

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 21 May 2026 commencing at 7 pm in Thornley School

Present:

Mr M Hayhurst (Parish Council Chairman)

Mrs C Ansbro (Parish Council Clerk)

Mrs G Airey (Parish Council Responsible Financial Officer)

Mr P Hallett (Parish Council Vice-Chairman)

Mr H Roper (Parish Councillor)

County Councillor Ian Duxbury (Longridge with Bowland)

Members of the Public (MOPs) 5

Parish 2026 1 Apologies for Absence from Parish Councillors

There were no apologies.

Parish 2026 2 Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting – 12 May 2025

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Parish Council Chairman.

Parish 2026 3 Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting. He continued by reading out his Annual Report to the Parish Meeting. He referred to the two main issues raised at the last Parish Meeting which related to the speed of traffic on Chipping Road and the land owned by the Parish Council. He explained that these issues had been discussed at the following Parish Council meeting and he outlined the action the PC had taken to address them.

The Chairman also referred to the new windows Thornley Community Space (TCS) had arranged to be installed in the School which the Parish Council had been able to contribute £3000 towards. He further said that the Parish Council had been delighted to hear that TCS had been successful in obtaining funding for a new heating system in the School and the Parish Council was looking forward to discussing the options with them.

The Chairman then invited Helen, representing TCS, to provide an update regarding the School project and organised activities.

Parish 2026 4 Update from Thornley Community Space

Helen explained that funding activities were ongoing. Dominoes evenings and the book club continued to take place, pottery classes had been held, local history talks, conservation and nature group meetings and rambling walks. A few private bookings had been made and rental had been received from hiring out the car park for groups. Monies had been received from various events and from the Parish Council. Free community broadband had been agreed and it was hoped this would be installed in August. As a result of a successful bid against the Shared Prosperity Jubilee Grant funding would be available to install a sustainable, energy efficient heating system in the School. A lot of exploratory work had been undertaken to try to determine which system would be the most appropriate and this was progressing with a potential provider for supplying the new heating system.

TCS, a representative from the potential provider and the Parish Council would get together shortly to discuss this in more detail.

Helen was thanked for her update to the Parish Meeting.

Parish 2026 5 Items brought to the meeting by Residents/Electors of the Parish and General Discussion

A Member of the Public (MOP) raised concerns regarding climate change and whether a climate emergency ought to be declared and referred to evidence that biodiversity was at an all time low. Discussion followed and it was noted that Ribble Valley Borough Council had made a Climate Emergency Declaration and had developed a Climate Change Strategy and an Action Plan (details of which are on its Website). A Thornley Loves Conservation Group had been established and a number of residents attending the meeting were members. It was suggested that a representative from the Group may like to provide an update on what it was involved in at the next Parish Meeting.

General discussion took place and it was noted that Farmers are encouraged and tried to adopt sustainable farming practices to help balance how they run their businesses with the needs of the environment. Residents were also made aware that local Farmers worked with and were supported by the Ribble Rivers Trust.

Details of a People's Emergency Briefing film screening event to be held in Longridge on 3 June were made available.

County Councillor Duxbury for Longridge with Bowland was invited to address the meeting. He reported that the budget for road maintenance had been increased and LCC had brought three vehicles into use which could identify potholes and provide a one-stop process to fix them. He explained that work was ongoing around SEND assessments, the problems regarding Builders not completing roadways and pathways on new housing estates was being tackled and marked parking bays together with disabled parking bays had been introduced at Longridge Library to assist with a parking problem in that area.

CC Duxbury was asked if there were any plans to create a one-way traffic system on Berry Lane which it was felt would make the Lane much safer particularly with regard to trying to cross it at busy times. He indicated that work was ongoing with regard to this issue.

To conclude CC Duxbury said Residents were welcome to refer any issues directly to him. Contact details Email ian.duxbury@lancashire.gov.uk or call [07856 930911](tel:07856930911).

No further issues were raised and the meeting closed at 8 pm.

Signature