description	Amount
1.	02.03.26	DD	Tesco Mobile	Mobile Phones 3x	£21.55
2.	05.03.26	BACS	Isle Mini Boogie	Toddlers mini boogie session	£50.00
3.	05.03.26	BACS	HMRC	Employer Liabilities	£1,759.38
4.	05.03.26	BACS	D.C.C. Pension	Employer pensions contributions	£2,269.76

5.	16.03.26	DD	Smartest Energy	Welfare Park electricity	£111.31
6.	16.03.26	DD	Wave	Welfare, TVC, allotments water	£628.69
7.	16.03.26	DD	ITC services Ltd	Printing, photocopying, domain & hosting	£90.50
8.	16.03.26	BACS	Clear Insurance	Tractor Insurance	£1,070.68
9.	16.03.26	BACS	ADT fire & security	Maintenance for access control system	£417.04
10.	17.03.26	BACS	Home bargains/Lidl	Tuck shop supply's	£23.26
11.	17.03.26	BACS	ASDA	TVC refreshments	£10.79
12.	17.03.26	BACS	Max Spielman	TVC	£13.50
13.	17.03.26	BACS	Sainsburys	TVC refreshments	£1.65
14.	17.03.26	BACS	Safeguarding	Staff DBS	£61.50
15.	17.03.26	BACS	ASDA	Easter breakfast event	£164.82
16.	19.03.26	BACS	Staff	Mileage	£164.35
17.	19.03.26	BACS	Staff	Wages (March)	£7,902.75
18.	23.03.26	DD	British Gas	TVC	£665.26
19.	23.03.26	DD	P Anderson & Co	Payroll (3 months)	£360.00
20.					

Costs generally include any applicable VAT.

Future Dated Purchases for consideration:

No.	Payee	Description	Amount
1.	DCC	Contribution to stones for pump track	£6,000.00
2.			

All monies received over £100.00

<u>No</u>	<u>Date Received/ Banked</u>	<u>Payer</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1.	31.03.2026	Unity Trust Bank	Credit interest	£471.82
2.	31.03.2026	Nationwide	Interest Credits for April 25 – March 26	£1,331.50

4. Interest rate changes

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

Recommendation: note the interest rate changes.

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 detailed Income and Expenditure

Resolved: To note the detailed Income and Expenditure report.

c) To receive the year end internal Audit report.

Resolved: To note the year end internal Audit report.

d) To approve Section 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return

Resolved: Section 1 and 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return approved.

e) To discuss and agree on additional finance matters regarding internal controls.

Resolved:

(1) the clerk in the Responsible Finance Officer for the financial year 2026 to 2027.

(2) the internal control measures were agreed.

485. Progress Reports from Officers and Councillors

a) Parish Clerk's Report

Resolved : to note the Parish Clerks Report

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

Resolved: to note the update provided.

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

Resolved: to note the update provided.

iii) To update on the matters relating to Parish Council Allotments.

Resolved: to note update provided.

b) Reports from Parish Councillors

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

c) Grounds Officers' Report

Resolved: to note the Grounds' Officers' Report.

486. Thornley Village Centre Provisions

a) Community Workers Report

Resolved: to note the Community Workers Report

b) To consider the sale of tea and coffee at toddlers.

Resolved: Council decided to not make a decision at this time and review the situation at a further meeting.

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

1. DM/25/03450/RM Plot 38, Dunelm Stables, Thornley, Durham, DH6 3BN.

2. DM/26/00045/FPA 21 Ashwood Grange, Thornley, Durham, DH6 3ET.

Resolved 1: that planning applications are noted

Resolved 2: to note no planning applications had been received after the agenda was issued.

489. To consider the placement of a pit tub in front of the Village Centre pit wheel.

Resolved: the clerk to write to the applicant to advise of the outcome and the reasons for the decision to not approve the placement of the pit tub in front of the Village Centre pit wheel.

490. Members' issues and suggestions

No matters were raised.

Resolved: to note the information.

491. 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.

492. Date and time of the next meeting of the Parish Council and full Council Meetings for the next year

a)to confirm the date and time of the next meeting as 6.30pm on Tuesday 7 July 2026.

b)to confirm the times and place of Council Meetings for the next year

Resolved: dates and times agreed and noted.

493. 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.

494. Staffing update

Resolved: update noted

495. Agree continuous action regarding horses on Parish Council Land.

Resolved: agreed.

Meeting closed: 7.35pm

