

THORNHACKETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th June 2026 at 7.00pm in Thornford Village Hall

Attendees: Cllrs. Hillier (Chairman), Hoff, Robins, Baxter, Bromell, Small, Thompson,

Also in Attendance: Mrs S Hillier (Clerk), and 6 members of the Public.

1. **Welcome** to members and to members of the public,
2. **Apologies for Absence** - these were received from, Cllr Keene also from Dorset Councillor Legg and agreed and accepted
3. **Declarations Of Interest:** . None were declared.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2026** – these had been circulated. The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Cllr Hoff, seconded by Cllr Robins – **agreed unanimously**. The minutes of the Annual meeting in May had also been circulated, they were accepted as a true record of the meeting and will be signed at the next Annual meeting
5. **Matters Arising** – a) **Blackberry Solar Farm** – Nothing to report. b) Cllr Robins asked about progress on the street lights, the companies had been written to asking them to re quote for heritage LED lanterns or similar. c) Cllr Robins also asked about progress on the auto winding for the clock. The Clerk was waiting to hear back from Smiths of Derby
6. **Public Forum** –a) It was reported that a member of the public had been injured climbing the stile on Horsepool Lane – there used to be a kissing gate which was not operating. the Ranger to be asked to look into it. Also the footpath across the field to the allotments has not been maintained (planted with maize). Ranger to be asked to look at this also. b) Noxious black smoke on several occasions reported from a property in Glebe Close. Who should this be reported to? Dorset Council Environmental Health was suggested. c) It was suggested that a plaque be placed on the clock tower in memory of Cyril Taylor who had wound the clock for 25 years. This was thought to be a good idea and agreed by members.
7. **Finances** – a) Income and Expenditure this paper had been circulated. The payments made were noted and those due were agreed. Proposed by Cllr Hoff seconded Cllr Bromell.
b) Two letters had been received requesting donations/grants. The Clerk explained that both would form Section 137 expenditure which was explained to Councillors. i) a request from Thornford Flower Arrangers for a donation towards the Flower Festival which was helping to raise funds for repairs to the historic Lytchgate at the church. This event was open to villagers and the general public alike, it had been widely advertised and was also being supported by other organisations. Following discussion it was agreed to donate £250 to the event. Proposed Cllr Small, seconded Cllr Baxter **agreed unanimously**.
ii) A request from the Friends of Thornford School had been received for help towards providing a new storage shed which had been leaking, had been repaired several times and was now in need of replacing. This too would class as Section 137 funding – following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Robins, seconded by Cllr Small that a sum of £250 be granted **agreed with one abstention**.

c) The dates for the display of the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of the Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return was agreed to run from 30th June 2026 to 10th August 2026 Proposed Cllr Hillier seconded Cllr Small – **agreed unanimously.**

8. IT Policy Update – The policy had been adopted in July 2025 but was to be reviewed annually, The clerk proposed a number of changes – i) that a statement indicating that this had been produced from guidance from NALC ii) Under Anti-malware add ‘Similar rigour must be applied if the users own equipment is used’. iii) Section 9 Replace paragraph with ‘Where mobile devices are provided my Thornhackett Parish Council they should be secured with passcodes and/or biometric authentication. If working remotely users should follow the same security practices’. iv) Section 14 replace ...‘will provide’ With ...‘will make provision for’.... Following some discussion it was proposed by Cllr Hillier, seconded by Cllr Small that these changes be made – **agreed unanimously**

9. Environment Champion Report – Ian Young was unable to attend the meeting but had produced a written report that was read out to the meeting. It was agreed that several items be added to the next Environment Working Group Agenda for further discussion and that a water butt project be considered offering water butts at a reduced rate if Wessex Water were willing to assist, In the meantime we try to gauge a strength of feeling for this. Secondly Dorset Wildlife Trust nature corridors.

10. Councillor Responsibilities –

- i) Playground/Recreation Ground – Cllr Small
- ii) Footpaths – Cllr Bromell (Thornford) Cllr Keene (Beer Hackett) Cllr Baxter (Stiles)
- iii) Trees – Cllr Bromell
- iv) Audit & Risk – Cllr Hoff
- v) Village Hall – Cllr Baxter
- vi) Press and Publicity – Cllr Thompson (Contact) Cllr Robins (Facebook)
- vii) Planning Policy – this position remains vacant.

11. Reports from Working Groups – Cllr Small reported that the Playground Working Group would be meeting in the next few weeks, four quotations had been received for discussion. The trees in the play area had been trimmed and a willow pollarded. The hedges on two sides has been cut manually following inspections for nesting birds. The equipment is in need of cleaning and it was agreed that there be a Councillor session on Saturday 3th July at 2.00pm to clean equipment (bring brushes, buckets, cleaning materials and if possible battery operated pressure washers) Water hopefully will be available via Cllr Bromell’s house.

Cllr Robins noted that there had not been an Environment Working Group meeting but there was due to be a meeting on Monday 29th June.

12. Reports from Councillors – there were none

13. Planning – new, in progress and finalised – These had been circulated prior to the meeting. Attention was drawn to a possible future application for works at the Water Treatment Centre to improve Phosphorous and Nitrogen removal, add a new tank, improve monitoring and power infrastructure, advanced filtration and chemical dosing.

14. Communications and Urgent Business communicated in advance to the Chairman –

i) Letter from Fortuneswell Cancer Charity thanking us for the donation regarding Cyril Taylor. ii) Crime report for May noted a rogue trader in operation iii) Mobile Police Station at Co-op Ridgeway Sherborne on 2nd July 11.00- 1.00pm

Urgent Business – Action Briefing from DAPTC regarding Register of Interests which were being updated so as to remove home addresses (English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act) The ROI site on Dorset Council would be suspended from 15th June until 29th June. A new system would be implemented and councillors will be given information on how to log in to check their record/update it and republish to make it public again after 29th June.

Meeting closed at 20.45

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 15th July at 7.00pm in Thornford Village Hall