

THORNER PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2026
at the Over 60's Bungalow, Main Street, Thorne.

Present;

Councillors; C.Burrows, V.Forster, J.LeRoy, S.Llewellyn, T.Mycock, A.Scott, A.Wallis and C.Wilson.
Clerk to the Council; Barry Riley.
Ward Councillor Firth.
9 members of the public were in attendance for parts of the meeting.

Councillor Scott the presiding Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance and requested nominations for the position of Chair.

1. Appointment of Chair 2026/2027.

Councillor Burrows was nominated as Chair by Councillor Mycock, it was seconded by Councillor Wallis.

1a. The Chair duly signed the Acceptance of Office

2. Appointment of Vice - Chair 2026/2027.

Councillor Wilson was nominated as Vice Chair by Councillor Wallis, it was seconded by Councillor Llewellyn.

3. Appointment of Councillors and confirmation of the roles and responsibilities for the following;

Dog waste bin dispenser – Councillor LeRoy accepted responsibility and understood what was required within the role and was informed of where the bins were located. The keys to access the Sub -Station would be provided by Councillor Scott who had a spare set.

Newsletter production – Councillors Wallis and Wilson accepted responsibility and understood what was required within the role.

Social media communication – Councillor Wilson accepted responsibility and understood what was required within the role.

Leeds Festival Working Group meetings – Councillor Wilson accepted responsibility and understood what was required within the role. If Councillor Wilson was unable to attend (as only one Councillor was invited to meetings), Councillor Scott would attend, Councillor Wilson would provide Councillor Scott with information to access the meetings which were held online.

Playground management (including annual inspection) – Councillors Llewellyn and Mycock accepted responsibility and understood what was required within the role.

Police PACT meetings – All Councillors were able to attend the meetings.

Grounds Maintenance contract – Councillors Llewellyn and Wallis accepted responsibility and understood what was required within the role.

Gardens – Heathcote Avenue – Councillors Forster and Wilson accepted responsibility and understood what was required within the role.

Boules Shelter management – Councillors Forster and Wilson accepted responsibility and understood what was required within the role.

Defibrillator management – Councillors LeRoy and Scott accepted responsibility and understood what was required within the role.

Management of benches (repair/replace) – Councillor Scott accepted responsibility

and understood what was required within the role.

Flower boxes/planters/pollinators – Councillor Wilson accepted responsibility and understood what was required within the role.

Annual Spring clean organization – Councillors Llewellyn and Wallis accepted responsibility and understood what was required within the role.

4. Apologies.

Full Attendance.

5. Ethical Code.

No interests were disclosed.

6. Minutes.

Regarding minute 13.a. 14th April 2026, Councillor Scott sought clarification on what the apology given by Councillor Wallis was for, he was informed that it was an apology for the previous tenant having to attend the meeting and for the situation not being resolved. Councillor Scott was concerned that having decided at the March 2026 meeting (that the cheque presented for the repayment of garden rent being agreed as the plot has been reallocated), that in accordance with Standing Orders paragraph 11. that any decision by the Council should not be reversed within six months and therefore the suggestion made at the previous meeting that the previous tenant could share the plot or be placed first on the waiting list was in error.

In response to Councillor Scott's comments, a resident in attendance who was speaking on behalf of the previous tenant of the reallocated plot (who was also present), stated that it was agreed at the April Parish Council meeting that the plot would be shared with the present plot holder. Also, that despite several emails being sent to Councillors no one had responded and that Councillor Wallis stated that someone would visit to inform them of the decision, but no one had.

It was confirmed that this was not what was agreed, the sharing of the plot would be subject to Councillor Wilson speaking to the existing plot holder to seek agreement from him to the proposal. Having spoken to him he was not in agreement with the proposal, the existing plot holder who was present, confirmed that he had no intention of sharing the plot and any suggestion that he had agreed with the previous tenant to do so was incorrect, however the resident in attendance who was speaking on behalf of the previous tenant denied that this is what was said.

Councillor Wallis commented that in response to stating that someone would visit to inform them of the decision, the Chair of the Parish Council asked for that not to be done. The previous tenant of the reallocated plot expressed his dissatisfaction with the situation and having become abusive, Councillor Burrows (Chair), informed him that the meeting would be suspended if he did not desist from such behaviour.

Councillor Scott stated that having been away on business, he was not at the last meeting and wanted clarification on the minutes (see above) and to obtain the facts before agreeing on how to respond to the emails received or for a visit to be made. The residents asked that they be addressed by their names which were Mr Fieldsend and Ms Hague.

Councillor Scott having been shouted at by Mr Fieldsend and Ms Hague, objected to being shouted at and stated that he had treated the residents with respect and in response to one email that had been sent to him stating that they were unwelcome in the village, he reminded them that he had sent them a card and present when their child was born, Ms Hague acknowledged she had received the card and present but accused Councillor Scott of sending an email which was highly misogynistic, having heard the comment Councillor Burrows again stated that the meeting may have to be suspended in light of any such statements.

The Clerk on being asked if the payment for the said garden plot which had led to this whole situation, had been received within the time (one month) allowed, confirmed it had not and in response to Ms Hague asking if other plot holders had been allowed to keep their plots having paid late following the issue of a reminder letter, the Clerk confirmed they had, the difference being that they had responded by contacting the Clerk as requested whereas they had not.

Councillor Burrows stated his concern at the number of veiled threats that Ms Hague was making such as stating that she would be using the plot without the permission of the Parish Council and accusing the members of being amateur and frustrating and not acting in a professional way. However, comment was made that it was more a case that because the Parish Council did not agree with Ms Hague was the reason for her comments and that she had misrepresented comments made by the existing plot holder at the previous meeting.

By way of reaching a compromise, the Clerk suggested that due to another plot becoming available the previous day, that this could be allocated to the existing plot holder of 2b instead and that plot 2b be allocated to the previous tenant but in joint names. Having inspected the plot that had become available, the existing plot holder agreed to take it to resolve the matter.

The Parish Council thanked him for doing so.

Following the above dialogue, the minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2026, were approved and signed by the Chair.

7. Public participation.

a. The Clerk would record the meeting.

b. No notified representations received.

c. A member of the public made a representation not notified to the Clerk before the meeting, about the proposed plans/works for flood management on Littlemoor Lane, and if there was any update, Councillor Scott provided information to members about the survey work that had been carried out on Butts Garth up into Littlemoor Lane and their plan to install a gully connected into a culvert, subject to obtaining permission from the land owners. He would contact Helen Knight, Leeds CC Senior Engineer (Investigations) for Flood & Climate Resilience Management, to seek an update.

A resident had noted in the Chairman's report, mention of both defibrillators when there was third one which was not working, he was informed that the unit at the Victory Hall belonged to them not the Parish Council.

d. Ward Councillor Firth congratulated the newly appointed Chair and Vice-Chair of the Parish Council and offered his thanks to the outgoing Chair and Vice Chair. He commented that the Highway tracker introduced by Ward Councillors to deal with Highway matters specifically in the Harewood Ward, was being reviewed and all outstanding actions and those to be undertaken would be dealt with.

He confirmed that the Ironman event would return this year to Thorner (see minute 17.), with the first communication expected by June. He commented that a request had been made to the organisers to respect the village, it was noted that the number of people in support of having the event outweighed those against, he also commented on resident access and confirmed that there was no restriction on ambulances accessing the village following reports that there had been instances of carers being denied access to residents.

8. Confidentiality.

There were no agenda items other than any itemised under agenda item 16.

9. 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 Burrows commented that there were 2 crimes recorded for March 2026. These were for a public order offence and a violence and sexual offence.

Community Alert scheme.

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

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

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

11. Financial Matters.

11.1 Members were informed about the payments for May 2026;

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

Accounts for Payment:

Date prepared	May-26			
EFT Type	Details	Net	VAT	Total
BACS	Clerk Salary	£774.28		£774.28
BACS	Clerk Home Allowance/Mileage	£27.00		£27.00
BACS	British Telecom - Phone	£45.72	£9.14	£54.86
D/Debit	Nest - Pension	£67.49		£67.49
BACS	JRB	£246.00	£49.20	£295.20
BACS	S.Brittian Grounds Maintenance	£760.71		£760.71
BACS	B.Hopper Internal Auditor	£150.00		£150.00
BACS	Gallagher Insurance Brokers	£959.76		£959.76
BACS	Vision ICT Ltd	£411.25	£82.25	£493.50
	Total Payments	£3,442.21	£140.59	£3,582.80

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

11.3 The Internal Auditors Annual Internal Audit Report was noted.

11.4 The Annual Governance Statement was considered, approved and accepted.

11.5 The Accounting Statements were considered, approved and accepted.

11.6 It was agreed to purchase 6 bags of bark for the flower bed on Millennium Green at a cost of £60.

11.7 Having deliberated over the grant application received from the Thorner Youth Club, it was agreed that a grant of £500 be awarded.

The Clerk informed members that the grant for the Village Show (see minute 8.5 14th April 2026), could now be made as the organization had an appropriate bank account.

12. Action Plan

The updated report with the relevant actions completed and to be undertaken were noted and agreed. Specifically, comment was made that there were volunteers to attend at the Spring clean, Councillor Scott was unable to provide walkie/talkie communications and the provision of a 1st aider needed to be confirmed.

Installation of the new gate and metal fence for the playground would be in July.

The planting of trees needed to be further discussed and would be subject to how many were required.

The provision of bark for the flowerbed area on Millennium Green was approved (see minute 11.6)

Progress was being made on the reinstatement of the damaged grass verge on Butts Garth, large stones had been placed on the damaged area. It was agreed that they would be painted using an exterior paint. Thorner Heritage Group had produced a document detailing the history of Butts Garth, they were to produce a public

information panel explaining the history and when completed this could be placed in the damaged area.

13. Matters arising from previous minutes.

- a. It was confirmed that information relating to EV (Electric Vehicle) charging, had been posted to the Parish Council website, Councillor Wilson was asked to ensure information was posted to the Parish Council Facebook page.
- b. Following initial comments about adding, changing or removing information within the tenancy agreement, it was agreed that further time be allowed to study the documents, therefore this agenda item would be added to the next meeting.

14. To consider new correspondence received and decide action where necessary.

- a. Having received the Chairmans Report for 2025 – 26, Councillor Scott as the outgoing Chair was thanked by the Parish Council for his work as the Chair of the Council.
- b. In response to the resident's letter, the Clerk was asked to supply the documentation which stated the village green was owned by the Parish Council.

15. To receive reports from outside bodies.

Councillor Wilson informed members that the next Leeds Festival working group meeting would take place on Monday 18th May 2026 (see minute 3. Leeds Festival Working Group meetings).

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

Comment was made that security to the entry to the gardens via Heathcote Avenue was being compromised due to the gate lock not being secure enough due to the movement of the gate post. The contractor appointed to install the recent security measures would be asked to re-set the gatepost.

A resident asked that when work was done to re-set the gatepost, that the yellow grit bin which was partly in the fence by the entrance, be repositioned, Ward Councillor Firth duly noted the request.

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

Review of the Garden procedure, tenancy agreement and associated documents.
Outcome of Ironman discussion following Town & Parish Council meeting held 21st May 2026 at Wetherby Town Hall.

Before the meeting closed Councillor Wallis as the outgoing Vice Chair, stated on behalf of the Parish Council, a thank you to Councillor Scott for three years of hard work whilst being Chair. Councillor Scott stated that he was grateful for the support received from Councillor Wallis and Councillors.

18.Date of next meeting.

Resolved; that the next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 09th June 2026 in the Over 60's Bungalow, Main Street, Thorner.

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

No matters discussed.

Signed
Chair Thorner Parish Council

Date.....

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.