THORNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Thornham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9 September 2026 at 7.00 pm at Thornham Village Hall.

Present:

Cllrs S Mocatta (Chair), A Chesterman (Vice-Chair), A Needham, S Greef, D Arthur, I Barrett
Clerk: Sarah Raven
Members of the Public: 2

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr A Jamieson submitted his apologies, which were accepted..

2. **Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations by Councillors in any of the Agenda items listed:**

None.

3. **Public Participation:**

- Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn: Concerns were raised regarding the proposed closure of the A&E/ICU and Maternity Unit. The Council discussed contacting James Wild MP to express its objections to the proposals. It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a covering letter to James Wild MP and that this matter would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion. Members of the public would also be encouraged to contact the MP individually to express their concerns.
- Road Sweeping on Church Street It was noted that the road sweeping had been completed. The Clerk would write to thank those responsible.
- Drains along Church Street: It was noted that two drains require cleaning. The Clerk would contact Norfolk County Council Highways to report the matter.

4. **Councillor Reports:**

4.1 **County Councillor** – Cllr P Lawrence – Report below.

4.2 **Borough Councillor** : Cllr De Winton provided an update regarding the postponement of the Local Government Review. Elections for Borough and Parish Councils would take place in May. **Coal Barn:** Cllr De Winton advised that he had received no further update from the Planning Department and would chase this matter. He had also visited Thornham Bowls Club and Thornham Village Hall in connection with their grant applications to the Borough Council. The National Planning Policy Framework was changing, and planning applications at the Borough Council would be dealt with under a two-tier system. Tier 1 would cover smaller planning applications, such as houses, while Tier 2 would cover larger developments. Tier 1 applications would be determined by the Planning Officer and a committee member, with no councillor call-in. Cllr De Winton also advised that Titchwell had been offered the opportunity to amalgamate with Brancaster Parish Council, but this had been rejected. It was noted that Neighbourhood Plans should be reviewed following revision of the Borough Council's Local Plan.

5. Minutes of the last council meetings held on 27 July 2026

5.1 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27 July were PROPOSED, SECONDED and APPROVED as a true record of the meeting. The Minutes were signed by the Chair Cllr S Mocatta.

5.2 Clerks Report: Land registry forms had been sent, Support letters for Bowls Club and Thornham Village Hall had been sent in order for them to apply for grants from the Borough Council.

6. Planning:

6.1 How objections by public are verified especially addresses by the Borough Council for a planning application: The Council discussed concerns regarding the verification of objections submitted by members of the public in relation to planning applications, particularly the verification of names and property addresses. A planning application in Holme-next-the-Sea had received a considerable number of objections containing the same wording. It was subsequently discovered that an individual named as an objector had not submitted the objection and that their property address in Thornham had been used. Similar concerns had arisen in relation to objections submitted for this application. The matter had been brought to the attention of the Borough Council Planning Department and Holme Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Borough Council requesting an update on the procedures used to verify the identity of property owners and addresses when objections are submitted.

6.2 Ref: 26/01320/LDE Lawful Development Certificate – To seek confirmation of compliance of condition 1 (commencement of works) relating to planning permission 15/02017/F for construction of garage foundations. At Appletree Cottage high Street Thornham Hunstanton Norfolk PE36 6LY- Support.

6.3 Planning Changes in the National Planning Policy Framework and consider reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan: The Council noted the changes to planning policy referred to earlier by Cllr De Winton. It was AGREED that the Clerk would contact a number of consultants to investigate the possibility of reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan and to obtain information regarding the likely costs involved.

Decisions made by the Parish Council:

Reference No: 26/01175/F Proposal: HOUSEHOLDER: New window at first floor level of South (Front) Elevation. New external flue pipe to North (Rear) Elevation roof pitch. Location: Arden Cottage Church Street Thornham Hunstanton Norfolk – Support

Reference No: 26/01127/F Proposal: RETROSPECTIVCE: Change of Use of private dwelling to Use Class C1 Location: Rainbows End High Street Thornham HUNSTANTON Norfolk - Support

Decisions made by Borough Council:

26/01064/F HOUSEHOLDER: New garden wall and gate to eastern boundary Stratton House 12 St Georges Court Thornham HUNSTANTON Norfolk PE36 6NR Application Permitted 17 August 2026 Delegated Decision

26/00112/TREECA Oak tree to be removed as in sufficient decline with only 10% canopy growth. we would like to remove the tree due to its proximity to the driveway/access and poses a threat to life if was to fall. We would like to replace the tree with a new oak in its

place. Flint House High Street Thornham Hunstanton Norfolk PE36 6LY Tree Application - No objection 20 August 2026 Delegated Decision

7. Finances:

7.1 The figures for the Bank balances for the end of August are as per the working papers at £526.57 current account. £65814.68 for the Business Account, totalling £66341.25. We remain in a good financial position. The Bank reconciliations for both July and August have been checked and found to be correct. The Finance working party will meet on October 28th to commence the 2027/28 budget and consider the grant applications from local organisations.

7.2 Payments to be approved:

Item	£
Scribe August	50.40
Scribe September	50.40
F W Hendry (Telephone box)	96.00
Cloud Next Domain	60.00
Cloud Next Hosting	119.98
Harry Stebbins Workshop	1258.80
English County Gardens	180.00
Npower August	20.39
Valda Energy	16021
Npower July	57.55
Cozens	60.00
S Raven Wages	1221.11
HMRC	532.67

The payments were APPROVED.

7.3 Money Received:

Item	£
Interest Bank 9 September 2026	173.16

7.4 Bank Reconciliations for July and August 2026: The bank reconciliation and budget comparison was circulated and APPROVED. These were signed by the Chair.

7.5 Grant deadline for organisations to apply for grants for 207/2028: It was AGREED that applications for grants for 2027/28 should be received by 30 September 2026. The Clerk would write to the relevant organisations to confirm the deadline and remind them of the requirement to provide full financial information in support of their applications.

7.6 Seminar for Norfolk PTS in October: It was APPROVED the clerk could attend the seminar. The cost would be £24 plus VAT.

7.7 Pay Scale increase to be backdated to 1st April 2026: The National Joint Council have awarded a backpay from 1 April. Clerks' wages SCP 25 £18.84 to increase to £19.47 per hour. This was Approved.

7.8 Insurance and Cyber Insurance: Insurance was on a 3 year fixed agreement with Clear Council. The cost was £889.99. This was APPROVED. Cyber insurance as also discussed. The cost was £420.25 with Clear Council. This was also APPROVED.

8. Village Matters

8.1 **Community Events at the Village Hall**: All Autumn/Winter events can be seen on their website: https://thornhamvillagehall.co.uk/events

8.2 **Coal Barn**: A valuation had been completed by an Estate Agent. This valuation was between £80,000and £100,000. It was AGREED to write to the property owner with this information and regarding ongoing safety concerns around the Coal Barn. It was AGREED to have a working party to take this further Cllrs A Jamieson, I Barrett and A Needham would be involved. Terms of reference to be completed.

8.3 **Noticeboard for the East End of the Village (near the new wooden bus shelter):** Norfolk County Council Highways had approved the street licence for the noticeboard. The noticeboard was awaiting delivery. Two quotations had been obtained for its installation. It was AGREED to appoint R M Smith Builders to undertake the installation at a cost of £352.00 plus VAT. The Clerk would liaise with the contractor regarding the installation date, and Cllr Needham would oversee the installation. Planters were also discussed. It was AGREED that a letter of thanks would be sent to the lady who had watered the plants since they were planted.

8.4 **Defibrillator in Telephone Box:** F W Hendry Electric had attended the telephone box and confirmed that there was power available within the box. F W Hendry provided a quotation of £428.37 plus VAT to install an LED light with a PIR movement detector and connect the defibrillator unit. This was APPROVED. The Clerk would first confirm with F W Hendry the wattage of the proposed light and liaise with UMSO regarding an unmetered supply. Subject to confirmation, the installation would then proceed. The purchase of a Cardiac Science G5 defibrillator at a cost of £1,230 plus VAT was APPROVED.

8.5 **Anglian Water leaks:** Update on leaks in the village which had been reported. Main one at The Chequers and along A149 pavement would be dealt with in due course If there are any leaks then these should be reported directly to Anglian Water.

8.6 **Dog Bin Harbour:** It was discussed about the extra empty every week during August just for the Harbour bin. This was APPROVED.

8.7 **Titchwell Amalgamating :** The possibility of amalgamation with Titchwell Parish was discussed. It was felt that Titchwell Parish Meeting should first confirm that it wished to pursue amalgamation with Thornham before any further discussions take place.

9. Outside Agencies:

9.1 Thornham Village Hall & Playing Field Ltd and New Pavilion report: The pavilion is nearly completed.

9.2 Thornham United Charities Jubilee Meadow: Report below.

10. Highways and SAM2 Units:

10.1 Parish Partnership Grant: This was discussed. Clerk to find out from Highways and Westcotec cost of a fixed VAS sign to be placed near the Village Hall to alert drivers coming into the village to slow down.

11. Health and Safety and GDPR Updates:

None

12. Governance:

None.

13. Correspondence Received:

13.1 Speeding – Email received from parishioner. This was noted.

13.2 Local Plan Consultation – It was AGREED a working party should look at this and report back at the next meeting. Cllrs D Arthur, A Chesterman and A Needham to liaise. Terms of reference to be complete for next meeting.

14. Reports from Councillors and Clerk on meetings attended:

- Saxon Shore meeting to be held at Ringstead. No date at present.

15. Items for next agenda :

16. Date and Place of Next Meeting 14 October 2026

Date and times of meetings: 11 November, 9 December. All meetings start at 7pm in the Thornham Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

……..Chair Dated:

THESE MINUTES ARE UNCONFIRMED UNTIL APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL AND SIGNED ABOVE BY THE CHAIR

County Councillor Report:

[1] Log: 29th July 26 Supported the Council Leader, David Bick, visiting various facilities in Kings Lynn, including Children's Services, the new Library, the Fire Brigade and Highways office. It was interesting to meet members of staff and get a better understanding of their day-to-day challenges and the support and help needed from the Council. 13th August 26 Interviews for Independent Chair of the Pensions Board – Four very strong candidates were interviewed for this important governance role, with one person being selected at the end of the process. EGM 14th August 26 Attended an EGM of the Council to endorse the appointment of new CEO, Dennis Bacon. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that due process had been followed, throughout the recruitment and selection process. Council Leader David Bick endorsed the appointment and was confident that the new appointee will lead and steer the Council effectively on behalf of constituents in Norfolk. 4th Sept 26 – Reform Conference today [Targets for 100 days as majority government] + Report published on Reform's achievements in first 100 days at NCC.

[2] Constituencies Issues Speed Limits: A number of residents have raised concerns requesting changes to local speed limits [usually from 30 MPH to 20 MPH]. I have sought guidance on this from fellow Councillors including Cllr Tom Dickerson who has responsibility for Highways issues. The costs of instigating a feasibility study is thought to be around £8,000 and so it might be possible to batch these requests to mitigate costs. Transport Hub: Hunstanton – The new Bus Station was opened; some initial problems and concerns were resolved with my involvement. Community Centre -discussions around Hunstanton Community Centre being brought back into use. [3] Committee Responsibilities Chair of Pensions Committee – this is an important governance role to ensure that investments are well managed and that are appropriate, to guard members [who are both NCC employees and other groups of employees [such as Schools etc.] Committee member Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority – concerned with the important local industry relating to inshore fisheries [sub-committee member for HR and Accounting Committee]

Thornham Jubilee Meadow Working Party

Report to Thornham Parish Council September 2026

It was with considerable relief that the working party welcomed the return of rainfall. Even with twice weekly waterings using 1,000 litres of water each time it was clear some trees were struggling to survive. Sadly, it does appear that a few trees have died but considering the length and severity of the drought and reports from other recent planting schemes we seem to have escaped quite lightly. The dead trees will be removed and replaced when we have our usual November work programme led by Janek.

We have been donated a couple of trees which visitors may have noticed with hydration bags up in the south-east corner of the meadow. We have also agreed the purchase of three new trees from Barcham, our regular supplier. Janek will plant all properly. Because of the drought we were advised by both our wildflower meadow consultant, Ed, and Rory, the man who actually sprays the meadow, that we should not spray this year. They were in total agreement that with the arid soil conditions spraying would be ineffective and a waste of our money. We happily accepted this advice.

On Wednesday 2nd September the Cut & Lift process started. This is also an essential part of the annual maintenance and is likely to continue into Thursday. This work is being done by Albanwise who have helped us previously. The cuttings will then be removed with the help of William Barber. It is clearly very helpful to have continuity in our use of local farmers to support us with this work. The in-house working party will be boosted by additional expert assistance on Friday 4th and as well as the usual watering regime, now down to one weekly session, there are enough hands to start an autumn trim of the trees. This will inevitably take more than one session but can comfortably stretch through September into October if necessary. The Trustees of TUC are in the early stages of planning an event around the Meadow in May 2027. Hopefully, this would be in collaboration with TPC, PCC, TVHPF, the Open Gardens team and perhaps NWT and RSPB might like to participate. Thanks as always to our various helpers and supporters.