

Draft Minutes of Thurton Parish Council (TPC)

Monday 6th October 2025– 7:30pm held at Ashby & Thurton Village Hall

In Attendance: K Calderwood (KC) Chair, Jan Whitehouse (JW), P Black (PB)

C Popplewell (CP)

Minutes: T Higlett (TH) (Parish Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies from I Capps were noted. District Cllr V Thomson
2. Parish council vacancy
No election request was received for the casual vacancy; therefore, council may now proceed to co-option to fill this vacancy.
3. To receive declarations of Interest for items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations.
None
4. Public Forum including County and District Councillors.
One member of the public in attendance, who had shown an interest in becoming a councillor possibly at a later date.
No councillors in attendance.
5. To approve the minutes from the meeting held on the 30th July and 3rd September 2025.
These were approved.
6. Matters arising from the Minutes
 1. Cleaning of bus shelters. Chair advised that she had approached Mr Hall to ask whether he would clean the bus shelters as and when the parish council required. They accepted and quoted a cost of £25.00 per shelter. Council was all in favour. TB also advised she had managed to source two aluminium poster display units to display in the shelters and would look to source travel posters.
 2. Bus stop maintenance. Council discussed the requirement of a second quote to carry out remedial maintenance to the Norwich bound bus shelter. Contractor had advised council he was now unable to carry out maintenance. It was proposed to ask Mindham Builders who have quoted for accidental damage to Loddon bound shelter if they would be prepared to carry out this work. PB suggested two quotes for both brick and wood pillars replacements.
Lighting on the two bus stops at Prospect Place. Response from residents was favourable. Clerk will contact NCC to see if they could apply for a grant of 80% towards the cost. In 2024 council were quoted £2,500.00 per light. Lighting had previously been discussed at the bus stop located on the Loddon to Norwich side of the A146 at Manor Farm Thurton. It had been decided however that tree growth would render solar panels ineffective.
 3. Cutting back trees and vegetation on the A146. NCC had previously agreed to cut

back the trees concealing the illuminated speed sign. The other concern is the tree on the old shop land which obscures the view for motorists exiting Ashby Road onto the A146, when looking towards the left (Loddon). Clerk will log both concerns on the NCC highways portal.

7. Planning

1. Planning applications determined since the last meeting under the Clerk's delegated powers.

2025/2460 Location: Street Record Vale Road Thurton. Proposal: Outline planning permission for a proposed residential development consisting of 24 Dwellinghouses (8 Affordable Dwellinghouses) Application Type: Outline Planning Permission.

Council has objected to the outlined planning application. Appendix 1.

8. Management of the Parish Council

1. To review statutory documents

a. Co-Option Policy –This was reviewed and agreed.

b. Responding to Planning Applications Policy – This was reviewed and agreed

c. Safeguarding Policy –With due diligence, the Council has thoroughly reviewed the proposed policy and engaged in comprehensive discussion regarding its implications. The Council after careful consideration acknowledge the importance, if and when participation becomes necessary, they would engage accordingly.

2. Internal review by councillor. JW and the clerk will coordinate a suitable time to carry this out.

9. Finance

1. Councils current financial standing

Community account balance on the 30th August £16,384.31

2. The following were approved for payment:

a. T Higlett September salary inc. backdated salary increase £393.08

b. HMRC – Tax month 6£98.08

c. Lloyd's Bank - £4.50

3. Payments made between meetings.

a. Community Heartbeat – defib pads for Ashby Road Defibrillator £166.80

4. Receipts

a. South Norfolk 2nd half precept £4802.00

b. South Norfolk Adopter payment - £200.00

5. Grant application to Thurton Explorers Youth Group.

Council acknowledged receipt of the grant application for £150.00 The explorers provide a fun and sociable space for children/young people with games, activities, crafts, and refreshments. Each session has a relevant theme and is led by a professional youth worker, with assistance from volunteers and parents. The grant will be used towards the cost of hiring Ashby and Thurton village hall and other overheads. Council approved the grant of £150.00.

10. Highways and Village Issues

1. A146 pedestrian crossing assessment. Council was now in receipt of the report and proposed sending out to members of the A146 safety group including District Cllr V Thomson and Ben Goldsborough MP. A meeting with members of the group to be arranged. Council spoke of the pedestrian crossing which has been installed on the A146 near Carlton Colville by Suffolk County Council. To install a similar crossing at Thurton cost would be in the region of £500,000.

2. Damaged bus shelter Loddon bound.
Mindham Builders had been asked to conduct a survey and quote on the shelter. Council asked clerk to find out if there will be any other cost implications such as traffic management in the area. Full costs are required by the Insurers. To date nobody has come forward with any information on how the shelter became damaged.
3. Damaged bollard on A146.
Highways have now reinstated.
4. Parking in St Georges Close.
Clerk advised she had received phone calls from a resident of St Georges Close regarding their concerns on the increase of parking of vehicles in the close. Advised resident to speak with the Nursery as it was felt these were parents or staff using the close for parking. Another call was received regarding an HGV parked and obstructing the pavement. Clerk advised resident to contact the vehicles owner as they would be able to advise why it was parked there.
5. A146 Fixed Camera figures. The latest figures obtained from the fixed camera team showed the camera had been activated 654 times so far this year.
6. NCC Parish Partnership Scheme.
Council noted the closing date was 1st December 2025 but have no further projects to consider.

11. General Parish Issues (for information only).

JW had brought to councils' attention that a defibrillator had been installed on Church Loke and was owned by the Oxygen Centre. JW will speak to the owners as to whether this is for the parish to also use and possible contribution towards replacement defib pads.

12. Date of next meeting 26th November 2025

Meeting closed at 20:50

Appendix 1.

Thurton Parish Council strongly objects to this planning application on the following grounds: At the Thurton Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd September, principally to discuss this planning application, 39 Parishioners attended to register their individual objections to this planning application. The Councillors were not surprised as this planning application has been met with very strong disapproval by residents, both of Vale Road and other parts of the village.

This site was considered under the South Norfolk Village Clusters Plan Assessments in 2020 and REJECTED on grounds of access. It was considered that the narrow access to the site between two houses in Vale Road was inadequate. It was also considered dangerous to increase the traffic exiting Vale Road onto the A146.

Although Vale Road has two-lane traffic and a pavement near the A146 junction, before the site access point it becomes single track with no pavement. Heavy lorry construction traffic required to build 24 new houses would therefore pose a danger to pedestrians.

A recent survey by NCC Network Safety Infrastructure (Ref. PLA320/NS/JF) found that over a 7-day period in November 2024, nearly 9000 vehicles travelled in each direction through Thurton village, 17.2% being heavy vehicles. With 263 new houses already having been granted planning permission within 3 miles of Thurton, this number will only increase. Vehicular access to the A146 from Vale Road, Ashby Road and The Street is already very difficult. Often drivers must rely on being 'let out' by A146 traffic. This is not a safe access.

The same survey also highlighted the difficulty of crossing the A146 as a pedestrian, recommending a signalised crossing to improve pedestrian movements. Sadly, funds are not available. In the meantime, pedestrians are in danger every time they try to cross the main road. Even the wooden safety posts installed to protect pedestrians walking from Vale Road to Ashby Road are knocked over by careless drivers on a regular basis. The brick bus stop adjacent to Vale Road was recently severely damaged by a vehicle.

The Parish Council also believes there may be an issue with foul water drainage. The proposal relies on connecting to Anglian Water's mains drainage system, but this is already over stretched in this area.

During heavy rainfall, surface runoff currently causes flooding in Vale Road. Council is concerned that even with a soakaway, this will be exacerbated if these houses are built.

For above reasons, Thurton Parish Council, expressing the views of residents, urges that this application be rejected