

THORNER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at the Over 60's Bungalow, Main Street, Thorner.

Present;

Councillors: A.Scott (Chair), C.Burrows, J.LeRoy, A.Wallis and C.Wilson.
Clerk to the Council; Barry Riley.

5 members of the public were in attendance for parts of the meeting.

1.Apologies.

Councillors Brittain, Llewellyn, Mycock and Forster.
The reasons for not attending were accepted.

2.Ethical Code.

Councillor Scott declared a personal and pecuniary Interest in agenda item 10.c.

3.Minutes.

The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting, were subject to change prior to approval and were signed by the Chair Councillor Scott.

4.Admission of the public and press and representations.

a. There was no person wishing to record the meeting.

b. A representations notified to the Clerk before the meeting was made by a resident concerning noise from the Mexborough Public House. There was also much anti-social behaviour being experienced which he had reported but he wished to know if the Parish Council could assist in any way. Such incidents had been reported to the Police previously by the Parish Council, but it was suggested that the resident attend the next PACT (Police and Communities Together), meeting where he could report his concerns directly to the Police, the Clerk would send out the invitation to him when received.

The resident had also notified the Clerk about two other items he wished to make a representation about as follows;

The road surface at Carr Lane/Main Street crossroads.

Speeding and volume of traffic in the village.

Given the subject matter he was asked to contact Ward Councillor Firth (see 4.d.)

c. A member of the public made a representation not notified to the Clerk before the meeting to ask if a letter had been sent to the person thought responsible (see minute 14. 13th January 2026), he was informed it had.

The resident also sought clarification on the four quotes submitted (see minute 10.c.).

The resident sought confirmation on the four footpaths within schedule 2 of the Grounds Maintenance contract, the Clerk would provide the information.

d. Ward Councillor Firth had sent his apologies but had asked the Clerk to provide him with a summary of each notified representation following the meeting and he would respond. The Clerk confirmed he would send information on representation 1. But the other two representations would be reported directly to him via the resident.

5.Confidentiality.

There were no agenda items other than any itemised under agenda item 17. requiring discussion that would require the exclusion of the public and press.

6.Police.

The link for reporting non-emergency crimes or Anti-social behaviour is

www.westyorkshire.police.uk

The link for the Police web site-

<https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/west-yorkshire-police/leeds-north-east/>

Councillor Scott commented that there was 1 crime recorded for December 2025. This was for anti-social behaviour.

Community Alert scheme.

<https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/west-yorkshire-community-alert>

7.Planning applications/appeals/enforcement action, received.

7.1 Members duly noted application 26/00157/LI, a listed building application for replacement windows to existing openings to front, side and rear and bi-fold doors to existing opening at Kirkfield Cottage Church Hill, with no objection.

7.2 Members duly noted the information provided in the planning log.

8.Financial Matters.

8.1 Members were informed about the payments for February 2026;

Resolved: that the following be approved and passed for payment.

Accounts for Payment:

Date prepared	Feb-26			
EFT Type	Details	Net	VAT	Total
BACS	B Riley- Clerk Salary	£783.78		£783.78
BACS	B Riley Home Allowance/Mileage	£27.00		£27.00
BACS	British Telecom - Phone	£38.20	£7.63	£45.83
D/Debit	Nest - Pension	£67.49		£67.49
BACS	Viscount Pollington 1964 Settlement	£20.00		£20.00
BACS	Viscount Pollington 1964 Settlement	£100.00		£100.00
	Total Payments	£1,036.47	£7.63	£1,044.10

The Clerk informed members that the invoice received for £250 (not itemised in the payment list), related to the work agreed at the Parish Council meeting held on 09th September 2025.

8.2 Members were in agreement with the content of the monthly budget monitor and bank reconciliation report for appropriate governance.

The Clerk took the opportunity to present to the Chair, the bank statements for January 2026 for the purpose of confirming the balances agreed with the bank reconciliation report, which he duly confirmed they did and signed the statements.

9. Action Plan.

The report for 2026 was issued to members for approval.

The relevant actions completed and to be undertaken were noted and agreed, specifically this was a change to the date for the Village Spring clean.

Councillor Wilson distributed a leaflet of the planters and sought approval for the wording to be used to attract sponsorship.

Councillor Wallis presented a snowman as the gift to be used for the school children.

The work to produce these would need to be commenced before the intended date of September.

10. Matters arising from previous minutes.

a. Comment was made that the cleaning of Thorner Beck on Lower Sandhills had been confirmed at the Thorner FAS engagement event, which had been held on the 23rd September 2025 at Thorner Victory Hall.

b. Councillor Scott suggested that the Parish Council had yet to agree that it wished to continue with the Parish Paths Partnership with Leeds CC PROW before confirming representation from the Parish Council with the Thorner Heritage Group.

c. Although a further response had been received from the Grounds Maintenance contractor, who had supplied a quote comparison document consisting of four quotes

relating to schedule 2 of the Grounds Maintenance contract, it was agreed by all members present (Councillor Scott having declared a personal and pecuniary interest had left the meeting for this agenda item), that the decision made at the Parish Council meeting held 09th December 2025, remain, and that the contract be offered at a value of £5325.

11. Neighbourhood Plan.

The Referendum date for the plan would take place on the 26th February 2026. Having been presented with a proposed leaflet from the Steering Group, which provided information of where relevant documentation giving details of the Plan may be downloaded or viewed, but also why the village of Thorner needs a plan and therefore should vote in favour of its adoption, it was agreed to accept it. The leaflet (with some changes), would be printed forthwith and circulated village wide.

12. To consider any new correspondence received and decide action where necessary.

a. A letter had been received from the Martin House Children's Hospice, thanking the Parish Council for a donation of £200 which was raised from the sale of the crocheted Christmas trees containing chocolate oranges. The donation would enable continued expert hospice care to be provided to families.

b. Having considered the request from a garden tenant to prune the fruit trees on plot 8a. it was agreed that consent be given. It was also noted that the garden is well kept and this was a consideration in giving consent.

c. Following notification that Emma Towers, Leeds CC Community Access and Engagement Officer for Public Rights of Way, was leaving the organization, the Parish Council had been sent documentation relating to the P3 Scheme for 2026/27. In addition to completing an Annual Report for 2025/26, the Parish Council would need to submit a Grant Application for funding which was a change to the funding received in previous years. With reference to the comments made at 10.b. it was suggested that if the Parish Council did not continue with the P3 agreement then an informal meeting with the Thorner Heritage Group would take place to decide which footpaths (in addition to the four footpaths within schedule 2 of the Grounds Maintenance contract), would be maintained and which could be included (see also minute 10.a. 10th November 2025) in an agreement presented to the Leeds CC PROW.

13. Councillor Wilson had attended a meeting with Leeds Festival on the 05th February 2026. concerning the forthcoming festival.

The main points discussed were as follows;

1. Numbers are selling well and expected to be busier than last year.
2. Thursday night – instead of having the two side stages playing they are having the headline act “Kasabian” playing, reasoning is that this will congregate attendees in one central area and encourage more people to camp over the entire weekend.
3. Roadworks on A1/M1 are expected to be removed apart from an area around Aberford which should alleviate the traffic problems we had last year from people trying to “ratrun” through Thorner.
4. It was agreed that the 28 day letter will come out at the end of July/beginning of August and that the village passes will be received early so they can be handed out on 19th and 20th August 2026 (arrangements would be made to book these nights at the Over 60's Bungalow).
5. Nothing agreed yet on the bus situation but likely to be similar to last year.

14. To receive a report from the Clerk or Councillors, on any new or ongoing minor matters.

a. This subject of Resilience Planning would be added to the next agenda.

b. Following the notification received from St Peters Church that they would be repairing the stone boundary wall between the Church and the playground, Councillor Scott had responded welcoming the fact that it would be repaired as there had been concern for a number of years. It was confirmed and agreed that the Council be notified in advance of when the onsite activity is scheduled to take place and that the Church and its contractor must ensure that the area of work is not accessible to members of the public during construction/repair work, also that appropriate Health and Safety measures must be implemented and a risk-assessment provided. A further condition to granting permission would be that the Church and its contractor must ensure that any damage caused to playground surfaces (including the grassed areas), as a result of the planned repairs are reinstated upon completion of the works and all waste created is removed.

c. Councillor LeRoy provided members with an update on the allocation of garden plots and existing leases following commencement of the new garden year. Two gardens had now become available and those next on the waiting list had been contacted.

The contractor appointed to carry out work on the gates to improve security, was due to start next week (weather permitting), however as she would not be available to attend a request was made for another Councillor to be in attendance to oversee the completion of the work. Councillor Burrows offered to attend, Councillor Wilson also offered to attend if Councillor Burrows was unable to. Councillor LeRoy would inform the contractor to confirm the arrangements and provide the contact details for Councillors Burrows and Wilson.

d. Having reviewed the existing Complaints Procedure, it was agreed to adopt it in its entirety. It would be posted in due course on to the website.

15.To notify the Clerk of matters for inclusion on the next Agenda.

Resilience Planning.

NALC document on a disciplinary procedure.

NALC document on grievance procedure.

Draft proposal document for Parish Paths Partnership.

16.Date of next meeting.

Resolved; that the next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 10th March 2025 in the Over 60's Bungalow, Main Street, Thorner.

17.Matters to be discussed at the exclusion of the public and press.

With reference to agenda item 14.d, a complaint had been received about the Clerk, in accordance with paragraph 6.a), the Clerk commented that he had been subject previously to harassment from the resident which had been recorded, he also stated that he found it totally offensive and insulting that a complaint had been made and was a lack of respect for the Clerk's current knowledge of procedure (which had been confirmed as correct by an enquiry made to the Yorkshire Local Councils Association), following a response to the resident that a statement made was misleading and wrong as it showed a lack of knowledge of procedure.

The Chair in accordance with paragraph 6.a), would respond to the resident who had made the complaint and seek to settle the complaint directly to resolve the matter.

Parish Councillors also considered some options that could be implemented, such as suspending public participation, to avoid the Clerk responding to resident comments verbally.

Signed
Chair Thorner Parish Council

Date.....

The meeting closed at 9.09 pm.