

Thorpe Morieux Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 14th May 2026 at 7.00pm 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, Cllr Garry Russell, Cllr Ashley Simpson
Sarah Headland (Clerk)

Apologies for absence

Robert Lindsay County Cllr, Deborah Saw, District Cllr

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Cllr Pepper was elected as Chair

Proposed by Cllr Gagen

Seconded by Cllr Lee

Cllr Lee was elected as Vice-Chair

Proposed By Cllr Squirrell

Seconded by Cllr O'Brien

2. Signing of Acceptance of Office forms

Both Chair and Vice- Chair forms were signed in the presence of The Council.

3. Apologies and approval of absences:

- a. To receive declarations of interest: Cllr Pepper declared a non-registerable interest in planning application **DC/26/02020** and therefore will not be present for the vote or discussion.

Cllrs Russell and Gagen are on the Village Hall Committee.

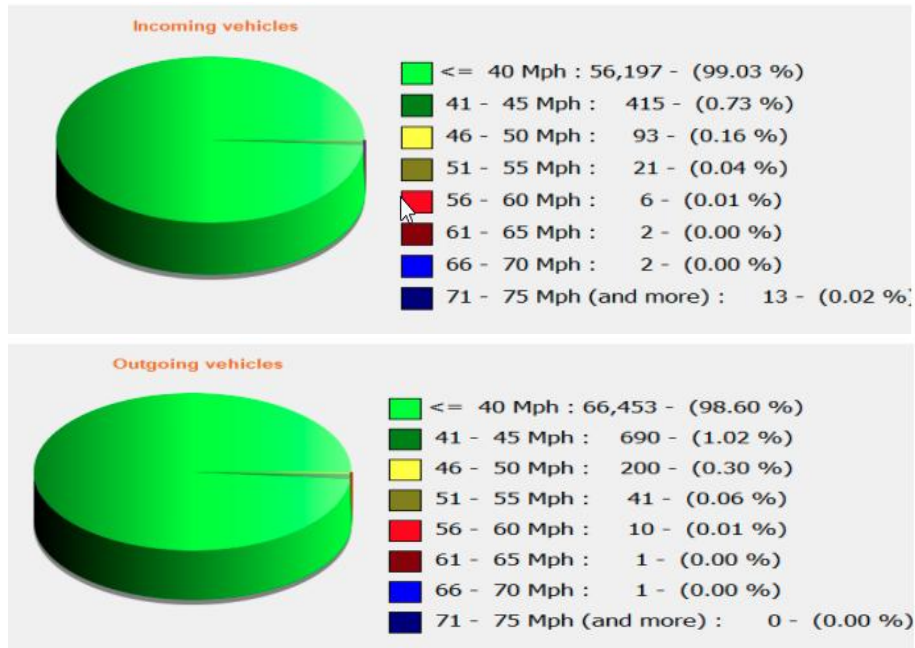
- b. To consider requests for dispensations - None
- c. To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests for the agenda under discussion - None

4. To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of the council held on 12th March 2026 are a true and accurate record – APPROVED. Proposed by Cllr Russell seconded by Cllr Lee.

5. To receive progress reports and for information:

- a. Footpaths and Public Rights of Way – Valley Farm Wood. Cllr Squirrell requested that S&P clear the trees; however, this was not carried out, and Cllr Squirrell has now completed the work. It was noted that the S&P footpaths around the village have since been cut and tidied. A note of thanks will be sent to S&P.
- b. Flooding on Bury Road near Moat Farm – no update
- c. Village Hall – charitable status and land ownership update – ongoing discussions with a solicitor, to update next time.
The follow VH documents - Safeguarding, GDPR, H&S, Equal ops, Data Protection and the H&S Risk Management Plan were presented to The Council and were all deemed to be up to date and robust.
- d. SID update – data and redeployment. New solar panel has got the wrong sized mount – will need to return and reorder correct one. Cllr Russell is contact with the supplier to resolve this.

Latest SID Data here (28/04/2025 – 04/05/2026):



6. Public participation session to include District and County Councillors Reports. All reports were received during APM.
7. Clerk's Report
 - a. Schedule of items awaiting approval - APPROVED
 - b. Bank reconciliation to be approved – APPROVED

Bank balance as of 14th May 2026	£5,222.90	
Items to be paid awaiting approval:		
Heelis and Lodge Internal Audit	£145.00	LGA 1972, s.111
Parish Council Websites - hosting and mailbox	£314.64	LGA 1972, s.111
SALC membership	£171.69	LGA 1972, s.111
Total expenditure	£631.33	
Available funds	£4,591.57	

8. Annual review and approval of PC Standing Orders and Financial Regulations - APPROVED
9. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/2026.
 - a. To consider and approve Certificate of Exemption for 2025/2026 - APPROVED
 - b. To consider and approve Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/2026 - APPROVED
 - c. To consider and approve Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026 - APPROVED
 - d. To consider and approve Accounting Statement 2025/2026 - APPROVED
10. To appoint an Internal Auditor for the next Financial Year 2026/27.
 The Parsh Council would like to appoint Heelis & Lodge for the year 2026/27
 Proposed by Cllr Russell
 Seconded by Cllr Squirrell

11. To consider and approve Internal Control statement and report 2025/2026 - APPROVED
12. To consider and approve the updated Asset Register 2026 - APPROVED
13. Cllrs reports including police report.
 - City Fibre have been carrying out works on Bury Road; however, concerns were raised regarding the standard of the reinstatement work. It is feared that this may lead to the development of potholes in the future.
 - Anglian Water pipeline – sadly, drought has had a detrimental effect on the recently laid topsoil. There is a six-year reimbursement scheme offered by Anglian Water.
 - Twenty potholes in the village are scheduled to be repaired within the next 8 weeks. There is a bad one along Wash Lane and at the bottom of green lane, but these are not on the schedule. Police report – Feb and March – one crime (anti-social behaviour) – total of eight crimes in last twelve months.
 - The Whitethorn Ley cutting regime will remain the same this year. It would benefit from the thistles being removed.
14. To consider the purchase of a reconditioned laptop for the Clerk (which will be solely for PC use) – approved in principle, Clerk to research both new and reconditioned laptops. It was agreed that it needs to contain the Microsoft Office suite. Clerk will obtain several quotes and then present these at the July meeting for a final decision. The laptop will be the sole property of The Council and will be added to the Asset Register, once purchased.
15. Items for consideration for inclusion on the next agenda – none.
16. To consider planning applications (up to and including any new ones submitted on or before 14th May 2026)

For information:

APPLICATION FOR PRIOR APPROVAL - AGRICULTURAL TO DWELLING - **DC/26/00455** - Valley Farm, Thorpe Green Lane. Proposal: Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed Change of Use of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to 3 Dwellinghouses (C3) - Class Q - approved

New applications:

DC/26/01783 - Application for Listed Building Consent - The Stone, Felsham Road – The Parish Council supports this sympathetic repair.

Cllr Pepper has now left the meeting

DC/26/02020 - Erection of a single-storey, one-and-a-half-width detached garage, Valley Farm – The Parish Council Supports this application.

17. To confirm the date of the next meeting – scheduled for Thursday 9th July 2026. This date was confirmed.

Meeting closed at 20:52