

Thorpe Morieux Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting

Held on Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7.30pm in Thorpe Morieux Village Hall

Attendance

Cllr John Squirrell (Chair), Cllr Louisa Pepper (Vice Chair), Cllr John Gagen, Cllr Keith Lee, Cllr Jules O'Brien, Sarah Headland (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Garry Russell, Cllr Ashley Simpson, Deborah Saw DC, Robert Lindsay CC

Members' Declarations of Interest:

- a. To receive declarations of interest - None
- 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 13th November 2025 are a true and accurate record. APPROVED - proposed by Cllr Pepper seconded by Cllr Gagen

3. To receive progress reports and for information:

- a. Footpaths and Public Rights of Way. The status of the path behind the lake that goes round to the wash needs to be clarified. It is believed that this is a permissive path, but Cllr Squirrell will report on this next time.

The bridleway from Home Farm to Thorpe Wood should be 3m wide. The path is very narrow and muddy, and the hedge has not been cut for some time. Clerk to send a message to S&P to advise that field-edge bridleways should ideally be 3 meters wide.

It has been noted that the Thorpe Wood south perimeter has been trimmed and cleared, and a neat, wooded hedge has been put in place.

- b. Village Hall – charitable status update. Clerk has a meeting with Village Hall Secretary on 16th January and will report back at the next meeting. On Deborah's report there is some information on funded training sessions for local community groups – namely 'essentials for launching a charity', which could be useful.
- c. SID update – data and redeployment – most recent data has been kindly downloaded and provided by Cllr Russell, graphs are below. New solar panel has arrived and will be installed before the next meeting. It was suggested that an annual summary of stats could be included in the Thorpe Times once the SID has been in situ for 1 year (April 2026).

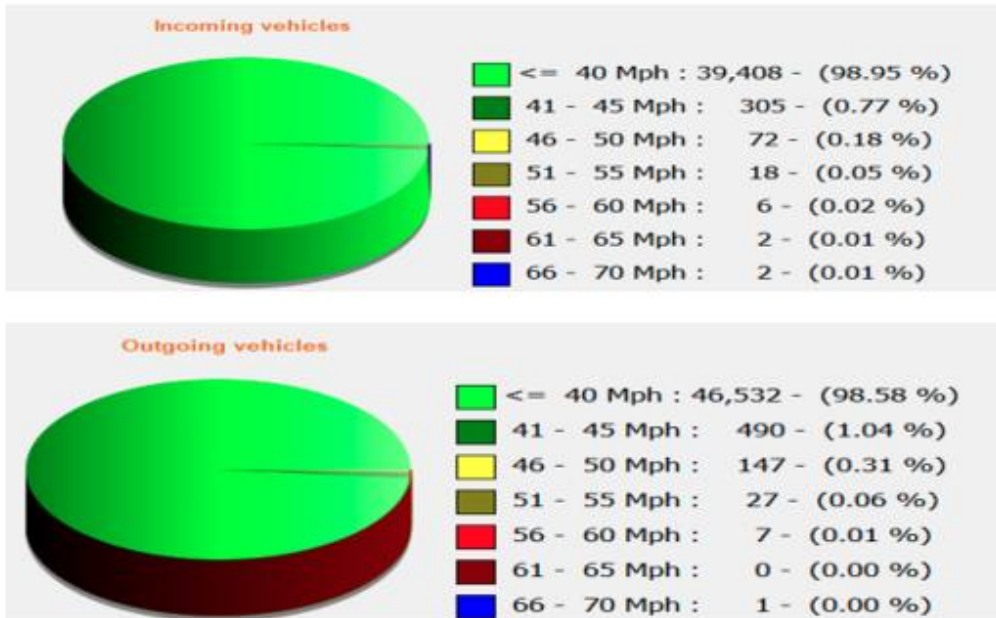
Signed: _____

Date: _____

LATEST SID DATA

Start date: Monday, April 28, 2025 10:30 AM
End date: Saturday, January 3, 2026 12:00 AM

■ Incoming vehicles 39826
 ■ Outgoing vehicles 47204



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

Local Elections – Potential Delay

It should be noted, following Robert’s report, that the local elections may be delayed. This information has been poorly received by residents. Cllrs emphasised the importance of parishioners having the opportunity to exercise their democratic rights at a local level. It was noted that a debate on this matter is scheduled to take place on 12th January. The Clerk will write to Robert and Deborah to formally communicate the Parish Council’s views on the proposed delay to the local elections.

The Thorpe Times will receive a £300 locality grant from Deborah for the colour printing of the magazine. This payment will be sent to the parish council in the first instance who will receive it on behalf of the Thorpe Times. The Parish Council will then transfer the amount of £300 to the Thorpe Times bank account.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

5. Clerk's Report

a. Schedule of items awaiting approval - APPROVED.

Items to be paid awaiting approval:		
Solar panel for SID (reimburse clerk - paid on CC)	£59.99	RTR Act 1984 s.72(1)
Mount Kit for Solar Panel (reimburse clerk - paid on CC)	£33.15	RTR Act 1984 s.72(1)
Ian Gooderham - Grass Cutting - 13 cuts in 2025	£780.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 & 10; PHA 1875, s.164
Parish Council Websites - domain renewal for old site	£14.40	LGA 1972, s.111
Village Hall hire 1 year	£120.00	LGA 1972, s.111
Clerks salary (quarterly)	£546.00	LGA 1972, s.111
HMRC - PAYE	£117.00	LGA 1972, s.111
Total expenditure	£1,670.54	

Reserved funds of £200 for PCC churchyard maintenance grant can now be paid also since church bank account is now back up and running.

b. Bank reconciliation to be approved - APPROVED.

6. Cllrs reports including police report.

- There were four burglaries in Brettenham in December on different dates. Thieves are targeting out-buildings, and the PC urges residents to be vigilant.
- Police report – since the last meeting there has been one crime reported and investigated in October and none in November. Last 12 months total = 4 crimes.
- The broken fence at Whitethorn Ley fence still has not been fixed after multiple emails. Clerk to email housing association again and will also ask Deborah if she can do anything to help.
- The Thorpe sign on the triangle near the church needs a clean – Cllr Squirrell and Cllr Gagen will arrange to do this in the coming weeks.

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

8. To consider and approve updated Data Protection Policy - APPROVED

9. To discuss the concerns raised by a resident regarding the flooding on Bury Road between Moat Farm and Moat Farm Cottage.

It was suggested that if the ditch on the opposite side of the road to Moat Farm could be cleared, this would potentially solve the issue. The Parish Council resolved to send a letter to S&P regarding this.

10. Items for consideration for inclusion on the next agenda. None.

11. To consider planning applications (up to and including any new ones submitted on or before 8th January which may not be listed here if submitted after agenda published):

a. For information:

Call for sites – Site in Thorpe has been rejected as 'Not Suitable. Site size too small'

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

b. New applications: None

12. To confirm the date of the next meeting – this will be 12th March 2026

Meeting closed at 20:36

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Report for Thorpe Morieux Parish Council by Robert Lindsay County Cllr 8.1.26

New Funding for Buses...

Suffolk has been awarded £27m of funding for bus services from the government's Local Authority Bus Grant (LABG), this can be used for routes, ticketing or improving infrastructure like bus stops and shelters. Previously known as the Bus Services Improvement Grant, communities in Suffolk will be able to suggest improvements in their area and 'bid' for funding via the Suffolk on Board website:

<https://www.suffolkonboard.com/>

Previous funding rounds in past two years were far smaller - of the order of only £5m – but parishes near you secured, with my support, extra services on the route between Sudbury and Bury via Lavenham and now a new daily peak-time route between Hadleigh and Stowmarket is in the offing thanks to the earlier round of money. Our area is still very underserved by bus routes so worth thinking about what extra services or extra bus stop facilities would best serve Thorpe Morieux residents.

And Sustainable Travel

The council has also been awarded just over £12m from Active Travel England to promote sustainable travel in the county. This can be used to invest in footpaths, cycle lanes and other infrastructure. Examples of how this funding has been used recently include pedestrian crossings in Bridge Street and College Road by Ipswich waterfront and improved cycle routes including from Ipswich Hospital to the waterfront area, Nacton Road in Ipswich, Main Road in Martlesham, and within Woodbridge as part of the town's current active travel project. Again, worth thinking about any improvements that could be made in Thorpe Morieux for pedestrians and cyclists.

Suffolk Conservatives to decide whether to delay county elections again

The county's Conservative leader has called another extraordinary meeting for next Monday, 12 January. This meeting is called to debate whether to delay county council elections for the second year running. The Government announced just before Christmas that it will do so where county councils request it. The original delay was agreed to allow for the mayoral election to take place at the same time as the county elections. But then the mayoral election was suddenly postponed by the government.

However, some of the funding attached to the mayoral office is due to be given the interim authorities next financial year and in future years. If this further delay is agreed, it would mean that new strategic funding would be given to Suffolk in years 2026, 2027 and 2028, based on a mandate last given by the public in 2021. My political group is lobbying the county council not to ask the government for any further delays in elections.

Protecting Suffolk's Rivers

At council on Thursday 11 December, my political group proposed a motion to strengthen protection for rivers in the county via the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Rivers which include the right to flow naturally, be free from pollution or contamination and the right to recover from environmental harm. Unfortunately, the Conservative group opted to vote against the motion, and it was not carried.

SEND progress still slow, finds scrutiny committee

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Date: _____

On Thursday 4 December, the council's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee convened to scrutinise progress on the action plan for improvement to Suffolk's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services. The action plan was developed following a poor inspection report from Ofsted and CQC in November 2023.

Council officers and Cabinet members for children's services joined the meeting and acknowledged that although progress had been made to clear the backlog of EHCPs and improve the waiting times to produce them and review them annually, many families had not yet felt the benefit of improvements the council and health partners were trying to embed.

Some issues, like the shortage of speech and language therapists, were a national issue rather than specific to Suffolk.

The government's Schools white paper, which is expected to include an overhaul of the SEND system nationally, is expected soon in 2026.

Members of the committee included education professionals and parents of children with special educational needs who expressed their concern that the council was still not providing a good enough service to Suffolk families.

More Warm Homes Grants funding

Residents and landlords are urged to apply quickly for £1.38million in Warm Homes Local Grant funding secured at the end of November last year as the funding must be allocated by the end of March 2026.

It is only available to those with household income at or below £36k pa. and homes with an EPC below C. (you can find this out when you apply).

You can find out more and apply using this link: <https://www.warmhomessuffolk.org/>

Winter warmth Packs

Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk council have teamed up to provide Winter Warmth Packs to help vulnerable residents stay warm and healthy at home even if they are struggling with rising living costs. Referrals are via community groups, food banks, GP surgeries or hospitals and each pack includes items such as thermal hats, gloves, blankets and gilets, tailored as necessary – for example, children's winter coats can be included. Although the Warm Homes Healthy People programme is delivered by East Suffolk Council, it is a county-wide programme.

Helping Older Drivers Stay Safe

Suffolk's Fire and Rescue Service are holding workshops at fire stations around the county to advise older people on how they can stay safe while driving. Nationally, one in four car drivers killed on the roads last year were aged 70 or over, and as a rural county, many residents are reliant on cars to stay independent. The sessions are planned at the following venues for 11am-1pm:

- Tuesday 13 January – Woodbridge Fire and Police Station
- Wednesday 14 January – Stradbroke Fire Station
- Tuesday 27 January – Wrentham Fire and Police Station
- Wednesday 28 January – Ixworth Fire Station
- Tuesday 10 February – Holbrook Fire Station

To book a free place, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/suffolk-fire-rescue-service-road-safety-86298781223?msoclid=1b58e35a30906c973b40f56031016d19>

Signed: _____

Date: _____

District Councillor's Report
Thorpe Morieux Parish Council
Thursday 8th January 2026

Locality Grant

I was delighted to be able to obtain a locality grant to enable the printing of the Thorpe Times. Would you be able to send me a copy, please?

Still time for you to have your say

Don't miss your ONLY chance to tell the government what sort of council you want from May 2028

If you want to remind yourself of the different options, they are on the consultation website , link below.

You only have until **Sunday 11th January** to respond. You can use this link: [Consultation on Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Norfolk and Suffolk - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Citizen Space](#)

We are expecting feedback from government in March.

News about Better Recycling

From June this year all councils in England and Wales must introduce a new household recycling system to meet the government's target of 65% recyclable waste by 2035. As well as the materials we already collect, we'll also start collecting the following from households directly:

- food waste (on a weekly basis)
- glass bottles and jars
- cartons e.g. Tetra Pak
- plastic bags, wrappings and film

Residents will receive the first information leaflet directly to their homes over the coming months to explain the new service. There will be an extensive communications campaign to ensure residents are confident about the changes.

We know that change on this scale will not be without challenges for some households, but we will work with anyone with exceptional needs on a case-by-case basis, to ensure we are adopting this government legislation in a way that works best for everyone.

Funded training sessions for local community groups

Community Action Suffolk is running four training sessions to help community groups build for the future. These sessions are supported and funded by Babergh

- an introduction to safeguarding
- understanding trustee roles and responsibilities
- essentials for launching a charity
- volunteer leadership

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Date: _____

If you know of an organisation that would benefit from this training, please [direct them to the Community Action Suffolk website to learn more and book a place](#)

Community Development Grants

Community Development Grants can be applied for towards revenue, capital or pre-project costs and activities. Grants are available to up to 100% of total project costs to a maximum grant of £10,000, for projects or activities taking place in 2026/27. Successful applicants will be required to deliver their project within 12 months of an offer being accepted.

Community Development Grants are currently **open for applications until 18 January 2026**, with one application window per financial year. Applications are assessed as part of a competitive application process, using a scoring matrix. [View the scoring matrix used to assess applications.](#)

More detailed information, terms and conditions and eligibility criteria can be found on our Guidance Notes. [View Guidance Notes.](#)

But before you start have a word with our grants team. Contact them first of all on BMSDCGrants@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Look for the big pink bin

Since we launched our small electricals recycling scheme residents across the two councils areas have recycled 14 tonnes of different broken appliances into our bright pink bins located in 12 places across the districts.

The nearest one to Preston St Mary is the Cock Inn car park in Lavenham.

Apparently, the average household has 31 broken or discarded small electrical appliances so hunt them out. Of course they might be repairable. Why not go to the Hadleigh Repair Café which operates every other Saturday from 10-12.30 in the Guildhall and find out if they can be saved. Email, assistant@hadleightwoncouncil.gov.uk to find out which Saturday.

All of this recycling has resulted in saving around 36 tonnes of CO2 equivalent.

Goodbye Christmas Trees

If you have a garden waste (brown) bin, during January you can leave your real Christmas tree beside your brown bin on collection day. Make sure you have taken all your decorations off.

Large trees - trees over 7ft tall, or that have a trunk thicker than 7cm - cannot be collected. Instead, they can be taken to a recycling centre. The nearest ones to Thorpe Morieux are at Crockett Road, Hadleigh, IP7 6RD (Off Lady Lane Industrial Estate) or Sandy Lane, Sudbury, CO10 7HG.

Hadleigh Young Farmers are collecting Christmas trees in aid of the East Anglian Air Ambulance charity for a minimum donation of £5 they will collect trees from Bildeston. Any donation goes to the Air Ambulance and the trees are chipped and put on the paths at Hollow Trees farm shop. Trees will be collected from **8am this Saturday, 10th January**. You can use this link to book: [Hadleigh YFC Christmas Tree Collection](#)

Signed: _____

Date: _____