

THORNHACKETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th July 2026 at 7.00pm in Thornford Village Hall

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

Also in Attendance: Mrs S Hillier (Clerk), Dorset Cllr Legg and 5 members of the Public.

1. **Welcome** to members and to members of the public,
2. **Apologies for Absence** - these were received from, Cllrs Hoff, Robins, Small all agreed and accepted
3. **Declarations Of Interest:** Cllr Keene declared an interest on an item in Item 14 Planning Applications received.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2026** – these had been circulated. The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Cllr Hillier, seconded Cllr Bromell, – **agreed unanimously**.
5. **Matters Arising –** a) **Blackberry Solar Farm** – Nothing to report.
6. **Public Forum** – a) The Matter of 20mph speed limit raised – unsure of how much village support for limit from village sign to village sign (what is now 30mph converting to 20mph), it was item 3 on the survey conducted where the response was 75% of 150 households, their being 301 households and approximately 730 residents, the Beer Hackett response had been 90% of residents. It was suggested that maybe a petition such as that submitted by the residents of Beer Hackett be raised to give a better overall impression of support. There was a proposal to progress the initial idea of a zone along from the shop to Village Hall and side roads off including The Drove estates, Bembury Lane etc be progressed, proposed Cllr Baxter, seconded Cllr Keene – 3 in favour 2 against – **carried**. b) Flooding in the winter was raised it was explained that considerable work had been undertaken by the Environment Working Group on this – further progress required villagers to report flooding to Dorset Council and the Environment Agency. The Parish Council were actively seeking Flood Wardens to report the problems on. It was reported that gullies in the village had been cleaned. c) The maize was blocking the footpath to the Allotments – Cllr Bromell to report on.
7. **Financials** – a) **Income and expenditure** – Last months invoices had been paid, HMRC PAYE had also been paid. In addition the Council Insurance renewal for £826.49 had come in after the last meeting and following consultation via e-mails with Councillors this had also been paid. Income of £445.87 had been received in Interest. Acceptance was proposed by Cllr Hillier, seconded Cllr Bromell – **agreed**. b) **Future Expenditure** – A schedule had been circulated to Councillors, and appended to these minutes. The schedule included exceptional payments for the Internal Audit of £175, Grass cutting of the play area (quarterly) for £305.10 and repair to the gate across the footpath at Beer Hackett Church for £40.00, the gate is a listed PC asset. The SSE contract for street lighting was discussed as it is due for renewal on 30th September, there were quotes for 1, 2 and 3 years, there was very little difference other than an estimated cost of living increase, as the street lights are to be upgraded it was agreed to sign for one year and possibly there could be advantageous changes for next year. Acceptance of the schedule of payments and the SSE contract for 1 year was proposed by Cllr Hillier, seconded by Cllr Baxter -**carried unanimously**. c) **Grant application (Section137)** for funding support for the purchase of a new replacement lawnmower for St. Michael's church – more than half the cost had already been raised via boot sales. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Hillier, seconded by Cllr Baxter to grant £200 towards the cost of the mower. **Agreed with 1 abstention**. d) **Internal Audit i) Report** – a comprehensive report was received covering not just financial matters but also other aspects of Council work. There were also several recommendations. The overall audit was graded as 'Reasonable'. The Internal Audit form for AGAR was also submitted. The recommendations were i) add actual precept figure to minutes in January – Done ii) Add payment schedule to minutes – done iii) Upload asset register to web site – being revised iv) Councillors to carry out GDPR training as soon as possible – being undertaken v) Upload draft minutes to web site for each meeting – done. – The results of the Internal Audit were explained, noted and **accepted**. e) **Reserves Policy** – One note in the audit included the need for a reserves policy, this had been developed and was presented to Council. The Appendix would be updated annually at Budget setting in

January. The Draft policy and Appendix was discussed and agreed, acceptance was proposed by Cllr Hillier, seconded Cllr Keene – **agreed unanimously.**

- 8. Beer Hackett Speed Limit** – The survey for the positioning of signage had been conducted, Council has been asked if it is willing in principle to make a donation towards the scheme once installed and final costs are known. It was proposed by Cllr Hillier, seconded by Cllr Keene that council would be prepared in principle and without prejudice to make a donation , **agreed unanimously.**

- 9.Environment Champions Report** – A report had been circulated to Councillors It was agreed to open dialogue with the Village Hall regarding ‘cool’ spaces – the village hall representative to pursue. The EWG is discussing input to the flood resilience programme. The Council has contacted Wessex Water regarding the possibility of providing water butts at a reduced cost as part of the Watermark town idea. Policies are uploaded to the web site once fully agreed - The biodiversity policy is awaiting an action plan. Sustainable Thornford ‘Solar Panels for Rooftops’ meeting 30th July 7.30pm School Hall. Dorset COP Kingston Maurward 14th November.

- 10.DAPTC Report – AGM** there were three motions i) About the loss of public and private rented housing due to the proposed new energy and condition standards – passed ii) Regarding the unsustainable financial burden placed on council taxpayers for the maintenance of closed churchyards ad requests a change in legislation to address the issue, noting equality implications for council tax payers of all faiths or none – agreed iii) That DAPTC adopts the ‘Statement of Reasonable Expectations’ as a guiding framework between Dorset Council and Parish and Town Councils – agreed

- 11. Motion to Council** – Circulated to councillors, published on the Agenda and web site – to establish and Audit and Risk working Group to meet on an *ad hoc* basis at Budget setting and Audit or as necessary to consist of 3 councillors – Chairman, Cllr for Audit and one other – **agreed unanimously.**

- 12.Reports from Working Groups - EWG** nothing to report a new date has to be set. **Play Area** – now have quotations trying to establish a meeting. Following the play area ‘clean up’ it was suggested that the Parish Council purchase Professional grade battery operated pressure washer and strimmer. The Clerk had priced professional level equipment at approximately £400 it was suggested that this should be the maximum but try to buy as package for less. Proposed Cllr Hillier, seconded Cllr Thompson – **2 for, 3 abstentions none against – carried**

- 13.Reports from Councillors with responsibilities** – Cllr Thompson was submitting content for Contact to also investigate Wriggle Valley Magazine. Cllr Baxter reported on Village Hall activities – Hub breakfast, Barn Dance and 70’s Night to raise funds for hall.

- 14.Planning Applications** – Cllr Keene left the room - there was one new application in Beer Hackett for a Variation Order to an accepted application to adda window to the west elevation of Church Farm kitchen extension. The building is Grade II listed, the new window would be similar to the other proposed windows and it is on a side elevation and does not face the road. – Councillors discussed the application and decided unanimously in favour of the variation

- 15. Communications** – Police report for June noted rogue traders operating in Thornford.
Date of next meeting Wednesday 16th September 2026 7.00pm in Thornford Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm