

Minutes of the Annual Thurton Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 27th May 2026 – 7:55pm held at Ashby & Thurton Village Hall

In Attendance: A Soanes (AS) Chair, K Calderwood (KC), J Whitehouse (JW), I Capps (IC), C Popplewell (CP).

Minutes: T Higlett (TH) (Parish Clerk)

1. Election of Chair
A Soanes was elected unopposed. Amanda signed the declaration of acceptance.
2. Election of Vice Chair
Ian Capps was elected unopposed.
3. To consider apologies for absence.
Apologies from P Black were noted.
4. Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda and Dispensations for Councillors with a Pecuniary Interest.
None
5. Public Forum including County and District Councillors.
District Councillor – Report forwarded to members prior to meeting.
6. Minutes of the meeting held on the 25th March 2026.
These were agreed as a true record of proceedings.
7. Matters arising from the Minutes
 1. Bus stop insurance repairs. These had now been completed and final account sent to Loss Adjusters for settlement. Clerk has advised NCC Highways of completion and requested temporary stop to be removed. IC advised members he would look at the works on the shelter to ensure everything was satisfactory and that there were no areas of concern.
 2. Norwich bound bus stop maintenance. This is scheduled to be carried out the end of June beginning of July.
8. Responding to and working with other bodies.
 1. Planning
 - a. Applications commented on between meetings
2026/0561 Location: Land South of Hall Road Thurton.
Proposal: Proposed self-build dwelling & garage
Council had no objection. Requested public footpath be reinstated along with signage.
2025/2460 Outline planning permission for a proposed residential development consisting of 24 Dwellinghouses (8 Affordable Dwellinghouses)
Location: Land South of Vale Road Thurton Norfolk

Application Type: Outline Planning Permission

May 2026 Minutes

Signature

Council stood by their original comments submitted on the 30th March 2026.

See appendix 1.

2026/0968 Location: 22 Park Close Thurton Proposal: Demolition of existing garage and erection of front porch with hipped ridge. Rear extension and extend existing roofline. Application Type: Householder.

Council had no objection but concerned with the loss of parking

9. Management of the Parish Council

1. Subscribing to support and guidance for parish councils.
Council chose to renew subscription to Norfolk Parish Training and Support
2. Insurance Renewal 2026-27
Zurich Insurance quote was £557.64 an increase of £15.69 on last year's premium.
Council approved.
3. Review of statutory documents.
 - a. Standing Orders – reviewed with no amendments
 - b. Financial Regulations – reviewed with no amendments.

10. Finance

1. To consider the Internal Auditors report for year ending 31st March 2026. Forwarded to members prior to meeting.
This was received and reviewed, it was noted that there were no recommendations.
2. To consider whether to be exempt from an external audit and if so to authorise the Clerk and Chair to sign the form.
It was noted that as the Council's income and expenditure for the year were under £25,000, the Council could exempt itself from External Audit. This was considered and agreed, and the Clerk and Chair were authorised to sign the form.
3. To consider the assertions on and complete the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 and to authorise the Clerk and Chair to sign.
The Council considered the assertions on the Annual Governance Statement, completed the form and authorised the Chair and Clerk to sign on their behalf.
4. To consider and approve the Accounting Statements 2025/26 and to authorise the Chair to sign.
The Council considered and agreed the Accounting Statements and authorised the Chair to sign on their behalf.
5. Accounts for year ending 2025/26.
These had been circulated and were agreed.
6. To approve payments

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| a. T Higlett Salary May 2026 | £319.77 |
| b. HMRC – Taxation for period 2 | £73.40 |
| c. Lloyd's bank | £4.25 |
| d. Zurich Insurance | £557.64 |
| e. Information Commissioner | £45.00 |
| f. Ashby & Thurton Village Hall | £120.00 |
| g. CJ Hall Bus Stop cleaning | £25.00 |
| h. B S Mindham | £13,476.00 |

Council await payout from Zurich Insurance

7. Payments made between meetings
- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| a. T Higlett April Salary | £433.17 |
| b. HMRC – Taxation period 1 | £73.40 |
| c. Lloyds Bank | £4.25 |
| d. R Goreham – Audit | £70.00 |
| e. C J Hall – Bus stop cleaning | £25.00 |
| f. Autela Payroll | £105.60 |
8. Receipts since last meeting
- | | |
|---|----------|
| a. South Norfolk - 1 st half precept | £5042.00 |
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9. Grant applications
- WI grant towards plants near signage
Council agreed a one-off payment of £150.00 but had been advised this could now be less. Council will not be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the area.
 - School grant towards biodiversity
Council will speak to school to see if they are still looking for a grant.
11. Highways and Village Issues.
- Highways
 - Birch Way Resurfacing.
KC advised the road has only been half repaired. The road as a whole need's attention. It is susceptible to flooding and every winter the surface cracks and becomes virtually unusable. The ditch floods and needs clearing.
 - Damaged 40 mph sign on A146 from Norwich.
The sign is split and needs replacing.
 - Village Issues
 - Village sign refurbishment
It was proposed to arrange a meeting with Mr Walden to discuss further.
 - A146 Fixed Camera figures
334 speeding offences to the end of April.
 - Car meets George & Dragon
Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month. It is a well-attended event and first meet of the year was reported to be noisy.
There are new tenants in the George and Dragon who are running it as an Indian restaurant/pub. Council proposed including this for discussion on next agenda.
 - Lion Steps vegetation removal.
KC has removed the vegetation to enable easy access to the steps. Council passed on thanks to KC.
 - Maintenance of village noticeboard and PROW lectern
Mr Hall had submitted a quotation of £175.00 plus materials for each. It was agreed to go ahead with maintenance.
12. General parish Issues
- IC advised he had now installed the dog bin signage
CP advised the salt bin is broken and could do with replacing.
13. Date of next meeting 29th July 2026
Meeting closed at 21:40

Appendix 1.

Response to planning application 2025/2460

Outline planning permission for a proposed residential development consisting of 24 dwelling house (8 affordable dwellinghouses).

Land south of Vale Road, Thurton

The parish council has reviewed the application and would like to state that we stand by our original comments submitted September 2025 in which we objected to the application.

The Parish Council is concerned that this proposal is being assessed in isolation, ignoring the combined pressure of nearly 400 new households currently being added to this specific 2 mile stretch of the A146 including developments at Chedgrave (in consultation) and Loddon.

The parish council is concerned with highway safety. Norfolk County Council carried out a survey in 2025 of the A146 in Thurton. It stated that there is a high volume of traffic and that 85% speed of vehicles is in excess of 35pmh.

Crossing movements were also recorded over a 280m stretch of A146, in which 85% of crossing movements occur over 30m at three points, one of which was Vale Road, where the southeast bound bus stop is located.

Given that the bus stop towards Loddon which has to be accessed by crossing Vale Road is used daily by over 20 school children, the anticipated increase of more than 52 vehicle movements associated with the proposed development presents a clear and unacceptable safety risk to young pedestrians and other bus stop users.

Adding an estimated 52+ daily vehicle movements from Vale Road onto a primary route that has seen 42 recorded accidents (EDP) since 2021 creates a collective safety hazard. The A146 is a high speed strategic road; the steady increase of multiple medium sized developments is creating a level of "stop-start" congestion and junction pressure that the current infrastructure is not designed to absorb.

There are significant concerns regarding the likely overspill parking onto surrounding roads due to insufficient on-site parking provision. While the proposed private properties appear to allow for 2–3 parking spaces each, no dedicated parking has been allocated for the social housing units. This imbalance is likely to result in additional vehicles being parked onto nearby residential streets, increasing congestion, reducing visibility, and creating further safety risks for pedestrians and road users.

The parish council's biodiversity plan includes the following for consideration on all development applications.

- Minimising light pollution through downward-facing, low-intensity lighting;
- Use of water-permeable driveways and garden surfacing to support sustainable drainage;
- Installation of biodiversity-enhancing features such as swift bricks and bat boxes;
- Incorporation of permeable boundary treatments, including hedgehog holes, to maintain small-animal movement corridors.