

Thornley with Wheatley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 24 February 2025 commencing at 7.00 pm at Little Town Tea Room, Thornley with Wheatley

Present: Cllr M Hayhurst (Chairman)

Cllr C Ansbro (Clerk)

Cllr P Hallett (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr G Airey (Responsible Financial Officer)

Cllr H Roper

25.02.01 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

25.02.02 Declarations of Interest

Mrs Airey had declared an interest in the planning application No 3/2024/0877 at Agenda item 14 b) and had therefore not been invited to submit any comments. Mr Roper declared an interest in Agenda item 6 g) Review of land rental charge and would withdraw from the meeting when this item was being discussed.

25.02.03 Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2024

The Minutes of the PC meeting held on 25 November 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

25.02.04 Issues raised by Members of the Public at the meeting

No issues were brought to the meeting by Members of the Public.

25.02.05 Clerk's Report

The information provided in the Clerk's Report was noted.

An email from a member of the public had been received after Agenda send out. It expressed appreciation for the Dog Waste Bin the PC had provided on Jeffrey Hill and explained that he had noticed that it was full. The bin had actually been emptied the same day the email was received. Councillors were informed that some members of the public were using the bin for other than dog waste which caused a problem with the bin filling up more quickly on occasions.

25.02.06 Accounts

- a) **Transaction Statements (Business Current and Business Reserve) and Excel Spreadsheets showing details**

The Transaction Statements and Spreadsheets were reviewed and agreed as correct. The Chairman signed the appropriate Bank Transaction Statements and Mr Hallett signed the supporting Spreadsheets.

As the next meeting of the PC is scheduled to be held in May 2025 Councillors have an agreement to allow delegated powers to the RFO/Clerk to approve any urgent payments and to the Chairman to deal with any urgent items of business, all of which would be reported at the next meeting.

b) Peppercorn rent for School

Councillors noted that the Peppercorn Rent for the School had been gifted back to Thornley Community Space as in previous years.

c) Invoices for signature

The Chairman checked and signed off the invoice that had been paid prior to the meeting relating to the agreed purchase of a Christmas Tree from So Plants which had been sited at the entrance to Thornley School.

d) Budget Comparison Statement 2024/2025 and draft Budget for 2025/2026

Mrs Airey outlined the expenditure in the Budget Comparison Statement 2024/2025 which was accepted by Councillors.

It was agreed that the £500 allocated to Thornley Community Space for the School project could now be paid.

Mrs Airey introduced the proposed Draft Budget for 2025/2026 and explained various budget headings. Following discussion Councillors approved the proposed Budget for the new financial year 2025/2026 which would be adopted.

RESOLVED – the £500 allocated to Thornley Community Space for the School project to be paid and the proposed Budget for the new financial year 2025/2026 to be adopted

Action - Clerk/RFO

e) Update regarding Clerk's access to PC's online account

The Clerk reported that she now had access to the PC's online account.

f) Request for contribution to Little Green Bus service

Councillors considered the request from the Little Green Bus service for financial support, currently one resident in the Parish uses the service. It was agreed to offer £50 as a donation to the service.

RESOLVED to offer £50 as a donation to the Little Green Bus service.

Action - RFO /Clerk

g) Review of land rental charge

Mr Roper withdrew from the meeting at this point. Following discussion it was agreed to increase the land rental charge by 5% from 2026 and review the charge again in a further 3 years.

RESOLVED - to increase the land rental charge by 5% from 2026 and review the charge again in a further 3 years. Clerk to formally notify Mr Roper of this decision

Action - Clerk/RFO

Mr Roper rejoined the meeting at this point.

h) Review of Asset Register

Councillors noted that the Asset Register had been updated to take account of purchases in the current financial year.

i) Brabin's Accounts

Councillors noted with interest the Brabin's Accounts for year ended March 2024.

25.02.07 Update on the PC's expression of interest in the Bowland Diamond Tree Programme

Councillors were brought up-to-date with progress on the expression of interest which had been successful. The Grant Offer Agreement was considered and signed by the Chairman for return to Forest of Bowland National Landscape.

RESOLVED The Grant Offer Agreement was signed by the Chairman for return to Forest of Bowland National Landscape. The Chairman also offered to contact someone he knew with regard to the availability of a tree guard. Once the grant funding is received a Rowan tree, tree guard, tree support etc. would be purchased. Meanwhile a cable detector would be used to detect if there is any possibility of underground services in the area

Action - Chairman/Mr Roper/Clerk

25.02.08 Maintenance of Commemorative Bench situated on Jeffrey Hill

Following discussion it was agreed to refurbish the Commemorative Bench. The Chairman agreed to check out suppliers for the replacement seating and the Clerk would make enquiries regarding a replacement for the commemorative plaque.

RESOLVED To refurbish the Commemorative Bench

Action - Chairman/Clerk

25.02.09 Comments raised at Community gathering at Thornley Old School for consideration

Councillors discussed their attendance at the gathering at Thornley Old School and the discussions they had with members of the community on various topics. A member

of the public had mentioned that via a WhatsApp Group which had been set up in her community, residents had been able to provide support to each other when there had been a problem with a power outage. Councillors recalled that two members of our parish had attended a Thornley Parish Council meeting to explain their interest in setting up a WhatsApp Group which could provide a Neighbourhood Watch service. Mr Roper agreed to contact them to check how this was progressing and report back to the PC.

RESOLVED to check on progress with the development of a WhatsApp Group for Thornley residents and report back to the PC

Action - Mr Roper

25.02.10 Parish and Town Council Charter

Councillors had received a copy of this document within the Agenda pack. The Clerk drew Councillors attention to a number of undertakings relating to Parish Councils.

25.02.11 Agenda for LALC Ribble Valley Area Committee meeting held on 29 January 2025 and Draft Minutes of LALC Ribble Valley Area Committee meeting held on 22 November 2024

The Agenda and Draft Minutes were noted.

25.02.12 Parish Councils' Liaison Committee – Agenda of meeting held on 30 January 2025 and Minutes of meeting held on 7 November 24

The Agenda and Minutes were noted.

25.02.13 Definitive Map Modification Order – Footpath along Old Clay Lane

Councillors noted the letter from Lancashire County Council.

25.02.14 Planning Applications and any updates

- a) Notification of Planning Appeal – Knott Farm, Chipping Road No App/T2350/W/24/3355513
- b) Proposed access track and new covered storage facility – Thornley Hall Farm, Up Bedlam No 3/2024/0877
- c) Permission In Principle for the erection of one dwelling – The Stables, Chaigley Road No 3/2024/0976
- d) Proposed removal of boundary wall and toilet block and construction of single-storey extension to rear – 2 Cockleach Cottages, Chipping Road No 3/2024/0903

In order to meet consultation timescales the above applications had been considered by Councillors via email. Applications have been put on the Agenda to confirm Councillors' responses. No issues were raised in respect of these applications and RVBC Planning Department had been notified accordingly.

- e) Proposed part single part two storey extension to rear at 2 Hill Top Cottages, Forty Acre Lane No 3/2024/0955. This application was discussed at the meeting and no issues were raised.
- f) Proposed construction of single-storey extension to side and rear and replacement sewage treatment package at 1 Cockleach Cottages No 3/2025/0069. It was noted that a previous application was refused due to size, scale, design and the use of materials and this application has considerably reduced the size of the extension. This application was discussed at the meeting and no issues were raised.

Action - Clerk to notify RVBC Planning Department accordingly

Details regarding two prior notifications No 3/2025/0119 and No 3/2025/0099 were noted for information only at this point.

25.02.15 Date and Time of next meeting

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on Monday 12 May 2025. The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on the same date commencing at 7pm in Thornley Old School. The Parish Council business meeting would follow this meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed _____ Date _____