

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at Felton Village Hall, Coquet Room on Thursday 14 May 2026.

Present: Cllrs Fenwick, Green, F Hoyle, S Hoyle and Royal
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin

- 1 **Election of Chair** – Cllr Royal proposed and Cllr F Hoyle seconded Cllr Green as Chairman. This was agreed unanimously.
- 2 **Election of Vice Chair** - Cllr Green proposed and Cllr S Hoyle seconded Cllr Day as Vice-Chairman. This was agreed unanimously.
Members signed their Declaration of Office.
- 3 **Election and nominations of Members to Committees and Groups**
 - a) Cemetery Committee Meeting – Cllr Day with Cllr Royal as Reserve
 - b) Finance Group – Cllrs Day, Green and F Hoyle.
 - c) Complaints Committee – to be confirmed when required depending on the nature of the complaint.
- 4 **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Day and CC Sanderson
- 5 **Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda** – None
- 6 **Public Questions (max 5 mins per person)** – None
- 7 **The minutes of the meeting 26 March 2026.** The minutes were approved as a true record.
- 8 **Matters Arising therefrom:**
 - 1) **Matters arising there from (excluding outstanding actions in relation to NCC)**
 - a) Parking at Pumpkin Pie – Covered under correspondence.
 - b) Bleed Kit beside Defib - Pending
 - c) Road surface down The Peth – Awaiting action from NCC (05/02/26 Meeting) – there has been a small part filled in but not the whole area. Clerk to pursue. Clerk
 - d) Pot holes in the New Bridge – Awaiting action from NCC (05/02/26 Meeting) Clerk
 - e) Acro barrier supports – Awaiting action from NCC (05/02/26 Meeting) Clerk
 - f) Kings Garden Party – This has been accepted and Clerk asked if an article could be put in the Newsletter after the event. This was agreed.
 - g) NCC Local Plan and TPC Neighbourhood Plan – Defer until more information forthcoming about NCC Local Plan details Clerk
 - h) Age UK Scams and Scones – 19 May. Clerk has arranged for WI to make scones, Clerk to collect packs of butter from the Running Fox and purchase tea, coffee and milk. Cllr Hoyle has kindly offered to help out on the day. Felton PC stated they would be paying for the hall so Clerk to arrange change in invoice details. Clerk to check who will open up the hall on the day as TPC not classed as regular users now. Clerk
 - i) Leak in Narrow Bank – this has appeared again and Clerk has reported to NCC for action. Clerk
 - 2) **Long-term Outstanding issues being addressed by NCC for information** - None
- 9 **Report by County Councillor Sanderson** - We had our Council AGM last week where I continue as leader of the Council so will still have a few balls in the air but you know to get in touch anytime if I can help with anything.
- 10 **Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC**

NWL – Felton Environmental Improvements
Cllr F Hoyle attended for the PC. There is a requirement to reduce spill frequencies so that they do not exceed ten spills per annum on average by 2050 over a ten-year average.

For Felton there will be SuDs basin (a shallow landscaped depression designed to collect, store and manage surface water runoff), rain garden, tree pits and planters. Proposed for Felton is Surface Water Separation including Davison Ave, Mouldshaugh Rd and Barns Rd. Circa 1.1km new pipework and manholes and localised 'green' surface water reduction. SUDs basin in

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recreation ground, new below-ground storage with CSO in grazing land adjacent to the Felton treatment works.

The idea for West Thirston is to have long planters running alongside the gutters so that the plants and soil absorb the surface run off. This hasn't been done anywhere in Northumberland yet so we don't know how effective it is, nor what they look like at installation or after a few years of use. The only place to currently use this system is Hammersmith in London.

When asked about who would maintain the planters the answer from NWL was that they "would like opportunities to involve the community" in maintenance. This needs to be discussed further as it will be an ongoing cost to the PC or rely on some volunteers to maintain them. The WI are already committed to maintain the Felton planters and the village hall garden and don't have the age group who could easily be on hands and knees to maintain them.

Cllr Royal stated things might improve if they actually made the main drains in West Thirston bigger however this would be costly and disruptive.

11 Potential Projects

a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – None

b) Landscaping – None

c) Short term / Medium term / Long term projects –

- Bus Shelter – Noticeboards – these are on order and Clerk will arrange for information to be put in them and Cllr Royal volunteered to fit them into the shelters.

Clerk /
Cllr
Royal

12 To report on any planning decisions:

26/00018/LBC - Old Manse Cottage, West Thirston – Bathroom transformations – APPROVED

26/00130/ADE - Pumpkin Pie Childcare Ltd – Advertising Signage – REFUSED GONE TO APPEAL – concerns were raised that there is no picture of the sign in the application, a copy of the letter should be included which stated the nursery were going to remove the sign, previous applications had been withdrawn as informed they would not get approval for the signage. Clerk to relay concerns to NCC planning officer. Also it was raised that new shelters have been installed and this needs to be relayed to NCC to see if planning permission required for these.

Clerk

Clerk

26/00364/LBC - The Old Manse West Thirston - Installation of 4no. CCTV cameras and 2no. Ring Doorbells – APPROVED

26/00437/FUL - The Limes, The Pipistrelles, Eshott - Enlarge existing first floor bedroom window opening for new French doors. Demolish existing ground floor bay window pitched roof for new insulated flat roof construction and external balcony to rear with structural glass balustrade – APPROVED

26/00916/FUL - 3 Beech Avenue, Burgham Gardens - Rear single storey conservatory/extension – APPROVED

Planning applications pending:

25/04301/FUL - Land To West Of Longdyke - Erection of 4 small glamping pods and 1 shepherd's hut lodge for holiday use (year-round operation) – no objections

26/00434/FUL – Eshott Home Farm - Erection of new agricultural building, ancillary to existing steading, to provide additional storage capacity for agricultural machinery and livestock – no objections

26/01198/FUL – 2 Beech Avenue, Burgham Gardens - Rear single storey conservatory/extension – no objections

26/01214/FUL - Thorndyke Park Felton, Change in entrance to holiday park entrance site – Applicant has objected to Parish Councils objection due to it being outside the deadline date – this was actually not the case as the Clerk emailed objections due to access issues to portal and it took a few days for NCC to put this on the portal. However NCC officer has also submitted a lists of areas that need further investigation – the same date as the PC response was added and applicant has not put in any objection to this.

26/01611/FUL - Land to the north of 1 Bockenfield Cottages – new build property – no objections

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Planning Issues:

Eshott Airfield – new structures on airfield and treatment plant – the new structures have been reported to NCC as should have permission before installation. No further information re treatment plant but has been highlighted to NCC enforcement team.

High Park Farm Appeal (24/02540/FUL) - APP/P2935/W/25/3375680 - DISMISSED

26/00130/ADE – Pumpkin Pie Childcare Signage – GONE TO APPEAL

Thirston Garage rent/sale sign – Complaints have been received about the size of this signage and the Clerk has asked NCC if permission is required for this.

24/01178/VARYCO – Installation of footpaths 24 June 2024 giving an extension of 2 years – Clerk was asked when the new footpath would be installed. The extension was for two years from first property occupied. The Clerk has ascertained that this was October 2024 and has relayed this to NCC.

It was agreed to make a record of crashes in and around the village to highlight traffic safety issues and provide evidence to back up concerns for any future planning applications. Recently there was a crash just on the edge of West Thirston where it appears a vehicle was travelling too fast to avoid hitting a tractor. Also there was a serious 3 car crash at Guyzance Junction. It was also agreed that the chicane on the East end of the village is not ideal, if should be a double chicane to slow drivers down.

13 Requested Agenda Items:

- Bridge Newsletter – help is required both in terms of manpower and finances. There is going to be a meeting of those who expressed an interest in helping on 19 May to get articles ready for when newsletter up and running again. It maybe that the PC has to make financial contributions to the running of the Bridge but it was felt that further information on the accounts/advertising revenue etc was made available as there have been issues in the past where the PC donated money but the cheques were never cashed and people are not being charged for advertising or aware that their adverts are still being included in the newsletter.
- Change on speed camera signage – Clerk has arranged for the speed camera on the East side of the village to be changed to reflect the imminent reduction in speed limit through the village. Clerk to ascertain when the limits will change.

Clerk

14 Correspondence:

- NCC - Northumberland Local Plan - consultation mailing list update 2026 – For information
- NCC – Email notice of preparing a new Northumberland Local Plan - Circulated
- NCC - LOVE Northumberland Awards – deadline 17 May – Circulation – very short deadline. It was raised that if we had a TPC facebook page this sort of information could be put out there for input from residents along with newsletters etc. Clerk to set up a facebook page.
- Northumbrian Water – Circulated meeting presentation slides
- Northumberland Estates – Lease renewal notice – this was agreed.
- FPC – Cemetery Clerk role emails – circulated.
- Zurich – Insurance Renewal Notice and revised renewal – the insurance renewal came in a lot higher than previous years at £528.04 with two items missing from the list for insurance. The items have now been added and a reduction of £59.86 was agreed with Zurich which is more in line with inflation.
- Emails in relation to 25/00844/BRCOND - Eshott Airfield breach in conditions - circulated
- Emails re Machine Meets as Eshott Airfield - circulated
- Email from resident re parking at Pumpkin Pie – circulated. A client directly ignored the polite requests of a resident to move her car due to safety concerns and the on duty manager ignoring the request by the resident for this individual to move her car. Pumpkin Pie responded to state they were again reminding parents/carers of the parking situation. The Clerk did respond to state that unless the PC and NCC are aware of issues still being experienced then there is little that can be done and it will be assumed that the situation is improving.
- Email re tractors through the village with red stone – A resident was concerned about the number of tractors going through the village and asked if this was going to be a regular occurrence. The Clerk ascertained that it was a base for a new building at the East of East Thirston and should be finished soon.

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- Email in relation to contact details for Councillors – this was circulated and still the agreement is that all communications should be sent directly to the PC email and not direct to Councillors. Any Councillors receiving emails direct would just automatically forward to the Clerk for circulation to all Councillors for efficiency. The decision for one address was also based on the cost implications, if every Councillor had an email address it would cost the PC an extra £215 a year and that it based on no change in Councillors.
- Email re flytipping – more flytipping at the bottle bank which has been reported to NCC.
- Email re footpath to field of hope being blocked by trees – the landowner should cut these back, there is an issue with this pathway every year and the Clerk has requested NCC write to the landowner.
- Email – meeting with Zoo - the zoo would like to sit down with the PC to discuss their future plans. Clerk to arrange a suitable time/place to meet with Maxine.
- Email re AAIB crash report from N Yorks Airfield – circulated for information
- NALC – Pay awards information – circulated for information
- Newsletters – NALC, CAN and Groundworks

Clerk
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15 Finance

- (a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £16,225.73 TPC funds and £2,052.19 FCJC totaling £18,277.92. The balance was reconciled with the bank statement and Cllr Royal signed the statement to confirm this
- (b) **Payments** - The following list was put before members for approval

Payments this meeting:		
SC	Lloyds Bank Service Charge	£4.25
SO	L Hamlin Salary 12 Mar – 9 April	£413.20
SO	L Hamlin Salary 10 Apr – 7 May	£465.00
IB234	L Hamlin Expenses + one weeks salary increase 5 hours at £2.50 (£12.95) Home working allowance of 7 weeks (£7.00) 2 x DD for email address 12 Apr & 13 May (£5.98) Microsoft License (£84.99) Greenbarnes 3 x noticeboards (572.23)	£683.15
IB235	HMRC Employers NI to 7 May	£33.74
IB236	Zurich Insurance (£528.04 - £59.86)	£468.18
IB237	NALC Subscription less Website fee refund (£188.68 - £59.94)	£128.74

- (c) **Income** – NCC Precept £5,375.00
- (d) **Certificate of Exemption** – The Certificate of Exemption could not be completed as it required the year end accounts from the Cemetery to be included in the calculations and this has not been provided by FPC as yet. Defer to the June meeting which will be within the deadline for submission to external auditors.

Defer

16 Urgent Items –

Community Emergency Plan – It was thought Cllr Day may wish to attend – Clerk to ascertain if this is the case, if not the Clerk maybe able to attend depending on the date. It was also felt that the Running Fox and Northumberland Arms should be aware of this meeting.

Clerk

17 Items for next agenda –

Year end accounts

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 pm

Date of Next meeting: 18 June 2026 – Clerk to ascertain that the PC will be quorate if proceeding with this date.