

THORNHACKETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th October 2025 at 7.00pm

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

Also in Attendance: Mrs S Hillier (Clerk), and 10 members of the Public.

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting. The public were reminded that this was a meeting of the Council in public and not a public meeting,
2. **Apologies for Absence** - Apologies were received from Cllr Keene and Cllr Hoff, these were accepted and agreed. Cllr Robin Legg (Dorset Councillor) also tendered his apologies. Cllr Taylor-Wade was also absent from the meeting.
3. **Declarations Of Interest:** No declarations were received.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 17th September** – these had been circulated, no issues were raised, their adoption was proposed by Cllr Hillier, seconded Cllr Axten -**agreed with 2 abstentions.. Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the 1st October** – these had also been circulated and were accepted and agreed Proposed Cllr Robins, seconded Cllr Hillier – **agreed, 2 abstentions.**
5. **Matters Arising** – a. **Blackberry Solar Farm** – Nothing to report
b. **Beer Hackett Speed Survey** – Cllr Andrews, Leader of the Opposition Group had been contacted as answers to the questions raised in the petition still had not been answered. No indication of costs for a 20mph limit had been given. Clerk to make further enquiries.
c. **Himalayan Balsam** no longer notifiable, Environment Agency not responsible for clearance, It has now spread along the road side as well as the river bank. Cllr Robins to follow up.
6. **Public Forum** – Concern was raised regarding signage for the play area and its secluded position. Clerk to see if it was possible to remove some of the hedge in increase visibility. Working Group to look at issue of signage.
7. **Councillor Responsibilities Paper** – Cllr Hillier presented the paper with amendments to the original highlighted. The amendments were to clear up any confusion. The amended paper be accepted was proposed by Cllr Axten, seconded Cllr Robins – **agreed with 2 abstentions.**
8. **Expenses Policy** – Minor changes were presented to bring the policy in line with the Councillor Responsibility Policy plus the addition of formally recognising that the Council will pay the fees and expenses for Courses and Conferences that have been pre-agreed. Acceptance was proposed by Cllr Robins, seconded Cllr Bromell – **agreed unanimously.**
9. **Finances** – a. **Income and Expenditure** – Lloyds bank accounts now closed. Interest this month £83.81, Rent in from Allotment Assn. and 6 month precept. Balance of the restoration of the clock face now due. Accounts had been distributed Acceptance was proposed by Cllr Bromell, seconded Cllr Hillier – **agreed unanimously.** It was suggested that while scaffolding up that the weather vane be restored and the door at the back painted costs to be paid - **Agreed unanimously.**
b. **Street Lights** – A further quote had been obtained. Discussion followed. Knowing the history of the companies and source of recommendation it was proposed by Cllr Hillier, seconded by Cllr Robins to go with new quotation who have experience of installing

street lights and other commercial projects. **Agreed unanimously** Payment would come from CIL funds.

c. **Budget 2025-26** The Clerk indicated that work had been started on preparing the draft Budget. Cllrs asked to consider projects. Replacement benches once ownership determined to be considered but new benches to be on Council Asset register. Advertise on 'Thornford Now' re ownership. Cllr Bromell suggested an Outside Gym

10. Dorset Local Plan Consultation – There followed a discussion on the Draft response prepared by Cllr

Hillier, Cllr Hoff and the Clerk. The paper prepared on the Policy section had been arrived at from

responses on the web site and from the meeting on the 1st October. The responses were accepted

unanimously. Similarly the response prepared to the 'other sites' section was accepted. The section

involving the sites in Thornford was more problematic, reasons for lack of development were agreed,

but the possible inclusion of the site to the west was causing concern. It was agreed that the majority

of residents would prefer no development on either site but if one had to be submitted then the

majority favoured the site to the west (LA/THOR/003) as the eastern end of the village had already

seen a lot of housing development over the years. It was decided that members continue discussions

towards agreeing a form of words to be submitted.

11. Dorset Local Transport Plan Consultation response – Cllr Robins had prepared a response to this

Document which had been circulated. Subject to a couple of typographical amendments it was

proposed Cllr Robins, seconded by Cllr Hillier that the document be submitted to Dorset Council –

agreed unanimously.

12. Environment Working Group – Recommendations from the Group had been circulated, they included

recommendations for the Transport Plan and the Local Plan consultation, it was agreed that these

should be incorporate if not already there. It was also agreed that the Clerk should write to Wessex

Water re a visit to Thornford WTC in May. Write to Dorset Highways regarding 'SLOW' signs and to

ascertain when gullies are to be cleared, Dorset Waste Service regarding a talk on 'Reduce, reuse.

Recycle'. Council agreed that a leaflet that had been prepared 'What to do in times of Heavy Rainfall'

should be circulated via Contact and would if necessary contribute towards the cost.

13. Play Area Working Group – Cllr Axten reported that he had made some enquiries regarding improving

the surface to make it safer. He thought that much of the equipment could be pressure washed. The

damaged swing was in hand but there was a problem because the supplier was a French company!

14. Environment Champion – No report

15. Councillor with Responsibility - No reports

16. Planning Applications – Updates had been circulated and published. There were no new applications.

17. Communications - Age Friendly Dorset Survey available on line. Flood Risk Management Zoom

meeting 23rd October

Date of Next Ordinary Council Meeting Wednesday 19th November 2025 at 7.00pm in Thornford Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9.50pm.