

Thurgarton Parish Council

Meeting held on Thursday 25th June 2026, 7.30pm at

Thurgarton Village Hall

Minutes

Present: Cllrs T Tsoukatos (In the chair), S. Sweet-Smith, S Taylor, J Ross (acting clerk), R. Skills

2 members of the public were in attendance

2026.62 To hear public representations

1. It was brought to the attention of the councillors that the path on the far side of the railway track and adjacent to the lakes has become badly overgrown with vegetation. It is not clear who owns this land. Cllr Skills will identify who owns this land.
2. It was also noted the laurel bushes alongside the war memorial are encroaching and in need of cutting back. Cllr Skills committed to addressing this with the property owner.

2026.63 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the clerk L Ogilvie

2026.64 To note declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

2026.65 To approve Minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2026

Minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record and signed. Proposed Cllr Taylor and seconded Cllr Sweet- Smith, all in favour

2026.66 Casual vacancy

Cllr Tsoukatos informed the meeting that there remained 1 vacancy on the parish council.

2026.67 To receive update from District and County Council

The district councillor was not in attendance and no update was received

2026.68 Finance

For this part of the meeting Mr K Ogilvie was in attendance.

1. The annual governance statement was reviewed and all questions answered yes. The council voted to approve the document.
2. The exercise of public rights was discussed and will be available for public scrutiny on the village website and notice boards from 29th June 2026 until 7th July 2026
3. The payment schedule was reviewed and proposed by Cllr Sweet- Smith and seconded by Cllr Skills all in favour.
4. Financial support for the Thurgarton People publication was discussed. No vote was taken since the members wanted to understand the costs for the publication to be better understood. Cllr Skills will review costs with several different printers for discussion at a future meeting.

2026.69 Parish Council Objectives 2026-27

These have been in circulation for some time, and all voted to accept

2026.70 To consider planning applications as follows:

a) Applications

26/00695/House 18 Priory Park, Thurgarton

The councillors voted unanimously to support this application.

There were no other issues

2026.71 Update on Community Green Space and Play Area project

1. There were 2 outstanding legal issues. Firstly, an overage covenant on the land which has been resolved following an e mail exchange between Cllr Tsoukatos and the Trinity College land agent. Work is ongoing to confirm who has the legal authority to sign the lease.
2. Fundraising. Target £100,000 and currently raised £17,000. At a working group meeting on 22nd June the approach to fundraising was agreed to cover the following areas and individuals focussed on each of these areas: Large fundraising organisations, local councils, local companies, local community and specific environmental funds. More detail will be provided in the next edition of Thurgarton People.
3. A discussion was held on the level of solicitors' fees and voted to accept the costs of £2,500 + VAT and £50 disbursements on the understanding Cllr Ross will be given clarity on what these costs cover and a guarantee this is a not to be exceeded figure

2026.72 Strategy roles

a) Emergency Measures

- Work continues between the IDB and the landowner of the land adjacent to Station Road to finalise the purchase price.

b) Highways

- Nothing to report

c) Communication

- The rain gauge has been installed at the village hall. A meeting is being arranged to involve Cllr Tsoukatos and the webmaster Darryl North with the team in Lowdham to determine how to use the data provided by the rain gauge to forecast potential flood events more accurately.

d) Environment

- 3 quotes have been provided to paint the white posts in the village on Beck Street, The Hollows and Priory Road. The Green Oak quote represented the best value and work will commence in July.

e) Village Hall

- The work by Cllr Taylor to update the village welcome pack and develop a more coherent social media strategy and welcome pack was reviewed and the councillors noted the improved quality of both the welcome pack and the opportunity for a more integrated social media strategy. They also acknowledged this is a good start and is a work in progress and will be reviewed at future council meetings.

f) Projects

Nothing further to report

2026.73 Date of next meeting 23rd July at 7.30pm

There being no further business, Cllr Tsoukatos thanked the councillors and closed the meeting at 8.43pm

Approved as a Correct Record and Signed:

Tina Tsoukatos

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Chair

23 July 2026