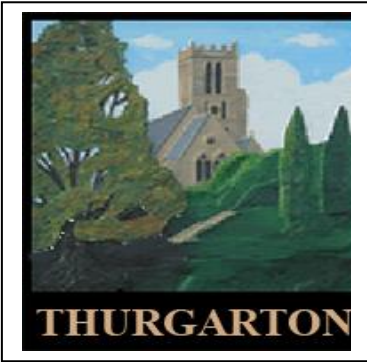


THURGARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Tina Tsoukatos

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MINUTES OF THURGARTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2026 AT THURGARTON
VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs T Tsoukatos (In the Chair), N Robinson, R Skill, J Ross, S Taylor, S Sweet Smith (after co-option)

In Attendance: Lynda Ogilvie , Temp. Clerk, and three members of the public

Welcome

Chair welcomed everyone, and opened the meeting at 7.30 pm.

2026.13 To hear public representation

Members of the public present raised the problem of pot holes and the general poor condition of local roads, which are close to impassable in some places, and there are many reports of damage to vehicles.

Cllr Jackson said that roads should be checked six-monthly but he is not sure that this has been happening. He said that he expects things to improve, as work to repair the roads is taking more priority. The Council heard that the A612 is scheduled to be resurfaced in the next six months, but there is no information about which stretch of the road will be covered. Thurgarton PC agreed to write with their concerns to the County Council portfolio holder.

2026.14 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Chan sent her apologies.

2026.15 To note Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest

2026.16 Casual Vacancy. To co-opt new Parish Councillor (This item was taken after the arrival of Cllr S Sweet Smith at 8.15)

Members approved the co-option of Simon Sweet Smith onto the Council. Cllr Sweet Smith signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and took his seat at the meeting.

Following the resignation of Cllr David Lewis, who had been Vice Chair of the Council, Cllr Tsoukatos proposed that Cllr Ross be elected Vice Chair of the Council. This was seconded by Cllr Robinson, all members were in favour.

2026.17 To approve Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2026

Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Ross, seconded by Cllr Tsoukatos, all members in favour. Cllr Tsoukatos signed the Minutes.

2026.18 To receive update from District and County Councillor

Cllr Jackson said that more money was now available, and he hoped more potholes would be dealt with.

Information received regarding Priory Farm attenuation tank and access drive has been circulated.

He will circulate emails received re Chequers Farm.

2026.19 To consider Planning Applications as follows:

a) Applications

- 1. 26/00095/FUL Proposed change of use from former dog kennels and conversion to one dwelling
Priory Dumble, Priory Road, Thurgarton**
Members approved the application, but with the comment that they would wish to see a new dwelling on the site.
- 2. 26/00046/HOUSE Proposed extension to the existing brick shed in the back garden.
8 The Stable Yard, Priory Road, Thurgarton**
Members supported this application.

b) Update on planning matters including recent and extant applications

There were no further applications to consider.

c) Any other items notified to Thurgarton Parish Council prior to the meeting and requiring submission of comments before the following scheduled Parish Council meeting

Cllr Sweet Smith confirmed that the attenuation tank at Priory Farm is now operational.

2026.20 Finance

1) Payment Sheet January/February

Payment sheet was approved.

2) PC Budget 26/27

Chair had spent some time going through the budget, and its late dispatch did not allow members to fully consider it this evening. She therefore proposed that it should be considered at the March meeting

One change proposed is that the payment sheet, sent out monthly, should have an additional column which indicates which Code should be allocated to the expense. This will be adopted in future.

3) Village Hall assistance

i) Dishwasher

Members agreed to fund the purchase of the required dishwasher, less the grant which has been obtained.

ii) Electrics

Members approved covering the cost of the electric works required

iii) Floor repair

It was noted that this will be covered by insurance, less £250 excess.

4) Grant for rain gauge

Cllr Tsoukatos reported that a grant of £255 had been awarded from the Fire and Rescue Service towards a rain gauge. This is designed to automate the process of forecasting whether the Beck will overtop.

2026.21 PC Objectives 26/27

This had been circulated, and will be considered at the March meeting.

2026.22 Update on Community Green Space and Play Area Project

Cllr Ross said that there had been little progress since the last meeting. There is a legal issue about ownership of the land, and this is being discussed with relevant parties. The issue is progressing slowly.

2026.23 Strategy Roles

a) Emergency Measures

Cllr Robinson confirmed that she had updated the budget for emergency items. Flood warden training is still to be undertaken, but there is the option of online training if face-to-face sessions cannot be arranged.

It was agreed that the emergency plan should be reviewed once the planned flooding solutions are completed, hopefully later this year.

It was noted that WhatsApp groups are not covered by GDPR.

Cllr Tsoukatos reported that agreements in principle have been reached with Network Rail and Severn Trent, the two main utility companies relevant to this project. Soil samples have been taken for analysis. Discussions have taken place with NSDC regarding the need to planning permission - a response is expected within the next three weeks. Other matters, including the purchase of land for storage area, are ongoing

b) Highways

There was no report.

c) Communications

- Cllr Tsoukatos said that the Union Flag will be purchased shortly once we have confirmation of additional items which will be needed.
- It was agreed that the Ukrainian flag should not be replaced at this time.
- Cllr Tsoukatos noted that National Grid is upgrading approximately 100km of existing high-voltage electricity to improve capacity and to carry secure, cleaner, home-grown energy from more affordable sources.
- Communication re Priory Farm attenuation tank and driveway remains ongoing.
- Cllr Tsoukatos has been in contact with Forterra regarding the playground and community space fund raising, and a request has been made for support with various building materials.
- She reminded Councillors that all significant purchases should be made via the Clerk where possible, but when purchases are made by councillors they should be in the name of Thurgarton Parish Council and VAT receipts given to the Clerk.

Cllr Taylor agreed to look at revitalising the booklet provided to new residents.

d) Environment

Cllr Skill reported that work will start in earnest in Spring. It was agreed that the Clerk will forward Green Oak's invoices to Cllr Skill so that he can keep a check on the budget.

Fly tipping has been reported in the layby along A612 - Clerk will report this.

The annual report and invoice for the Lengthsman scheme has been submitted and acknowledged. We await payment. It has been confirmed that the scheme will run again in the next financial year, and participants will receive the same financial contribution.. Cllr Skill undertook to investigate if it would be possible for VIA to increase their payment to the parish council, as costs continue to rise.

e) Village Hall

Cllr Taylor reported that the TCC had agreed to provide £6,000 towards the playground and community space.

The following was noted:

- The new dishwasher would be installed shortly, followed by replacement flooring

- The TCC are considering whether it would be possible to re-configure storage in the hall, so that flood equipment was moved elsewhere. This was still an ongoing discussion, and a proposal would be brought to the Parish Council in due course.
- It was agreed that in future TCC Minutes would be circulated to all Councillors to enable proposals to be considered and comments made prior to PC meetings.

f) Projects

There were no further projects to discuss.

2026.24 Date of next meeting: 26 March 2026

There being no further business, Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21.15pm.

Approved as a Correct Record and Signed:

Tina Tsoukatos

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Chair

26 March 2026