THORNHACKETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th February 2026 at 7.00pm in Thornford Village Hall

Attendees: Cllrs. Hillier (Chairman), Hoff, Robins, Bromell, Thompson,

Also in Attendance: Mrs S Hillier (Clerk), and 3 members of the Public.

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting. The Chairman announced the death of Cyril Taylor who had been ill with cancer for some time. He will be remembered by he Council for his work in keeping the Town clock wound. Councillors and members of the public stood for a minutes silence in his memory.
2. **Apologies for Absence** - these were received from, Cllr Baxter and Cllr Keene, Cllr Small, Cllr Axten and were approved and accepted.
3. **Declarations Of Interest:** . None were declared.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2026 –** these had been circulated. The Clerk noted that Cllr Bromell had tendered her apologies but they had been omitted. With this amendment their acceptance was proposed by Cllr Hillier, seconded Cllr Hoff- **agreed unanimously**

5. Matters Arising – a) **Blackberry Solar Farm** – An update from CPRE was noted which stated that "Clean Power 2030" a Government document was currently being reviewed and RWE were awaiting further updates which were expected later in the year. Separately it has emerged that the access to the grid may not be available in the short to medium term for RWE.

b) Wessex Internet – A letter had been received regarding fibre broadband for Beer Hackett, a representative would be attending the next Council meeting to talk about the offer prior to a meeting in Beer Hackett.

c) Grant application – The application for a grant from Dorset Council to help with the Play Area refurbishment had been refused.

d) **Beer Hackett Speed Survey –** Dorset Council were being contacted regarding the 30mph speed limit and the safety officers were being contacted re signage 'Pedestrians in Road'.

6. Public Forum – No matters were raised.

7. Finances – a) Income and Expenditure this had been circulated prior to the meeting. There had been a HMRC VAT refund of £1047.19 and a sum from the Village Hall of £1288.15, this would be put towards the play area.

b) Expenditure - Special expenditure included £982.60 grass cutting due , invoices from Southern Playground Services for repairs to the swings and a an invoice for tree works to the lime tree at the clock once TPO permission was received. These were all agreed. Proposed Cllr Hillier, seconded Cllr Hoff.

c) Dorset Council SLA for grass cutting – It was agreed to accept the 3 year SLA but to investigate alternatives for the future. Proposed Cllr Hillier seconded Cllr Hoff – **agreed unanimously**

d) Thornford Clock – Smiths of Derby had provided and estimate of the cost to replace the winding mechanism with an electrical system – It was agreed to ask them to come and survey the system Proposed Cllr Hillier, seconded Cllr Robins – **agreed unanimously**

e) Playground inspections contract – to date two had been received**.**

8. Environment Champion Report – Time was spent discussing the report and it was agreed to maintain pressure on the water company regarding discharges. The Parish Council has few assets of its own, leasing the land for the allotments and recreation areas. Although no specific line in the Budget for environmental

matters, it was considered when awarding contracts etc regarding using local companies where possible, using recycled materials, not using herbicides or pesticides so as to reduce the Council's Carbon footprint. Where appropriate the Council provides information to aid residents with recycling etc.

9. Environment Working Group – There were four requests i) that a Councillor be appointed to collate information regarding footpaths and work with Cllr Baxter regarding stiles. ii) The Green Action Plan be reviewed and updated for the work stream to concentrate on Wildlife and Vegetation – Cllr Hillier and Cllr Robins to work on this. Iii) Contact local farmers and the Allotment Association regarding their use of glyphosates. It was decided that the NFU be contacted for advice on this matter. Iv) A section in the village plan questionnaire to include 'Wildlife and Vegetation' – this was agreed

10. Play Area Working Group – One company had visited and were drawing up plans, two more were due to visit. They would be given similar guidelines as to what we would like to see.

11. Councillor Reports – Cllr Baxter had been in contact with Castle Estates regarding 'access gates' on footpaths, he had obtained some designs that ranged in price from £370 for pedestrian to £ 720 for mobility access. Damaged stiles would need reporting to them There is a new named contact for footpaths.

12. Planning Applications – Only one had been received for Church Farm in Beer Hackett. Pre- application advice had been taken, issues addressed. The extension was to the rear of the property and would not affect appearance from the road. The main issue visually would be the solar panels on the rear buildings. It was agreed to make comments re bee bricks and wild life. Agreed in principle.

13. Communications – Mobile Police Station 5th March, Railway works 28th February to 8th March – no trains, Thornford Table tennis group had been added to the web site, the Data Protection Certificate would be placed on the web-site.

Date of next meeting **Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 7.00pm in Thornford Village Hall.**

The meeting closed at 9.01 pm