

THROPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Thropton Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th September 2025 commencing at 7pm in Thropton War Memorial Hall

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

In Attendance: C Miller (Clerk), three members of the public

2025/69 Apologies for absence

All members were present.

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

2025/70 Declaration of Members Interests

There were no Declaration of Members Interests.

2025/71 Minutes of previous meeting held 15th July 2025

RESOLVED:

Members agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held 15th July 2025 were a true record.

2025/72 Public Questions

Member of the public reported having to reverse off Thropton road bridge due to a speeding vehicle, and advised the report relating to the request to reduce the speed limit to 20mph is still awaited from County Council.

Member of the public reported Rothbury had a lot of public benches which attracted people to the parish. The Clerk advised Rothbury Parish Council rely on commemorative seating being donated, and the average cost to acquire and install a bench is £800.

2025/73 Thropton Play Area

2025/73/01 Play area. Members to receive update on securing quotes for improvements to play area, installation of slide and outdoor gym equipment

Two quotes had been received to install three pieces of outdoor gym equipment and a children's slide. One further quote awaited.

A quote to replace the cradle swing seating had been received, and which would be included in future funding application(s).

RESOLVED:

Members agreed both baby swings should be replaced.

2025/73/02 Play area inspection reports. Members to consider items raised in annual RoSPA report, and repairs required

Several items would be rectified once the ground had been levelled. The football net would be replaced when ground works had been completed. Thropton Together had submitted an application to Northumberland Estates for two picnic benches at the play area.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to seek quote for possible timber repair(s).

2025/73/03 Members to consider adopting Parish Council Safeguarding Policy

Members to fully familiarise themselves with the document, for consideration at next meeting.

2025/74 Resident concerns relating to waste dump at West end of village. Cllr Frazer-Kelly to give report in relation to complaint made to Environment Agency in her capacity as a member of the public

Cllr Frazer-Kelly had contacted the Environment Agency in her capacity as a member of the public. They had confirmed they would attend site and compile a report in relation to a waste dump at the West end of the village.

2025/75 Water pooling on footpath in centre of village. Members to consider outstanding issues
Parish gulleys had been cleaned. Pooling water on footpath in middle of the village continues to be a problem, which had previously been reported to County Council.

If the County Council could advise residents of when the gulley sucking machinery would be visiting the parish it would be beneficial. The Clerk reported this would not be feasible.

RESOLVED:

Cllr Aplin to report pooling water via County Council reporting system Fix My Street.

2025/76 Riverside path. Members to consider improvements to footpath surfaces(s)

The riparian landowner had left improvements to the riverside path in the hands of the County Cllr. However the area was a right of way and the County Council were not obliged to provide a footpath.

2025/77 Environmental Issues within the parish. Members to consider any issues

No issues raised.

2025/78 Finance

2025/78/01 Local government services pay award. Members to note 2025 increase of 3.20%

RESOLVED:

Members noted the local government services pay award.

2025/78/02 Invoices for authorisation

PAYABLE TO	DETAIL	NETT	VAT	GROSS
Lloyds Bank	Retrospective, bank charges, April, May, June, July, August	£21.25	NIL	£21.25
	Bank charges, September	£4.25	NIL	£21.25
HMRC	Retrospective, PAYE, direct debit 24/7/25	£37.80	NIL	£37.80
N Tuckey CSM	Disposal of wood, 28/7/25	£75	NIL	£25
Windows and	Strimming, 30/7/25	£90	NIL	£25
Guttering	Grasscutting, strimming 13/8/25	£90	NIL	£90
	Grasscutting wood disposal 27/8/25	£60	NIL	£60
	Strimming, grasscutting, tree removal cutting 10/9/25	£120		
C Miller	Six monthly salary	£626.52	NIL	£626.52
	Six monthly expenses	£64.01		£64.01
Spanglefish	Annual website hosting	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00
Playsafety Ltd	Annual RoSPA play area inspection	£84.00	£18.00	£100.80
M Evens	Remove riverside seat	£20.00	NIL	£20.00
Northumberland County Council	May 2025 Parish Cllr election, parish re-charge	£2656.70	NIL	£2656.70
Spanglefish	Annual website hosting fee	£90.00	£18.00	£108
Jubilee Institute	Cluster meeting room hire	£22.00	NIL	£22.00
Rothbury Parish Council	Six months Rothbury Joint Burial Committee precept	£4959	NIL	£4959

RESOLVED:

Members approved the payments.

2025/78/03 Noticeboard. Members to consider contributing to Memorial Hall noticeboard which could be utilised by the Parish Council

Village Hall Committee had submitted proposals for a noticeboard, with the cost to be split between the Hall Committee and the Parish Council.

RESOLVED:

Due to the high cost of an election and proposed improvements to the play area, Members agreed no funds were available to contribute to the purchase.

2025/78/04 Citizens Advice Northumberland. Members to consider grant request from CAB

Members considered the grant application.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed that the Parish Council did not have the funds to provide a grant at the present time.

2025/79 Parish Council Management Plan

2025/79/01 Members to review management plan - consider budget / projects 2025 to 2029.

The Parish Council had approved a management plan at the previous meeting, and considered the detailed objectives/budget proposals.

RESOLVED:

Members approved the management plan objectives / budget proposals.

2025/79/02 Members to consider holding Parish Cllr surgeries

The Village Hall committee were interested in all community groups attending a social gathering for residents.

RESOLVED:

Members were in agreement with attending a social gathering organised by the Village Hall Committee.

2025/79/03 Training options. The Clerk to advise on options for Cllr training

Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk had discussed training options.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to arrange training via the National Association of Cllrs, with a budget of £300.

2025/80 Planning

2025/77/01 Planning applications received

No planning applications had been received.

2025/77/02 Cherry Tree on green at The Meadows. Members to receive update on TPO request

Clerk advised an update would be available at the next meeting.

2025/77/03 Removal of parish signpost. Members to receive update from Clerk

County Council had advised the signage had gone missing, and as they cannot prove who took it, they had ordered a replacement.

2025/77/04 Financing of Neighbourhood Plan. Members to receipt update from Clerk

County Council were yet to provide further information in relation to funding a neighbourhood plan.

2025/77/05 Northumberland County Council. Local Plan – Call for Sites - Consultation. Members to consider areas for potential development sites for consideration

Members noted the consultation.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed no items would be put forward.

2025/77/06 Ecological plan relating to historic planning application NO 20/01184. Members to consider planning obligations related to planning permission

David Smith M.P. had taken the case on, and County Council Planning Enforcement were now involved.

2025/78 Petition to lower speed limit to 20mph. Members to receive update

Discussed earlier.

2025/79 Members to consider items for inclusion on County Council Local Transport Plan 2026-2027. 2025-2026 requests as follows: 1.Traffic calming, village entrance near to Spar; 2.Traffic calming at Thropton School, feedback from County Council below:

The Clerk advised the Local Transport Plan had been altered to become a three year cycle. Members considered items for inclusion 26/27, 27/28 and 28/29.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to request the following:

- 1.Traffic calming measures at all entrances to the village.
- 2.Resurfacing Thropton to Whittingham road.
- 3.Rearrangement of junction in front of Cross Keys

2025/80 Riverside seat. Members to consider replacement seating

Quote awaited. Members agreed the seat should be replaced with a tanalised sleeper type construction.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed a budget of £200.

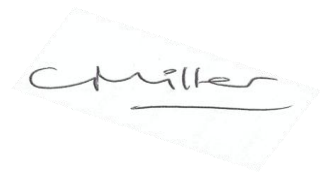
2025/81 Urgent Business/Items for next meeting

The Clerk advised an oil supplier from Blyth had leaflet dropped the parish, and enquired whether Thropton currently had an oil buying group. It was confirmed there were currently arrangements in the parish for bulk buying oil.

The Clerk advised the County Council had agreed to carry out a governance review of Town and Parish Councils.

2025/82 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Thropton Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 18th November 2025 commencing 7pm in Thropton War Memorial Hall.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Miller', is written on a light blue rectangular background. The signature is cursive and fluid.

C Miller, Clerk/RFO
Thropton Parish Council

The meeting closed at 845pm