Thornley with Wheatley Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9 November 2026 commencing at 7.00 pm at Thornley Old School, Thornley with Wheatley

Present: Cllr M Hayhurst (Chairman)

Cllr P Hallett (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr C Ansbro (Clerk)

Cllr G Airey (Responsible Financial Officer)

Cllr H Roper

26.11.01 Apologies for Absence

There were no Apologies for absence.

26.11.02 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hallett declared an interest in the planning application at Agenda item 14 b) and had not been included in the consideration of this application. Cllr Hayhurst declared an interest in the planning application at Agenda item 14 1) and would be excluded from the discussion on this application.

26.11.03 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 August 2026

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

26.11.04 Meeting suspended in order to allow any issues brought to the meeting by Members of the Public

There were no issues.

26.11.05 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted which included an update on actions from the previous meeting.

26.11.06 Accounts

a) Transaction statements (Business Current and Business Reserve) and Excel Spreadsheets showing expenditure details
The Statements and Spreadsheets were reviewed and approved as correct and duly signed by Cllr Hallett.

b) Invoices for signature – The Chairman checked and signed the invoices from Thornley Community Space for hire of the School for PC meeting this evening (£25.00 each), from Josh the Logger for £650.00 (tree work at School), 2 x Easy Websites for £19.80 (email management), Morecambe Town Council £45.00 (purchase of Remembrance poppies), Information Commissioner's Office £47.00 (data protection fee) and Chipping Parish Council £130.00 (contribution to War Memorial upkeep). As

the Chairman had purchased refuse sacks for use in the Dog Waste Bins on behalf of the PC at a cost of £31.96 Cllr Hallett signed the proof of purchase document.

c) Clerk's Expenses

RESOLVED to pay the Clerk £200 as a contribution towards expenses incurred in undertaking the role of Parish Clerk.

Action - RFO

d) Christmas Tree for School

RESOLVED to purchase a Christmas Tree for outdoors at Thornley School.

Action - Parish Clerk

e) Arrangements for Internal Audit 2027

Councillors were aware that there would be a new Guide to Proper Practices due out in January 2027, including the introduction of the Code of Practice for Internal Audit. This could result in the PC having to change its process for arranging an Internal Auditor.

RESOLVED to explore options for employing an Internal Auditor and report back at the next meeting.

Action - RFO

f) Review of Budget for 2026/2027

It was noted that the cost of tree work at the School had been charged to the General repairs and maintenance budget allocation. A request from Little Green Bus had recently been received and it was agreed to donate £50 in support of this service which would be charged to the Donations miscellaneous budget allocation.

RESOLVED to donate £50 to support the Little Green Bus service.

Action - RFO

g) Draft Budget for 2027/2028

The draft Budget for 2027/2028 presented by the RFO was considered. She explained that some allocations had been increased slightly from the 2026/2027 budget to take account of price increases. The proposed Budget would be reviewed again in February.

RESOLVED to review the proposed Budget again in February 2027 to take account of any additional expenditure requirements.

h) Precept for 2027/2028

RESOLVED to request a precept of £2,000 for the 2027/2028 financial year. The request form was duly signed for return to RVBC.

Action - Parish Clerk

As the next scheduled meeting of the PC would be in February arrangements are in place to allow any urgent items of business requiring expenditure to be agreed by the Chairman/RFO/Parish Clerk. These would be reported at the next meeting.

26.11.07 Replacement of damaged noticeboard

Councillors had been made aware of the damage to the smaller noticeboard near the Derby Arms which was irreparable. The Clerk explained that the main PC Noticeboard was used to display PC work related documents and she had used the second Noticeboard for public notices. The Clerk had provided some cost options for a replacement noticeboard for consideration.

RESOLVED to replace the damaged noticeboard with a slightly larger one which would accommodate more notices.

Action - Parish Clerk to source a supplier and agree the purchase with the Chairman/RFO

26.11.08 Repair of bench at Arbour Corner

Councillors viewed a photo of the damaged bench situated at Arbour Corner and agreed to arrange a repair which the Chairman offered to undertake. It was also agreed to situate planter in the area which would make it a more attractive space for residents and visitors.

RESOLVED to repair the damaged bench.

Action - Chairman

RESOLVED to obtain and situate a planter in the area.

Action - Parish Clerk

26.11.09 Review of Code of Conduct Policy

Councillors had been forwarded the slides provided at the Parish Code of Conduct training run by the Democratic Services and Complaints Officer, which the Chairman had attended. Councillors had had the opportunity to review the Model Code of Conduct policy along with the training slides which provided an update on requirements.

RESOLVED to continue to adopt the Model Code of Conduct Policy

26.11.10 Update regarding the campaign to Save Longridge Hospital

Prior to the meeting Councillors had been asked to consider the wording of a Longridge Community Hospital Campaign Council Pledge document. Councillors were in agreement with the wording and the Chairman had indicated his agreement to signing it on behalf of the PC. The pledge had been signed and forwarded to the Chairman of Whittingham Parish Council who was co-ordinating Pledges from local PCs which would ultimately be forwarded to the Integrated Care Board. A separate Council Pledge document was signed by the Chairman and will be appended to the Minutes of this meeting.

26.11.11 Access for All and Community Nature Fund – funding opportunity update

Cllr Airey reported that she had left her details with a request for her to be contacted by the Countryside Access Officer. To-date no contact had been made. It was noted that concerns had been raised at the Parish Councils' Liaison Committee meeting regarding the maintenance of footpaths, particularly where overgrown vegetation was affecting accessibility and highway safety. One Councillor at that meeting said she had found the LCC Parish Councils Team to be responsive and helpful in this regard.

RESOLVED to send an email to parishcouncils@lancashire.gov.uk regarding the footpath which Councillors had identified as being in need of maintenance.

Action - Parish Clerk

26.11.12 Response to LALC on their consultation on the proposal to move to a Company Ltd Guarantee

RESOLVED The Council had considered this proposal and had supported LALC in developing it further. LALC had been notified accordingly.

26.11.13 Parish Councils' Liaison Committee – Minutes of meeting held on 18 June 2026 and 17 September 2026

The Minutes were noted with particular interest in September's meeting Minute Nos 363/364 regarding maintenance of footpaths.

26.11.14 Planning Applications, any new Applications received after Agenda send out and any updates

a) Listed Building Consent for proposed installation of EV charger – Whitefold House Barn No 3/2026/0294

b) Proposed agricultural livestock building to include extension to the existing access track, site levelling and the construction of a retaining wall – land at New House Farm No 3/2026/0716

c) Proposed single-storey extension to the front including front entrance canopy and glass lean-to canopy to the rear -Ginfield, Chipping Road No 3/2026/0723

d) Installation of an air source pump and solar panels – Thornley School No 3/2026/0668
e) Proposed change of use from former agricultural building to single self build dwelling house – Knott Farm No 3/2026/0479

In order to meet the consultation timescales the above applications had been considered by Councillors via email. Cllr Hallett had declared an interest in application b) and had not been involved in its consideration. The Applications have been put on the Agenda to confirm Councillors' responses. No issues were raised by Councillors and Ribble Valley Borough Council had been notified accordingly

26.11.14

1) Proposed conversion of existing stone building to provide holiday accommodation with improved access, car parking within existing curtilage together with additional planting of hedgerows – Lea Barn No 3/2026/0754

The Chairman withdrew from the meeting at this point and Cllr Hallett took over chairing the meeting.

Councillors discussed this application. It was considered that appropriate renovation an unused barn to prevent it from falling into disrepair was a practical approach . No issues were raised with the application.

RESOLVED to notify RVBC Planning Department that no issues had been raised by Councillors.

Action - Parish Clerk

Cllr Hayhurst returned to the meeting and resumed the role of Chairman

There were no planning application updates for discussion.

26.11.15 Date and Time of Next Meeting – 15 February 2027 commencing at 7pm at Little Town Tearoom

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

_____Signed by Chairman