

THORNHACKETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th June 2025

Attendees: Cllrs. Hillier (Chairman), Keene, Robins, Whitsun -Jones.

Also in Attendance: Mrs S Hillier (Clerk), and 4 members of the Public.

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence** - Cllr R Baxter. Cllr. B Taylor-Wade, Cllr. M Hoff and Cllr, J Axten were accepted and agreed.
3. **Declarations Of Interest:** None were declared. No Councillor present needed to update their entry on the register.
4. **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 19th March 2025** These had been circulated to Councillors. Their acceptance as a true record was proposed by Cllr. Hillier Seconded by Cllr. Rob ins- **Agreed**
5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:** a) Blackberry Solar farm. There had been no progress since the last meeting. b) Councillor Responsibilities held over from the Annual meeting in May.

Play area and recreation field – Cllr Axten	Audit & Risk – Cllr Hoff
Footpaths – Cllr Taylor-Wade	Trees – Cllr Keene
Planning Policy – Cllr Whitsun-Jones	Highways – Cllr Robins
Publicity – Cllr Whitsun-Jones (temporarily)	Village Hall – Cllr Baxter

6. Public Forum – A member of the public raised the question of public benches in Thornford,

whose responsibility were they? It was agreed to compile a list of publicly accessible benches, assess their condition with an aim of checking ownership and adding them to the Council Asset register and then undertaking any necessary maintenance and/or replacement. The street light on The Drove by the school was also mentioned and it was explained that quotations for essential maintenance was being sought. The white lines outside the school were described as being very worn as to be almost illegible, This is the responsibility of Dorset Council and they will be contacted.

7. **Financial Matters** a) New Bank Account – The Current Account is now up and running, It is hoped that final transfers will take place by the end of the month. The Savings Account is in the process of being opened. The CIL/S106 monies and the Playground monies will be transferred into this account.

b) Income and Expenditure spreadsheet had been circulated and payments were agreed. Three quotations had been received for scaffolding for the Clock Tower so that the essential maintenance could proceed. The most detailed and complete quotation was from Pen Mill Scaffolding and it was **agreed unanimously** to accept this quotation. Quotation for the maintenance to the street lighting were also being sought, one had been received and two more were in hand.

c) Internal Audit. The papers had been distributed and they had been signed off by the Auditor. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Cllr Hillier, seconded by Cllr Keene – agreed unanimously

d) Annual Governance Report – Councillors completed the form ready for External Audit and the document was signed by the Chairman.

e) AGAR reports (Annual Governance and Audit Reports) for external Audit. These had been circulated. It was agreed that they be signed and made ready for external audit and display on the website. They would be available for inspection from 22nd June 2025 until 1st August.

8. Beer Hackett Traffic Survey: The bare results had been received with no additional explanation or recommendation. Cllr Hillier to contact the Cabinet Member who received the petition and had supported the survey.

9. Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation: Cllr Hillier had prepared paper and Ian Young from the EWG had a summary document. The Consultation document is very long, firstly did we want to respond and if so how? It was **agreed** that we should respond, at least in the areas most relevant to Thornhackett and it was suggested that Councillors take a section each to prepare a response ready for the meeting in July as responses close at the end of July.

10. Environment Working Group Report to Council for Action: Council requests the EWG to progress a Flood Resilience Plan with regards to access and also builds a data base of individuals who may be at risk when access is restricted and carers cannot attend. Council also agreed to advertise to see any residents were interested in becoming flood wardens. Wessex Water are attending the next meeting in May, they could then be asked whether a visit to the Treatment Works was possible and whether there was any grant funding available for producing information leaflets for the Council area. The Clerk was requested to contact Dorset Council regarding additional slow signs at the corner by the Kings Arms and also whether SLOW could be painted on the road a visibility at the bend is poor and vehicles are often in the middle of the road, It was agreed to publicise Councillor names, contact details and responsibilities in 'Contact'. The web site to be updated with the 'Climate Emergency Resolution'.

11. Environment Champion Report: The paper concentrated on the Dorset Nature Recovery Consultation. There has been no progress regarding an EV charging point in the village. There has been no response from Highways concerning flooding and ditches.

12. Councillor Reports: There were no reports.

13. Planning Applications: These had been displayed and circulated. There had been no new application since the last meeting, nor were there any new decisions.

14. Summer Event: it was **agreed** that there would not be an event this year.

15. Communications: Notification that Lake Water Treatment Centre is to receive an upgrade costing £500,000 starting in July until January 2026. There have been no reported crimes this month. There have been suspicious individuals looking at street signage, keep a look out in case signs are illegally removed.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 16th July 2026, Thornford Village Hall, **starting at 6.30pm** with a presentation from Wessex Water.

