

THORNLEY WITH WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL 9 FEBRUARY 2026

CLERK'S REPORT

1. Communications

An email from Lancashire County Council attaching details of the Local Government Review preferred options was forwarded to Councillors.

Further to the news about the closure of beds at Longridge Hospital, Malcolm and I had a discussion and felt that we, as a Parish Council, should contact our Borough Councillors to express our concern. We, therefore, sent an email on 24 November 2025 expressing our support for the re-opening of beds at the hospital as soon as practicably possible. A copy of the full email was forwarded to Councillors.

An invitation inviting representatives from Parish Councils to attend a service at Blackburn Cathedral to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the Gulf War's Liberation of Kuwait on 15 February 2026 was forwarded for Councillors to consider attending.

An email has been received from CC Ian Duxbury explaining that he would like to meet Councillors and asking for dates of forthcoming PC meetings. I responded with details of our February meeting and explained that the subsequent meeting would be in May but the date would be confirmed at the February meeting and that this would also be the date for the Annual Parish meeting.

The PC has been copied into an email from Cllr P Smith (Longridge Town Council) to CC Ian Duxbury dated 16 January outlining an area of the grass verge on a section of Chipping Road which he felt could fall away into the stream. CC Duxbury responded to say he would be contacting Highways to investigate. The subsequent email response from CC Duxbury explaining the action to be taken by Highways Authority was forwarded to Councillors on 30 January.

An email from Parish Info was forwarded to Councillors on 14 January which provided them with a link to respond to a survey for rural residents.

2. General

The plaque for the commemorative tree has been received and the Chairman has fixed it in place.

Early December I joined a Webinar arranged by NALC regarding the requirements of Assertion 10 as outlined in the Practitioners Guide 2025. It was very informative in explaining what was expected of Parish Councils in order to comply with the AGAR 2025/2026.