

# THROPTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of ordinary meeting of Thropton Parish Council held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025 commencing at 7pm in Thropton War Memorial Hall**

**Those Present:** Cllr Foggon (Chairman) Cllr Sutton, Cllr Aplin, Cllr Frazer-Kelly, Cllr Mrs Bertram

**In Attendance:** C Miller (Clerk)

## **2025/52 Apologies for absence**

All members were present

The County Cllr had been sent an invitation to the meeting, however no response had been received.

## **2025/53 Declaration of Members Interests**

There were no Declaration of Members Interests.

## **2025/54 Minutes of previous meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

### **RESOLVED:**

Members agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were a true record.

## **2025/55 Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

## **2025/56 Thropton Play Area**

### **2025/56/01 Play area. Members to consider improvements to play area**

Contractor had advised works to level the ground should be actioned during the Autumn.

Further to resident consultation being carried out, feedback had indicated a community area with picnic benches, and outdoor gym equipment would be supported. Cllr Fraser-Kelly advised Northumberland Estates could possibly fund picnic tables via a third party, and was awaiting further information.

Previous Parish Council discussions and site visits relating to additional equipment and rearranging the play area had revolved around removing two of the swings, relocating the seesaw and installing a slide.

### **RESOLVED:**

1.The Clerk to seek revised quotes based on information above, from the three play area suppliers who had previously quoted, to include outdoor gym equipment.

### **2025/56/02 Play area inspection reports. Members to consider items raised, and repairs required**

The Clerk advised the 2025 annual RoSPA inspection report was awaited.

## **2025/57      Environmental Issues within the Parish**

Cllr Frazer-Kelly advised a waste dump had materialised at the end of the village, and which she had reported to the Environment Agency as a concerned resident.

The clerk reported having received a resident email relating to the same issue, and who had indicated the County Council and Environment Agency were unable to assist. The resident had suggested the Parish Council contact adjacent landowners and possibly provide resources for the area to be cleared.

### **RESOLVED:**

- 1.Members agreed this was not an area the Parish Council had any powers to deal with.
- 2.The matter to be detailed on the next meeting agenda, further to response awaited from Cllr Frazer-Kelly's complaint to the Environment Agency, as a member of the public.

Cllr Aplin reported two people having had to walk into the road to avoid pooling water on footpath in centre of village. Cllr Frazer-Kelly had reported problems in the area to County Council via Fix My Street. The Parish Council had reported this to the County Council several years ago, and had been assured drainage improvements would be implemented.

A resident request had been received to look into an ecological plan for a historic planning application, as they believed planning obligations had not been fulfilled relating to a field being turned into a meadow / wildlife area. The Clerk advised this item could be considered in detail at the next Parish Council meeting. The matter was not detailed on the agenda, and the majority of members present did not currently have the knowledge to discuss it. The Clerk further advised planning breaches were the remit of the Planning Authority, Northumberland County Council.

Further to the annual meeting of the parish, the riverside landowner had been made aware of the riverside path requiring some attention, and had advised they were to action some repairs. However the landowner had subsequently advised that the matter was now in the hands of the County Cllr.

The local bus company proprietor was responsible for a small piece of land at the riverside and had advised they were to carry out some improvement works, however this would be washed away in the next flood.

### **RESOLVED:**

Possible outstanding planning obligation in relation to planning application 20/01548/VARYCO, Land Sout of West Farm to be added to next meeting agenda,

## **2025/58      Finance**

### **2025/58/01    Invoices for authorisation**

PAYABLE TO	DETAIL	NETT	VAT	GROSS
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N Tuckey CSM Windows and Guttering	21/5/25 Grasscutting Weedkiller	£90 £50	NIL	
	4/6/25 Grasscutting, strimming	£75		
	17/6/25, Grasscutting, weedkiller	£115		
	3/7/25 , Strimming	£60		
	7/7/25 Strimming, weedkiller	£40		

**RESOLVED:**

Members approved the payments.

**2025/59 Parish Council Management Plan**

**2025/59/01 Members to review management plan and consider the inclusion of a section relating to training for Members and Clerk**

The Clerk advised training was essential, particularly for new Cllrs's.

Members considered the management plan, which included obligatory, aspirational, reactive and proactive tasks that the Parish Council fund /could fund. Cllr Aplin advised the Village Hall Committee were keen to host a meeting where the public could meet Parish Cllrs, however several Parish Cllrs were of the opinion that Parish Council meetings are open to the public and which would be the ideal time to meet Cllrs and participate in discussion regarding the parish.

**RESOLVED:**

1.Members agreed to incorporate the proposal in relation to Cllr and Clerk training into the management plan.

**2025/59/02 Members to consider budget / projects 2025 to 2029**

Budget and possible project detail included in the management plan.

**RESOLVED:**

1.Members to consider financial implications and projects in further detail at next meeting.

**2025/60 Planning**

**2025/60/01 Planning applications received.**

No planning applications had been received.

**2025/60/02 Cherry Tree on green at The Meadows. Members to receive update on TPO request.**  
County Council had advised the Planning and Tree and Woodland Officer would need to carry out a formal evaluation to see if the tree scores highly enough to merit TPO status.

**2025/60/03 Removal of parish signpost. Members to receive update from Clerk**  
No further information had been received from the County Council.

**2025/60/04 Financing of Neighbourhood Plan. Members to receipt update from Clerk**  
The Clerk advised that the Labour Government had withdrawn funding for Neighbourhood Plans. Further information was awaited from the County Council and the decision would need to be taken in the near future as to whether Thropton Parish Council could continue to be involved with the Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan.

**2025/61 Petition to lower speed limit to 20mph. Members to receive update**  
County Council had carried out speed monitoring, with report awaited.

**2025/62 Members to consider items for inclusion on County Council Local Transport Plan 2026-2027, current requests as follows: 1.Traffic calming, village entrance near to Spar; 2.Traffic calming at Thropton School**  
The Clerk advised Local Transport Plan funding came from central government, with each Parish Council able to add three proposals to the request list relating to items such as improvements to road safety / traffic management / major areas of resurfacing.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1.Members to consider proposals for the parish at next meeting.
- 2.The Clerk to circulate LTP criteria once received from County Council.

**2025/63 Seat repair. Members to consider repairs required to riverside seat**  
The seat had been inspected and deemed unrepairable. A proposal for a cheaper alternative such as a sleeper could be considered.

**RESOLVED:**

The Clerk to arrange site meeting with contractor to consider alternatives.

**2025/64 Members to consider social media protocol**  
Members discussed individual Cllrs putting posts on social media which can be construed as coming from the Parish Council. Care needs to be taken, as confusion had arisen due to a recent facebook page made by a member, but posted in their capacity as an individual.

**2025/65 Changes to email requirements for local councils. Members are asked to approve dedicated Council org. email address(es) at the cost of £30 / annum**

**RESOLVED:**

The Clerk advised that new regulations were applicable this financial year and Parish Council's must have a .org or .gov email address. It was anticipated this would include Parish Cllr's in the near future, and in any case, Cllr's should already be using a dedicated email address for council business. Members agreed a dedicated Clerk email address would be created at the cost of £30 / annum via the website host.

**2025/66      Members to consider correspondence from Thropton W.I. in relation to parking at Rothbury COOP**

Thropton W.I. had written detailing concerns about the lack of parking at Rothbury COOP.

**RESOLVED:**

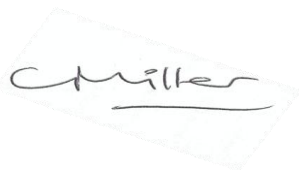
Members agreed this was an item for Rothbury Parish Council.

**2025/67      Urgent Business/Items for next meeting**

There was no urgent business / items for next meeting.

**2025/68      Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Thropton Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025 commencing 7pm in Thropton War Memorial Hall.



C Miller, Clerk/RFO  
Thropton Parish Council

The meeting closed at 850pm.