Thornley with Wheatley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6 August 2026 commencing at 7.00 pm at Thornley Old School, Thornley with Wheatley

Present: Cllr M Hayhurst (Chairman)

Cllr C Ansbro (Clerk)

Cllr G Airey (Responsible Financial Officer)

Cllr P Hallett (Vice-Chairman)

26.8.01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Roper.

26.8.02 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hayhurst declared an interest in Agenda item 16 a) and had not been included in the consideration of this item.

26.8.03 Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 21 May 2026

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no issues.

26.8.05 Clerk's Report

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

26.8.06 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 meetings in May and August (£25.00 each).

c) Update on AGAR requirements including Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights

The Clerk reported that the Certificate of Exemption had been submitted to the External Auditors and an email receipt had been received. All the required documents

had been posted on the PC's Website. The Notice of the period for the exercise of Public Rights in respect of the AGAR for period ending 31 March 2026 had been posted on the PC's website and Noticeboard and covered the period 3 June to 14 July 2026. No requests for the review of documents had been received.

d) Consideration of quotations for Tree Work at Thornley School

Councillors had received copies of 3 quotations for remedial tree work at the School. Each quotation was discussed in detail.

RESOLVED quotation 3 (£650) was approved and arrangements would be made for the work to be undertaken.

Action - Parish Clerk to contact the contractor to arrange the work

26.08.07 Climate and Biodiversity Challenges and the People's Emergency Briefing Film

An email received from a Resident of the Parish, together with details about the People's Emergency Briefing Film were discussed. The Clerk reported that a number of screenings of the Film had taken place, including in Longridge, hosted by the Longridge Environment Group and in Clitheroe, hosted by the Ribble Valley Climate Action Network. These had been advertised on the PC's Website and Noticeboard for awareness. Two further screenings were due to take place at Blackburn Library in August and details were available on the PC's Website.

Councillors were also made aware that local Farmers take up incentives offered by the Rural Payments Agency with regard to tree/hedge planting. They also work with the Ribble Rivers Trust dedicated Farmers' Advice Team which provides advice on how to make changes to work in more environmentally friendly ways.

RESOLVED the PC would continue to support the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan developed by the Ribble Valley Borough Council and would consider any suggestions put forward by the National Association of Local Councils on how PCs' could address climate change locally

Action - Parish Clerk to respond to the Resident

26.08.08 Review of PC's Financial Regulations

Councillors had had the opportunity to review the adopted Model Financial Regulations which had been produced by the National Association of Local Councils and had previously been modified to be more appropriate for our PC. A minor addition regarding reimbursement of Councillors for expenditure up to £100 was noted and approved.

RESOLVED a proposal to include the ability to reimburse a Councillor for a purchase up to £100 was approved

26.08.09 Outcome of Presentation from potential suppliers of heating system for School and request from TCS regarding a contribution towards the cost of the extended service/maintenance warranty

A presentation from the potential suppliers had allowed the PC to ask questions about the work being proposed, the effectiveness of the Solar PV, Battery and Air-to-Air heating system and the maintenance/warranty requirements. TCS had contacted SP Electricity NorthWest who had accepted the DNO application for both solar and heating systems. A planning application would now be submitted for which the PC had provided a letter of support.

Unfortunately, the Jubilee Grant will only fund capital expenditure and therefore there will be no contribution towards the cost of maintenance agreements. TCS had asked if the PC would be able to contribute to the Air-to-Air system maintenance cost.

RESOLVED the PC agreed to offer TCS £650 this year towards the renovation of the School project, some of which could be used towards the maintenance cost if they wished.

Action - Parish Clerk to notify TCS

26.08.10 Code of Conduct Training

The Chairman briefed Councillors on this training which he had attended.

26.05.11 Concurrent Function Grants

Councillors discussed the correspondence from RVBC which outlined the possibility of grant assistance of 25% of eligible revenue expenditure for certain functions.

26.08.12 Access for All and Community Nature Fund

Councillors further considered the correspondence from the Forest of Bowland National Landscape which explained that it was able to fund and deliver projects on behalf of communities which improve accessibility. Although the closing date for submissions had passed a list of possible future projects was being developed.

RESOLVED to contact the Countryside Access Officer to discuss the possibility of a future project to upgrade a length of footpath in Thornley.

Action - RFO

26.08.13 Nominations for the Pride of Lancashire Awards

Details of this initiative had been forwarded to Councillors. The PC did not have any nominations for this award.

26.08.14 Help Save Longridge Hospital Campaign

Email correspondence from the Chairman of Whittingham Parish Council had previously been circulated to Councillors. All Councillors had agreed that the PC should support the Help to Save Longridge Hospital campaign. Currently Chipping, Dutton, Whittingham, Goosnargh and Longridge TC had confirmed their support.

26.08.15 Parish Councils' Liaison Committee – Minutes of meeting held on 18 June 2026

The Minutes were noted. Attention was drawn to the update on the Local Government Reorganisation which stated "that the arrangements for the shadow unitary councils

were still to be confirmed. The current expectation was that elections would be based on county divisions, subject to some amendments, with two to three members per division. This would equate to approximately 10 to 14 members for the RVBC area. Parish councils were already aligned to Ribble Valley and, if the same arrangements were applied, there would be no change locally. It is anticipated that Parish Councillors would serve a five-year term from 2027 to 2031 initially and thereafter revert to four-year terms".

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

a) Retrospective application for the erection of a concrete walled structure for an agricultural silo clamp at Wheatley Farm No 3/2026/0500

In order to meet the consultation timescale the above application has been considered by Councillors via email. Cllr Hayhurst had declared an interest in this application and had not been involved in its consideration. The Application has been put on the Agenda to confirm Councillors' responses. No issues were raised by Councillors and Ribble Valley Borough Council had been notified accordingly

b) Retrospective planning permission for proposed re-surfacing of existing hardstanding within farmyards Forty Acre Farm No 3/2026/0518

No issues were raised in respect of this application. RVBC would be notified accordingly

Action - Parish Clerk

Updates

1) Proposed construction of phase 1&2 of a poultry house to accommodate 16000 free range chickens for egg production No 302026/0112 and No 3/2026/0113, Wheatley Farm, Four Acre Lane. It was noted that this application had been refused.

2) Notification of appeal against refusal of planning application 3/2026/0217 Thornley Hall, Up Bedlam Road re appearance, landscaping, layout and scale
This was noted for information.

26.08.17 Date and Time of Next Meeting – 7 pm on 9 November 2026 in Thornley School

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm

Signed by Chairman at the PC meeting held on 9 November 2026