

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held in the Long Room, Gallery 45 on Thursday 18 June 2026.

Present: Cllrs Day, Green, and Royal
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin

- 18 Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs Fenwick, F Hoyle, S Hoyle and CC Sanderson
- 19 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda** – Cllr Day re village newsletter.
- 20 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person)** – None
- 21 The minutes of the meeting 14 May 2026.** The minutes were approved as a true record.

22 Matters Arising therefrom:

1) Matters arising there from (excluding outstanding actions in relation to NCC)

- a) Bleed Kit beside Defib – No further information forthcoming as yet.
- b) Kings Garden Party – Email of thanks has been received and circulated along with a wonderful description of the day.
- c) NCC Local Plan and TPC Neighbourhood Plan – To be reviewed. Clerk/All
- d) Age UK Scams and Scones – 19 May. Unfortunately only one member of the public attended this event.
- e) Thirston Parish Council facebook page – this has been set up and residents notified via F&T Matters FB Page
- f) Footpath to Field of Hope clearing – This has now been cleared by a subcontractor appointed by NCC – Clerk has sent thanks to NCC and contractor.
- g) Meeting with the Zoo – Zoo has asked if a meeting needs to be a Thursday night – Clerk stated no and the zoo will be in touch when Maxine returns from holiday. Clerk
- h) Community Emergency Plan – Clerk has spoken to Mr Claydon in relation to this following him contacting the PC – it is not just to look at issues in relation to flooding, it is all emergency scenarios and they would like both PCs to be involved. He asked the Clerk if there was still a copy of the original emergency plan which was looked into over 15 years ago and Clerk stated no copy held by TPC, it was a FPC initiative following the flooding at The Mill. Cllr Day reported he had attended the recently meeting - See Item 24. Clerk

2) Long-term Outstanding issues being addressed by NCC for information - None

- a) Road surface down The Peth – Partly filled the rutted area. Clerk to check if works to continue.
- b) Pot holes in the New Bridge – Some remedial work has been undertaken. Clerk to check if further works are planned.
- c) Acro barrier supports – Outstanding
- d) Leak in Narrow Bank – Outstanding

23 Report by County Councillor Sanderson –

The spring has proved tough for weed spraying and we are behind. I've asked that we review this and when we apply the first spray and how often we follow this up. We have 15 Quads equipped with sprayers and the staff are fully trained up but weeds have grown pretty quickly as gardeners will know this year. Of course the talk is that glyphosate might be removed as our main spray which will cause really big problems.

The developer of the Data Centre is wanting to move to build more space and is applying to do so which is encouraging - the space already spoken for through planning has been fully taken up. We are moving quickly with the new Amble school and have put the new Berwick school into planning.

You will have seen that I've written to the Secretary of State for Transport with my letter countersigned by the Mayor. I want this new effort to be totally free of party politics, and I'll be putting a Motion at Full Council next month which I'm hoping will be agreed cross party.

It's safety that is crucial but I want the government to know that the road is simply incapable of carrying the level of traffic given how both tourism and business growth have taken off in the County. We know this thanks to the rat runs but it is common to see the road grind to a halt because it's not suitable anymore.

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

I've arranged a meeting with National Highways at the July Felton PC meeting because they wouldn't agree to a public meeting sadly - but maybe Thirston PC might want to come to that? Best wishes and let me know if I can help

24 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC

Cllr Day attended the Community Action Plan meeting which was attended by the Church, CAN, Village Hall and Garth Rhodes – Clerk to Longframlington PC. It was proposed that Mr Claydon look at the L'fram emergency plan and adapt it to see how it would fit for Felton and Thirston. The next meeting will take place in September and Mr Colin Hall from the Flood Dept of the EA will attend. Community would need to initiate a flood plan for the area – it has not been requested yet. L'fram PC led on the initiative as seen as an organisation that would continue into the future. For Felton and Thirston parishes, if the PC's chose not to lead, it could be Village Hall led. If the emergency was a flood, then it maybe that TPC would not be able to use the Village Hall due to access and would have to build a relationship with a place within the parish. Need to see what comes out of the September meeting.

Cemetery Meeting – Chair and Vice Chair will be elected at the next meeting as a second representative from Swarland PC needs to be appointed. Work has started on preparation for the Remembrance Day service.

25 Potential Projects

a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – None

b) Landscaping – None

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

- Bus Shelter – Noticeboards – these have now been delivery and the Clerk will arrange for information to be put in them and Cllr Royal volunteered to fit them into the shelters.

Clerk /
Cllr
Royal

26 To report on any planning decisions:

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) – GRANTED

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 - GRANTED

26/01198/FUL – 2 Beech Avenue, Burgham Gardens - Rear single storey conservatory/extension – GRANTED

Planning applications pending:

26/01214/FUL - Thorndyke Park Felton, Change in entrance to holiday park entrance site – Objections raised by PC and NCC Highways require more information in relation to traffic impact especially in relation to construction traffic

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

26/01424/FUL - Northumberland Zoo - Erection of two agricultural buildings – no objection

26/01643/FUL - Land East Of The Brocks Cottage - Erection of a new general purpose agricultural building – no objection

26/01898/COU - Ivy Cottage West Thirston – change of use from granny annex to holiday let – A discussion took place on this application and Clerk to provide more history before a decision is made.

Clerk

Planning Issues:

Eshott Airfield – new structures on airfield and treatment plant – NCC are looking into this but stating the new structures have been installed by the owner not the operator. Clerk has raised the issue that it is a planning condition that any new structures need approval so cannot see why this should make any difference – awaiting a response.

26/00130/ADE – Pumpkin Pie Childcare Signage – gone to appeal – Clerk submitted comments to NCC to be included in response to Planning Inspectorate as direct comments are not allowed.

NCC state that the letter from Pumpkin Pie re removal cannot be included as not a material consideration but the PI will be aware of it following information in the objections raised.

Thirston Garage rent/sale sign – no further information on NCC from this.

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

24/01178/VARYCO – Installation of footpaths 24 June 2024 giving an extension of 2 years – NCC state that the application maybe looking to vary this condition as they state there are limited things they can do to improve bus stops as no room on the footpaths. They have installed a footpath and dropped kerbs and could not get any further with pedestrian refuge. Clerk stated that this does not address the actual condition of installing footpaths to either side of the estate.

27 Requested Agenda Items:

- Year end accounts – these have not yet been audited by the internal auditor. A zoom meeting before the end of June to be arranged to approve the accounts once received from the auditor.

Clerk

28 Correspondence:

- NCC - New Northumberland Local Plan - Scoping Consultation – 20 May to 1 July – Circulated and requested that the Councillors review this document.
- NCC – Town and Parish Liaison Working Group documents following meeting - Circulated
- NCC – update from Portfolio Holder of Highways – Cllr Mather – circulated
- NCC - briefing session on the digital switchover for County & T&P Cllrs on 24th June 11-12 – It was agreed that there was no need to attend.
- NCC – Neighbourhood Plan support available – agreed Clerk to contact NCC to look at support for reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan alongside the NCC Local Plan changes
- NCC – Monitoring Officer information re redacting Councillors addresses on DOIs - Circulated
- Emails in relation to insurance costs for Cemetery and War Memorial – Circulated and costs calculated agreed on.
- Invitation to The Wilds of Wannie, the Coquet and Beyond – 11 July – Cllr Day attending.
- Village newsletter donation request – It was agreed to donate £200.
- Phone call re pot holes on Wintrick Road – reported to NCC
- Email re plane landing after hours – reported to enforcement officer at NCC
- Newsletters – NALC and CAN - circulated

29 Finance

- Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £13,973.61 TPC funds and £2,985.82 FCJC totaling £16,959.43. The balance was reconciled with the bank statement and Cllr Royal signed the statement to confirm this
- Payments** - The following list was put before members for approval

Payments this meeting:		
SC	Lloyds Bank Service Charge	£4.25
SO	L Hamlin Salary 8 May – 4 June 2026	£465.00
IB238	Swarco speed camera maintenance contract	£469.06
IB239	L Hamlin Expenses Home working allowance of 7 weeks (£5.00) 1 x DD for email address 12 June (£2.99) Felton Village Hall Room Hire (£35.00) Cartridges (£75.80)	£118.79
IB240	Cllr Day for new wooden tubs plus compost and plants	£96.97
IB241	Northumberland Estates Land Rental	£5.00

- Income** – None

- Certificate of Exemption** – The Certificate of Exemption was approved and signed.

30 Urgent Items –

EOM required before the end of June to approve accounts once auditor has completed audit
Clerk to check with NCC as to when the 20mph limit will be installed in West Thirston

31 Items for next agenda –

Policy Review