

# Thorpe Morieux Parish Council

## Minutes of Meeting

Held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 at 7.30pm in Thorpe Morieux Village Hall

### Attendance

Cllr John Squirrell (Chair), Cllr John Gagen, Cllr Keith Lee, Cllr Jules O'Brien, Cllr Garry Russell, Cllr Ashley Simpson  
Sarah Headland (Clerk)

No members of the public present.

### 1. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Louisa Pepper (Vice Chair)  
Deborah Saw DC  
Robert Lindsay CC

The apologies were approved and accepted by the council.

### Members' Declarations of Interest:

- a. To receive declarations of interest - NONE
- b. To consider requests for dispensations - NONE
- c. To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests for the agenda under discussion - NONE

### 2. To resolve that the minutes of the meetings of the council held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 are a true and accurate record – APPROVED. Proposed by Cllr Squirrell and seconded by Cllr O'Brien.

### 3. To receive progress reports and for information:

#### a. Anglian Water Strategic Pipeline

The topsoil has been levelled very well and Anglian water will be handing the land the back soon. Landowners have 6 years to claim compensation for anything that has gone wrong. Weather being dry has helped. Negotiations are ongoing with regards to drainage. The large compound on Cockfield/Felsham road will be closed in 2027.

#### b. Footpaths and Public Rights of Way

Footpath sign near Tye Barn has been reported as it is not straight and should be fixed.

#### c. Children's play equipment in the village – no update and no further action for now.

#### d. Neighbourhood Plan

Government has cut all funding for parishes to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. They are generally very expensive and time consuming. It was previously minuted that an article would be put in the Thorpe Times, but this is on hold pending a discussion with Deborah.

#### e. Village Hall update – special thanks to the VH committee for their time and efforts in organising the village ball.

### 4. Public participation session to include District and County Councillors Reports.

Both DC and CC reports can be found at the end of these minutes.

### 5. Clerk's Report

- a. Schedule of items awaiting approval - APPROVED
- b. Bank reconciliation to be approved -APPROVED

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Clerks finance report for meeting on 3rd July 2025</u>		
BFWD	£7,643.54	
<b>Expenditure (approved and paid):</b>		<b>Payment power</b>
Clerks salary Mar/April	£312.00	LGA 1972, s.111
HMRC - PAYE	£39.00	LGA 1972, s.111
SALC Membership subscription	£171.95	LGA 1972, s.111
SALC Payroll Services	£54.00	LGA 1972, s.111
Speed Indicator Device (SID)	£3,228.66	RTR Act 1984 s.72(1)
SID Fixing Clamps	£51.12	RTR Act 1984 s.72(1)
SID Posts Installation	£456.00	RTR Act 1984 s.72(1)
Internal Audit	£130.00	LGA 1972, s.111
Zurich Council Insurance	£277.00	LGA 1972, s.111
	<b>£4,719.73</b>	
<b>Income</b>		
VAT Reclaim	£710.47	Section 33 VAT Act 1994
	<b>Total income</b>	<b>£710.47</b>
<b>Bank balance as of 3rd July 2025</b>	<b>£3,634.28</b>	
<b>Items to be paid awaiting approval:</b>		
Clerks salary May/June	£372.00	LGA 1972, s.111
HMRC - PAYE	£93.00	LGA 1972, s.111
Website support and hosting	£329.04	LGA 1972, s.111
FILCA Training course for Clerk	£144.00	LGA 1972, s.111
	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£938.04</b>

6. Annual review and approval of Asset Register – APPROVED.
7. Annual review and approval of Risk Assessment – APPROVED.
8. Annual statement for the review of effectiveness of the Internal Audit and Internal Controls 24-2025 – APPROVED.
9. To resolve which sign to put on the other SID pole, when it's not in use.  
Three Quotes have been obtained for a white 'kill your speed' sign. The most competitive quote was £74, and it was agreed this one would be purchased. This payment is now approved and may be paid before the next meeting, upon receipt of the sign otherwise the invoice will be overdue before the next meeting in September. Proposed by Cllr Squirrell and seconded by Cllr O'Brien.
10. Cllrs reports including police report.
  - a. Crime report – since last meeting, 1 crime has been reported under 'other' category. In total, in the last year, 5 crimes in Thorpe Morieux have been reported and investigated.
  - b. A resident recently approached a Cllr to report that the low fence around Whitethorn Ley is broken. The Parish Council will send a letter and pictures of the damage to Orwell Housing since we believe it is their responsibility to fix it.
  - c. The Christmas tree that was recently planted at Whitethorn Ley needs to be watered on a regular basis, especially in the current climate. Cllr Gagen has kindly offered to water it as often as possible when he passes.
11. To consider the recommendation from the internal auditor: 'The council should review whether Earmarked reserves need to be established'. This was considered, normally the council asks for funding for a specific item as and when needed, and the general feeling is that this process works well for now.
12. To consider the 'District-wide Community Governance Review 2025', items to include:
  - a. Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes.
  - b. The naming of parishes and the style of any new parishes.
  - c. The electoral arrangements for parishes, that is the ordinary year of election, council size (the number of parish councilors) and parish warding.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

d. Grouping of parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping of parishes.

The PC decided no changes are needed for Thorpe. Clerk to send response during the response window 27<sup>th</sup> October – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

13. Items for consideration for inclusion on the next agenda – None.

14. To consider planning applications (up to and including any new ones submitted on or before July 2025 which may not be listed here if submitted after agenda published):

**For information:**

**DC/25/00987** - Householder Application - Erection of single storey rear extension - 5 Bury Road **GRANTED**

**DC/25/01468** - Householder Application - Erection of a single storey extension, Bull House, The Green **GRANTED**

**New applications:**

**DC/25/02558** - Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (C3) Location: Barn East of Green Farm, The Green, Thorpe Morieux  
The question was raised as to how this qualifies as a Class Q development. The PC have concerns with the actual construction regarding access since the road is very narrow, however they have no objections.

**DC/25/02980** - Manor Farm, Lavenham Road, Thorpe Morieux, IP30 0NH - Full planning application for demolition of existing buildings and erection of 9 no. dwellings and associated works.

The Parish Council attended a pre-planning meeting with Strutt & Parker regarding this development last year. The Parish Council objects to this new application and much prefers the previously granted application DC/21/01216 for this site for five homes (which already has conditions discharged). This is principally because that application preserves the historic barns on the site, which are part of the heritage of Thorpe Morieux.

15. To confirm the date of the next meeting - scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

Meeting closed at 20:56

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## District Councillor's report to Thorpe Morieux Parish Council

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025

### Have your say!

Suffolk's councils are looking at how to redesign services to better meet the needs of residents, businesses, and communities, as part of the government's Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) initiative.

We believe that Suffolk would be best served by more than one unitary council. We submitted our interim report, which sets out the benefits of a multi-unitary model. In a letter sent earlier this month to all Suffolk councils, the government offered clear encouragement for the districts and borough to continue developing their proposals.

We must put forward the best possible case for a multiple unitary solution in Suffolk, creating councils that are big enough to deliver, but local enough to care; councils that will be efficient and financially sustainable, delivering genuine value for money.

This is the biggest change in local government for 50 years and we believe we must get the views of the widest cross-section of residents, businesses and community groups across the county so we would like you to give us your opinion about what's important to you about the place you live and work.

Suffolk County Council has only one plan – to create a single mega-council, which we believe would be out of touch with communities and residents. It would cover a vast geographical area seeking to save as much money as possible, no matter how perilous the impact on local democracy, the quality of services provided or proper accountability where you live,

We want and you need more locally targeted, modern and flexible services, to drive better outcomes and value, rather than a basic and unimaginative 'one size fits all' option which simply bolts district and borough services on to an old and tired county council system

Please tell us what you think and fill in the survey to shape the future of local services.

The survey, which closes on 25 July 2025, can be found here: [Project: Have Your Say on the Future of Local Government... | Mid Suffolk District Council](#)

### Government Planning Reforms

Cross-party councillors in Babergh unanimously condemned Government criticism of local planning authorities and attempts to rob us and you of our democratic powers when it comes to development. We are very concerned about Government plans to modernise planning committees as part of their current Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

Proposals within the bill include a national scheme of delegation for planning decisions, designed to reduce the role of planning committees by restricting the type and numbers of applications heard by committees in future.

This is to remove perceived obstacles to development and housebuilding, increasing the number of decisions being made by officers than committees – despite only a fraction of planning applications being heard by committee.

In Babergh last year, 8.6% of applications went to committee, with the rest decided by officers – the vast majority granted, whether decided by officers or committee.

### Neighbourhood Plans

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Slipped into the recent Government Spending Review was the removal of funding for neighbourhood plans. We believe planning should be 'done with' our communities, rather than be 'done to' them. The withdrawal of locality funding for them is an erosion of democracy and a serious barrier to residents' having their say about the future of their communities. The council is working hard to find sources of additional funding to help communities protect themselves from speculative development.

If you have any neighbourhood CIL funds these can be used for neighbourhood plans but we are also working through other options so please do not abandon any plans you might have to start a plan. We are determined to support communities in this vital work.

### **Anglian Water Bury St Edmunds to Colchester Pipeline**

I had several conversations with farmers in the district over the last few months who have expressed concern about the impact of Anglian Water's water pipeline work on their land, particularly the top and sub-soils.

I contacted the director in charge of the project and suggested the results of soil tests should be shared with landowners to reassure them. She was surprised about these issues as according to her the company had received no complaints from farmers.

Subsequently the Council's Principal Planner met with Anglian Water to remind them of their obligations under the approved Soil Management Plan.

### **Improving housing services for council tenants**

The previous administration got into real difficulties with repairs and maintenance of the Council's housing, so much so that it had to report itself to the Social Housing Regulator. Improving that performance was and is one of the key priorities for us. We knew we needed a total transformation of our service. We recognised new leadership was needed and hired individuals with outstanding track records. We made major investment funding of nearly £1million for a root and branch overhaul of the service and that is what we got.

Tenant satisfaction is on the rise, with a corresponding drop in complaints, currently putting Babergh above last year's average performance figures for local authority landlords nationwide. In March the Regulator took the Council out of special measures

**The** latest performance and satisfaction figures are testament to the hard work carried out by the team and the successful transformation of our housing repairs and maintenance service – but we know there is room for further improvement so we have introduced our repair pledges which reflect what our tenants have told us is most important to them:

- *Timely appointments: ensuring appointments are prompt and convenient*
- *Communication: keeping tenants updated at every stage of their repair*
- *Tidiness: always leaving the work area clean and tidy – respecting their homes*
- *Right first time: getting the job done correctly the first time, every time.*
- *Respectful and friendly: ensuring our team members are courteous and respectful*
- *Good quality of work: taking pride in delivering high-quality workmanship on every repair*

And if we don't abide by the pledges let me know.

### **Tree for Life Scheme**

Applications are now open for this popular scheme. It is open to all families across the district who have welcomed, or are set to welcome, a newborn baby or adopted child during the 2025 calendar year.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The initiative, which runs every year, gives parents the opportunity to mark their child's arrival by planting a fruit tree, which can then grow alongside them.

Parents that may have sadly lost a child during the same period are also able to apply for a memory tree as part of the scheme.

Since its inception, the councils have given out well over two thousand trees, with 300 hundred families applying last year alone. Each applicant is given a choice of which tree they would like when they go to collect it, as well as expert information about how to plant, pick and care for it.

Applications can be made via the Council's website and here is a link

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/tree-for-life>

## **New Guide**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have developed the 'Grazing Walks' guide highlighting perfect places to enjoy a picturesque walk followed by a treat at a local pub, cafe or independent shop.

With more than 20 locations highlighted, its aim is to encourage more people to explore the countryside, be active, and support local business. The Babergh guide highlights the villages between the Wool Towns including Kersey, Assington and Boxford, among others.

Details of each location, maps of the walks available, and places to eat, are available on the Heart of Suffolk website - [heartofsuffolk.co.uk/grazing-walks](http://heartofsuffolk.co.uk/grazing-walks)

## **Suffolk Community Awards**

Nominations for the Suffolk Community Awards 2025 are now open. The awards aim to celebrate all those that have improved the quality of life for communities across the county. Nominations can be made on the Suffolk Community Awards website, The deadline for entries is 13<sup>th</sup> July. <https://www.suffolkcommunityawards>

## **Community Fun Days**

As the school summer holidays approach the Council has announced it will be holding two 'Summer Fun Days' in conjunction with its leisure partner, Abbeycroft. Families that attend one of the events can look forward to a wide range of activities, from bouncy castles and axe throwing to arts, crafts, and dancing. I hasten to add that the axe throwing is supervised.

The events are scheduled to take place between 10am and 2pm at:

- Sudbury, Belle Vue Park – Monday, 21 July
- Hadleigh Pool and Leisure Centre – Friday, 25 July

Each Community Fun Day is free to attend and has activities for all ages – simply turn up on the day. However, children that receive means tested free school meals are able to pre-book some and order a free lunch by visiting the Abbeycroft website.

[Abbeycroft Leisure | Inspiring a healthier you](#)

## **Grants**

If any local community group is looking for funding for small scale projects or purchases, please do contact me.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Report for Thorpe Morieux PC from County Councillor Robert Lindsay 3.7.25**

### **Black bins random search**

The county council is conducting a “composition sampling” of black bin contents to enable them to work out what is currently being sent to the incinerator that could be recycled after the changes due to come in 2026.

On collection day the sampling company will come beforehand and empty some bins at random into their own van which will be taken to a recycling centre for sorting into different categories of materials each of which will be weighed.

Householders do not need to change anything in the way they dispose of things, ahead of this survey. Nor should they because they want an accurate picture of the normal contents.

### **Libraries were taken in-house by county council Sunday June 1**

The county is renaming the service, **Suffolk Community Libraries**, and is introducing a new logo. A new website was also launched this week at [www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk](http://www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk), with anyone visiting the existing site redirected to the new site. The county insists nothing is changing for library users. All 45 libraries will remain open, with the same staff, services, opening hours, activities, and the Spydus reservation system. The Spydus system, coincidentally, crashed a few weeks ago but I am assured it is now back working. It is provided by a third party company, not the county council.

### **Local Government Reorganization – “Engagement” Meetings**

Conservative-led Suffolk County Council’s has got the council’s comms team to arrange meetings with town and parish councils to advocate the creation of one giant Suffolk unitary, rather than the two or three that district councils, led by different political parties, have asked for.

County councillors have not been invited to these meetings. It is important to point out that the “independent report” by accountants PriceWaterhouse Coopers that the Conservatives are relying on was commissioned by the County Council Network, so not really independent. The alleged cost savings are disputed and a report commissioned by Suffolk’s district and borough council comes to a different conclusion. The Government will decide ultimately in any case and may well go for just one, since it believes one will be easier to control.

The county cabinet on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June approved setting aside a £1.9 million fund to allow the county council’s officers to draw up a business case for having a single Suffolk wide unitary authority. It must submit this before September. This is on top of the salary for their new senior officer in charge of reorganisation. The full cost will be in the tens of millions.

Mayoral elections are due to be held in May 2026, with the mayoral authority set up a few months earlier, in February. The government has provided £1m towards the costs of the mayoral authority, which Suffolk County Council and Norfolk County Council have agreed to split between them. The government has also allocated £290k for Suffolk towards Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), which is to be shared with the other councils who are also preparing their proposals for the government to consider in September.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Council Annual General Meeting**

On Thursday 22 May, all three motions tabled by the three political groups were passed by the council, these included a motion against the government's proposed changes to public consultation for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) like Sizewell C, Sea Link and Lion Link and solar farm applications. The council also agreed motions proposing a ban on live animals being used as prizes on council land, and to support the campaign for Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to be eligible for the 20 year long service medal which is currently for warranted police officers only.

## **Nominations sought for Suffolk Community Awards 2025**

Nominations are now open for the Suffolk Community Awards 2025, which is organized by Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Association of Local Councils. The three bodies, which previously all had their own awards, have combined together this year. The ceremony will showcase the excellent work and achievements of individuals, groups, towns and villages across Suffolk with 18 awards, including a new one for a local community's efforts respond to climate change. Other award categories cover youth participation and young person of the year, community building, contribution to volunteering, most active community and council, councillor, young councillor and clerk of the year. Nominations are now open and must be made by Sunday 13 July at

[www.suffolkcommunityawards.co.uk](http://www.suffolkcommunityawards.co.uk)

## **Bus funding**

The county has announced it has £8m for bus funding £5.2m is for bus stop improvements, the remainder £2.8m for bus services. At the time of writing I have not heard where we are with a draft timetable for the bus between Hadleigh and Stowmarket. In their press release, cabinet member Chris Chambers talks about funding for a Newmarket bus and one on the Marham Park Estate, Bury St Edmunds, where it is currently a big issue in a county council by-election.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_