

THORNER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of Electors held on 05th May 2026.

Present;

Councillors; S.Llewellyn, T.Mycock, A.Wallis.
Clerk to the Council; Barry Riley.
12 members of the public.

1. Appointment of Chairman.

In accordance with procedural requirements for the parish meeting, in a parish with a separate Parish Council, the Chair of the Parish Council must preside at the meeting, however as he was not present, the Vice-Chair must, if present, preside at the meeting. Councillor Wallis as the current Vice Chair being present, was the Chair for the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of Electors 07th May 2025.

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting of Electors, were approved and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

Steven Wood who recorded the minutes, was thanked for doing so.

3. Review of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Tribute was given to the Steering Group who had worked tirelessly to enable the plan to be adopted by Leeds City Council.

With regard to the Neighbourhood Plan review document provided for the meeting, comment was made about the formation of a new Steering Group to enable a review, but also for residents to engage with the planning applications received by the Parish Council, the placing of information in the public notice board, on the website and the Parish Council Facebook page could be utilised to encourage engagement.

In response to comments about how the Neighbourhood Plan would be adhered to, it was explained that as it was a planning document, a Planning Officer must give it full consideration, and take it into account, when dealing with any planning application in Thorne.

The Neighbourhood Plan was drafted to represent the wishes of residents, and there had been proper consultation with residents to ascertain those wishes. The Steering Group who put together the present Plan, relied on research undertaken by the volunteers responsible for the Village Design Statement, which had just been adopted when the work began. The Plan goes a long way to determining the type of development that the village would be willing to accept, but it could go further. For example, if a site is approved for development, what type of development was needed or wanted, should it be 2 bedroom bungalows (perhaps for retired couples), or 3/4 bedroom family homes, or 5/6 bedroom mansions. This was relevant, because a developer would want the type of development that will return most profit, rather than the type of development the village wanted.

A request for the Parish Council to set up a new Steering Group inviting residents to be part of the group, would be added to the June agenda of the Parish Council meeting.

4. To receive feedback on actions in response to points raised at the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting of Electors.

a. The previous Annual Parish meeting of Electors recorded the lack of effective communication and it was noted that the Chairmans Annual report was not available for this meeting, however the Clerk stated that due to the time frame for this meeting to be arranged, a report was to be presented at the Annual Parish Council meeting, the following week.

b. The return of the Parish News on a regular basis following it previously being produced several times a year was discussed. Although the production of one was the opportunity for the Parish Council to promote what it had achieved and what it intended to do, it was explained that the

increased cost to produce one had resulted in a reduced production, however the introduction of the Parish Council Facebook page and information available on the website and via the Action Plan, were alternatives to more newsletters.

Other matters raised from the previous meeting;

Members of the Parish Council had during the past year conducted speed check of vehicles by using the Parish Council's SID (Speed Indication Device), but the information was unable to be used by the Police to act as they would have to be involved, also the use of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) are not effective in reducing speed in the long-term. An alternative would be to introduce a Community Speed Watch (CSW), which was a national initiative where trained volunteers use handheld radar devices to monitor vehicle speeds in 20, 30, or 40 mph zones. Volunteers record registration numbers, makes, and colours of speeding vehicles, which are passed to local police to send warning letters to owners, aiming to deter future offenses. However, at a recent Police PACT meeting it was confirmed that the West Yorkshire Police force did not participate in the scheme. The Clerk suggested that the only effective way to reduce speed was the introduction of self-enforcement speed cameras.

The continuation of the Village Spring clean had been organised with a communication posted to the Parish Council website about the event which was being organised by the Parish Council. Comment was made that the number of people in attendance would be of interest, the timing of the event was questioned, as it was considered too late in the year for an effective clean to take place due to vegetation growth obscuring litter.

Last year's precept had been increased (12%) and the reasons for the increases were provided, however this year's precept had only increased by 4%.

A resident thanked the Parish Council for providing information on the Parish Council website about Electric Vehicle charging for homes without driveways.

A resident having asked if there was any update available on this year's Ironman competition was informed that the Parish Council had not received any communication from Leeds City Council.

A resident had noted that there was an increased number of HGV's in the village and what could be done to restrict this, although previously reported that there was no merit to impose restrictions the Clerk suggested that the axle type used on such vehicles may be a solution to restrict the number, but it was important to allow certain deliveries to farms.

A resident asked if there was any more information concerning the Flood Survey specifically concerning Butts Garth to Littlemoor Lane, the Clerk would send her the information he had received which provided information on what was being planned by Leeds City Council to deal with surface water flooding.

A presentation was made on behalf of the Thorner Heritage Group, which provided information about how the Group originally came together a number of years ago. The first project was the refurbishment of the well on Sam Sykes, the next was to showcase the old quarry on Church Hill. Unfortunately, their aspirations for the site were thwarted, but they had provided the interpretation panels next to the phone box on Church Hill.

The group rebranded as Thorner Heritage Group in November 2024 when a new Constitution was adopted. The objects of the Group are, in simple terms, to identify and preserve the cultural and physical heritage of Thorner Village.

Membership is open to all residents.

They have their own website and promote their work on Facebook.

From inception the group has treated the rural footpaths as part of the heritage of the village, they have carried out various maintenance tasks during the last year, and more are planned. All the village footpaths have been surveyed, and the condition assessed confirming that, overall, the paths are in good condition, with all being accessible. They have checked the detail of the Leeds

Definitive Map with the physical state of each footpath. Variations between the Definitive Map, and the actual footpath, have been recorded and referred back to Leeds Public Rights Of Way, so that the Definitive Map can be updated. They have identified and prioritised the opportunities for volunteers to work with the landowners and farmers to ensure all footpaths are properly maintained.

The Group have also carried out a detailed investigation into the history of the Village Green in Butts Garth, with the intention to communicate this research via an interpretation panel on the Green itself.

Other projects under consideration are;

1. The heritage of the church clock and bells.
2. The heritage of Main Street particularly the farms and businesses.
3. The heritage of the railway.
4. The decoy shelter on Ellerker Lane

They are also proposing to publish details of walks, of various length and difficulties, around the village, to promote the use of the footpaths.

The group were always open to new ideas and suggestions.

A presentation was made by the Chair of the Over 60's Bungalow Management Committee who provided information on the recent building work that had been carried out and improvements to the facilities provided.

Thanks were given to the Parish Council and the Thorner Community Fund for proving funding. Information was also provided on upcoming events that were being organised and provided.

Signed.....
Chair of the meeting.

Date.....