

Thorpe Morieux Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting

Held on Thursday 13th November 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, Deborah Saw DC, Robert Lindsay CC, Sarah Headland (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Louisa Pepper (Vice Chair)

Apologies were accepted and approved by The Council

Members' Declarations of Interest:

a. To receive declarations of interest

Cllr O'Brien is an editor of Thorpe Times village magazine. Cllr Squirrell is the Sexton of St Marys Church and Cllr Gagen is the Church Warden.

b. To consider requests for dispensation - 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 18th September 2025 are a true and accurate record. APPROVED proposed by Cllr O'Brien seconded by Cllr Russell.

3. To receive progress reports and for information:

a. Anglian Water strategic pipeline – The dormice apparatus still has not been removed. A small one off compensation payment has been offered per valve. Nothing further to report at next meeting.

b. Footpaths and Public Rights of Way – Footpath sign near Tye Barn has been reported as broken but has not yet been fixed. With regards to the issue of noisy dog walkers near Valley Farm – update next time. With regards to the broken fence at Whitethorn Ley – it is understood that this still has not been fixed. This has been chased up twice by the Clerk since the last meeting.

c. Village Hall – charitable status update

Clerk met with VH Secretary and it was decided that a working group would be set up to move this forward in the new year. This will consist of PC Clerk, Village Hall Secretary and Village Hall bookings Administrator. First task will be to locate the Village Hall Governance document. Clerk to report back at next meeting.

d. SID update – data and redeployment – the latest data since September will be reported on at the next meeting once the SID has been moved to the other pole.

4. Public participation session to include District and County Councillors Reports. Both reports can be found at the end of these minutes.

Regarding the 'Call for sites', further information can be found here:

<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/documents/d/asset-library-54706/draft-b-msdc-shlaa-september-2025v2>

Deborah has kindly offered a £300 grant towards the colour printing of the Thorpe Times magazine.

5. Clerk's Report

a. Schedule of items awaiting approval - APPROVED

BFGD	£5,809.76	
Expenditure (approved and paid):		Payment power
Clerks salary July/August	£312.00	LGA 1972, s.111
HMRC - PAYE	£78.00	LGA 1972, s.111
Reimburse clerk for CC payment - SID sign clamps	£10.58	RTR Act 1984 s.72(1)
Village Hall - Defib replacement pads	£121.54	PHA 1936, S.234
	£522.12	
Income		
	Total income £0.00	
Bank balance as of 13th November 2025	£5,287.64	
Items to be paid awaiting approval:		
SALC Payroll services	£54.00	LGA 1972, s.111
Clerks salary	£156.00	LGA 1972, s.111
HMRC - PAYE	£39.00	LGA 1972, s.111
Thorpe Times Magazine grant	£500.00	LGA 1972,s145
PCC Churchyard Maintenance grant	£200.00	LGA 1972, s.215
Website updates for new accessibility requirements	£134.40	LGA 1972, s.111
	Total expenditure £1,083.40	
	Available funds £4,204.24	

b. Bank reconciliation to be approved - APPROVED

SALC have advised that Clerks are entitled to a home working allowance of £26 per month. This has been approved by the full council and will be added to salary as from next month. Clerk to advise SALC payroll. Proposed Cllr Squirrell and seconded Cllr Russell.

6. Cllrs reports including police report

Cllr Squirrell – during the months of Aug and Sept zero crimes reported. In the last 12 months there have been 3 crimes in total reported.

Suffolk local habitat Map (links below) – it has been noted that areas in green may be offered money to enhance nature and conservation.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/local-nature-recovery-strategy-lnr>

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/6bbe2b576bbb4ea4a04f49fb0fa6feba>

Cllr O'Brien advised that a £600 grant has been received for the winter warm hub café from Babergh.

7. To approve two annual grant payments as per Grant Policy to the Thorpe Times village magazine and PCC of St Marys Church for churchyard maintenance, £500 and £200 respectively.

APPROVED - Proposed by Cllr Lee and seconded by Cllr Russell

PCC payment will not be paid straight away as the church bank account is currently frozen. The money will be earmarked in the next finance report as reserved funds.

8. To discuss the need for an additional solar panel for the SID (so there will be one on each pole)

A quote was obtained from the company who supplied the SID at a cost of £509. Another 2 quotes were obtained which both came in at around £100 for both panel and mount. Approved to purchase for £100. Clerk will facilitate this.

Proposed by Cllr Squirrell and Seconded by Cllr O'Brien

9. To consider the Draft Precept and budget for 2026-27

SID Maintenance should be no more than £100 per year.

A Precept of £6934.00 has been approved by the full council for 2026/27. This is a 8.7% increase on last years precept of £6375.00.

10. To consider and approve updated IT policy following updated guidelines from NALC - APPROVED

11. To consider and approve the Internal Control Policy for 2025/6 - APPROVED

12. Items for consideration for inclusion on the next agenda. None.
13. To consider planning applications (up to and including any new ones submitted on or before 13th Nov which may not be listed here if submitted after agenda published):
 - a. For information:
DC/25/02558 - Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (C3) - Barn East Of Green Farm, The Green – WITHDRAWN
DC/25/04019 - Newsoms Farm, Bury Road - Application for Listed Building Consent – GRANTED
 - b. New applications:
None
14. To confirm the date of the next meeting – this will be 8th January 2026

Meeting closed at 20:56

District Councillor's report to Thorpe Morieux Parish Council

13th November 2025

Joint Local Plan – Call for sites

When the government increased our housing requirement by 86% the Council was left with no choice but to review its Joint Local Plan. This is a very challenging situation scale, so we want to work alongside communities, and neighbouring councils where possible, to plan for the housing growth being asked of us.

The new Local Plan will set out a strategy identifying sites for development and set policies against which applications for planning permission are determined, alongside national planning policies and Neighbourhood Plans.

The Plan will provide a blueprint for the future of each area - ensuring residents and communities have sufficient housing, employment, and inward investment, that environment and heritage is protected, and the right infrastructure is in place.

All the councils are working together to launch a 'Call for Sites.' The Call for Sites runs until 5pm on 9 January 2026.

These will provide a blueprint for the future of each area - ensuring residents and communities have sufficient housing, employment, and inward investment, that environment and heritage is protected, and the right infrastructure is in place.

Each suggested site will be considered by planning teams before it is decided whether it goes forward as a proposed Local Plan site allocation. Decisions about preferred allocations will be based on a range of evidence and assessment, as well as through public engagement.

Sites that were submitted in the last 'Call for sites,' will be considered. They do not need to be re-submitted.

Funding Summit

The Council's grants and funding team will be hosting a summit, designed to help voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise (VCFSE) organisations access the funding they need and to give them advice as to what regulatory standards they need to meet to secure that funding.

The Babergh Summit will be held at Chamberlain Hall on Wednesday 19th November from 9.00am to 2.30 pm. It will include a series of workshops and talks, delivered by our team as well as our partners at Suffolk Community Foundation, Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk County Council, and the National Lottery Community Fund. Lunch will be provided

The summit is free to attend, but places must be booked, see [the Bildeston event](#)

Nature recovery road map launched

Suffolk's Local Nature Recovery Strategy has now launched, designed to address the region's decline in nature, identify ways to help it recover and deliver wider benefits such as reducing flood risk.

The project is led by the County, but all the districts and borough have contributed to it as did 40 other local organisations. . together 45 local organisations with a shared vision for protecting and restoring nature in East Anglia. It is convened by Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils.

Here's a link to County's press release, [Nature recovery roadmap launched for Norfolk and Suffolk - Suffolk County Council](#)

Accompanying the strategy is the creation of a local habitat map which can be viewed here, [Suffolk Local Habitat Map](#)

Local Nature Recovery Strategies are being created across the country over the next two years. Together, these will combine to form a national plan for ensuring nature is bigger, better, and more joined-up, while providing a blueprint for the delivery of new duties and funding streams like Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and agri-environment schemes.

Water

Water resources are still much lower than expected at this time of year, given that we had the driest spring and summer since 1976. Anglian Water's modelling suggests that for water resources to return to normal levels, it will need more than 100% of the usual rainfall every month until next April. It has launched a campaign to ask residents to use a little less. Doubtless it will be trying to minimise its own leakage from pipes.

[Save water in autumn and winter](#)

It is also asking people to report any pollution incidents in rivers and streams immediately via 03457 145145 or <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/your-local-area/report-an-issue/>. Once a member of the public reports a pollution incident then AW states it will quickly investigate and take action to protect the environment and report it to the Environment Agency.

A14 Orwell Bridge

Following on from this summer's extensive work on the bridge there remains some further work to be done that necessitates overnight lane closures as follows:

- **Monday 17 to Wednesday 19 November** - overnight westbound lane closure between 8pm and 6am.
- **Thursday 20 and Friday 21 November** - overnight lane closure on the eastbound and westbound carriageway between 8pm and 6am.
- **Monday 24 to Thursday 27 November** - overnight westbound lane closure between 8pm and 6am.

Telecare Alarms – do you know someone who has one?

Landline phones are switching to digital, which could stop telecare alarms working. The switchover is already happening, so residents need to act now. If you, a resident, or someone you know uses a telecare alarm, make sure to contact the landline provider for support. They will help make sure alarms keep working through the switchover.

[Digital Phone Switchover](#)

Report for Thorpe Morieux PC, 13.11.25 by Robert Lindsay, County Councillor

Daily Hadleigh to Stowmarket Bus route

I'm pleased that a timetable has now been drawn up for this proposed new service. Hadleigh Community Transport, operator of the 461 and 462, does not want to take it on. Highways is in talks with the Transport Made Simple new owner of Konectbus (an East Anglian operator) to see if they are interested. If not it will be put to tender.

Local nature recovery strategy approved

On 9 September, the council's Cabinet voted to approve the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which was produced following a public consultation on the draft strategy between April and June this year. Most of the area mapped out for Suffolk's nature priorities is private farmland, and the strategy does not make improvement mandatory, but the officers who have produced the strategy will now work with landowners to support them and work to find investment for measures in the strategy. Landowners can use areas mapped in the strategy to produce 'units' of biodiversity for purchase by developers, as they will be required to meet the government's new Biodiversity Net Gain requirements which state that all development should be increasing biodiversity by a minimum of 10%. The units of biodiversity do not need to be onsite or near the development.

Post May 2026, the new Mayor of Norfolk and Suffolk will be in charge of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Predicted £20m needed from risk reserve to finance budget gap this year

After the second quarter of the financial year, the council is predicting that it will overspend by £20.4m by the end of the 2025/26 financial year, which it will balance by taking money from its Risk Reserve.

Alongside this is a forecast that the council's interest cost will increase to £4.9m to cover a surge in its "dedicated schools grant" debt. The soaring cost of education, particularly special needs education, is no longer being met by schools grant the council gets from Government. The Government has promised to review the level of the grant. But in the meantime, in common with many other education authorities across the country, the council now has to borrow to make up the shortfall. The schools grant debt is forecast to rise by £70m to a total of £168m by year end.

Other cost pressures for the council include placements for children in care, care purchasing and mental health services in adult social care.

Solar Together Scheme for 2025

The Solar Together Suffolk scheme, which has so far installed 32,000 solar panels at 2,651 Suffolk households, is now open for registration for 2025. The scheme also includes battery storage and EV charge points. The scheme requires householders to register online, and pre-approved solar PV suppliers then take part in a 'reverse auction' to bid for the work. After this, registered households will be emailed a personal recommendation which they can choose to accept or not. Telephone and email helpdesks are available to support residents in making an informed decision. The scheme is run by Suffolk's councils in partnership with iChoosr, who have been working with UK councils on the Solar Together scheme since 2015.

For more information and to register, visit <https://solartogether.co.uk/suffolk/home>