

Throwley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 10th December 2025 at 6.30pm at Sheldwich Village Hall

Present:

Adam Jastrzebski	(TPC Chairman)
Emma Brown	(TPC Councillor)
Paul Furneaux	(TPC Councillor)
Alan Murphy	(TPC Councillor)
Frances Wilson	(TPC Councillor)

25.12.01 **Apologies:** Cllrs Lintott and Tormey had sent apologies. These were accepted by the Parish Council. The clerk was also unable to attend and the minutes were taken by Cllr Wilson.

25.12.02 **Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations relating to items on the agenda.

25.12.03 **Agree Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting**
Resolved: The minutes of the September Throwley Parish Council were accepted and signed by the Parish Council and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

25.12.04 **Actions from previous meeting**

- **Coordinate Response with Stalisfield concerning Government Reorganisation** – In the absence of Cllr Lintott, the Parish Council was unable to confirm whether a suitable date had been arranged for representatives of either Parish Council to meet. An update will be provided when available. Further information regarding the Local Government Reorganisation was considered under agenda item 25.12.09.
- **Throwley Verge Repairs** - Cllr Tormey has not yet provided the clerk with the contact details of whom she had spoken with in early August concerning the verges so that the parish council could reply asking for an update. It was noted that some of the repairs promised by KCC have been carried out on Parsonage Stocks Road but no repairs have been undertaken to the verges on Bagshill Road where a lot of extra damage has taken place following the spreading of sewage waste on the fields to the east of Parsonage Farm. There was a discussion about the possibility of writing to KCC re contingency plans for A251 closures - potentially under the resilience strategy. It was noted that the recent closure on the A251 for water mains repairs had not had a proper diversion set up leading to chaos on local lanes, particularly along Bethel Row. KCC should be asked about whether impact or risk assessments are/were carried out in such cases and whether a better strategy for road diversions should be worked on. Cllr Murphy agreed to put together a proposal for the next meeting, including finding out who is the most appropriate person at KCC to talk to about the council's concerns and also looking into the issue of temporary speed limits during diversions. Cllr Wilson is to contact Helen Whately to discover who her contacts at KCC are. The Chairman is to talk to KCC about the resilience issue and also to put a

notice out via the WhatsApp groups reminding parishioners about the ways in which pot holes and road damage can be reported online.

- **Parish Map for Noticeboard** – The Ramblers Association has kindly agreed to provide a bespoke map for the parish noticeboard; however, the dimensions are required. Cllr Paul Furneaux will take the necessary measurements and forward them to the Clerk.

25.12.05 **Public Interval**

No members of the public were in attendance and no items had been brought to the attention of the PC for discussion.

25.12.06 **Planning Matters**

To consider any planning matter received by 10th December 2025. It was agreed that where no objections are raised by councillors to any planning application, that the clerk should write to SBC indicating the council's support.

25.12.07 **Financial Matters**

Bank Balance

The bank balance and bank reconciliation had been distributed to all members of the PC prior to the meeting. As of 10th December 2025, the bank balance stands at £6412.33

Transactions approved since September 2025

10-Dec-25	B/P to: Sheldwich V. Hall	THROWLEY PC 12/25	-42.00	6412.33
05-Dec-25	S/O to: Marie-Ann Norris	CLERK SALARY	-132.60	6454.33
30-Nov-25	Service Charge		-6.00	6586.93
21-Nov-25	Direct Debit (EDF ENERGY)	A-37A607C6-001	-50.32	6592.93
05-Nov-25	S/O to: Marie-Ann Norris	CLERK SALARY	-132.60	6643.25
31-Oct-25	Service Charge		-6.00	6775.85
21-Oct-25	Direct Debit (EDF ENERGY)	A-37A607C6-001	-48.29	6781.85
06-Oct-25	S/O to: Marie-Ann Norris	CLERK SALARY	-132.60	6830.14
30-Sep-25	Service Charge		-6.00	6962.74
26-Sep-25	SWALE COUNCIL	SWALE BC	2113.00	6968.74

It was noted that no invoices have been received for the two grass cuts that took place since the last payment made by TPC in June. Cllr Furneaux is to chase the invoices for these.

25.12.08 **Budget and Precept 2026/2027**

The council considered in detail the budget prepared by the clerk detailing the current year's spending along with the proposal for a 5% uplift. Whilst acknowledging the need to maintain adequate reserves (particularly in regard to maintenance of the trees on the green) councillors expressed their desire to avoid imposing unnecessary increases on parishioners. A precept increase of 2.5% was therefore agreed.

25.12.09

Local Government Reform

The Chairman gave a detailed presentation of the latest proposals from Kent councils regarding the Local Government Reform (LGR) project currently being undertaken by the government. Throwley is part of Swale Borough Council which has submitted its opinion on the division of Kent into unitary authorities.

Purpose of LGR: LGR aims to create a more efficient and sustainable local government system through restructuring councils.

Impact on Parish Councils: LGR will redefine governance for Parish Councils, changing relationships and local decision-making processes.

On 28th November different groups of Councils from Kent submitted five different proposals to the Government (see [Councils Reveal Draft Business Cases for New Councils - Kent Council Leaders](#)) Swale BC has agreed option 4B which would join Swale with Ashford and Folkstone & Hythe BCs to form a Mid Kent Unitary Authority.

Option 4b – Four Unitaries



There will be a public consultation led by the Government on all viable options in the Spring 2026 followed by a final government decision on LGR boundaries in July 2026. In May 2027 there will be a process of 'shadow elections' with the intent for the new authorities to 'go live' in April 2028.

The Chairman will prepare a summary of the proposals to send to parishioners.

25.12.10

Any Other Business

Rubbish Bin on the Forstal – It was reported that the public rubbish bin on the Forstal is no longer being emptied by the binmen on their rounds. The clerk is currently in conversation with SBC in an attempt to rectify the situation.

Directional Sign to the Forstal – It has been reported by a parishioner that the finger post sign to the Forstal from Throwley Road is overgrown. Cllr Furneaux offered to check and trim back any vegetation if necessary.

Resilience Forum – The Chairman is to look into the matter further.

25.12.11 **Date of the next meeting(s)** – Wednesday 11th February & Wednesday 8th April

There being no other business the chairman closed the meeting at 8:10pm

DRAFT