

THORNWICK ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Serving the parish of Thornwick St Mary, Mereshire

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held on Tuesday, 14 October 2025 at 7.30pm
in the Committee Room, Thornwick Village Hall, High Street, Thornwick St Mary

Present: Cllr M. Pearson (Chairman), Cllr D. Whitfield (Vice-Chairman), Cllr S. Iqbal, Cllr A. Foxton, Cllr D. Marsh, Cllr P. Hollis, Cllr K. Ashworth

In attendance: Mrs L. Carrow (Clerk & RFO), 3 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr R. Yeoman

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Yeoman.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Public Participation

A resident asked for an update on the churchyard boundary wall.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2025 were **RESOLVED** as a true record and signed.

5. Matters Arising

The structural engineer's report on the churchyard boundary wall had been received, recommending the rebuild of a six-metre section at an estimated cost of £2,800; this was to be factored into the budget discussion below. Data from the first month of vehicle activated sign operation showed a reduction in the 85th percentile speed on the monitored approach from 34mph to 29mph, an encouraging early result; it was agreed to review again in six months.

6. Planning

No new applications had been received.

7. Budget and Precept 2026/27

The Clerk presented a draft budget for 2026/27 setting out anticipated income and expenditure, including administration, insurance, grounds maintenance, hall hire, a playground replacement reserve of £2,500, a churchyard wall repair provision of £2,800, and the ongoing running costs of Speedwatch and the vehicle activated sign. After discussion, and taking into account a small contingency, the draft precept requirement was calculated at £39,500 (an increase from £36,000, broadly equivalent to a rise of a few pence per week for a typical Band D household). It was **RESOLVED** to approve the draft budget and precept figure of £39,500, for formal confirmation at the November meeting.

8. Remembrance Sunday

Arrangements were confirmed for the Remembrance Sunday service at St Mary's Church on 9 November. The wreath had already been ordered from the Royal British Legion; it was agreed the Chairman would lay the wreath on behalf of the parish.

9. Christmas Lights Switch-On

It was **RESOLVED** that the village Christmas lights switch-on be held on the Green on Friday, 5 December, from 5.00pm. Cllr Marsh agreed to coordinate with the Women's Institute (refreshments stall) and the school choir. The Clerk was asked to notify Mereshire County Council Highways of a short road closure/parking restriction for the evening.

10. Finance

Item	Amount
Balance brought forward	£47,397.98
Clerk's salary (October)	£412.60
HMRC - PAYE/NI	£58.40
Room hire	£15.00
Structural inspection report - churchyard wall	£180.00
Balance carried forward	£46,731.98

11. Correspondence

None requiring discussion.

12. Any Other Business

None raised.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 11 November 2025, 7.30pm, Thornwick Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed (Chairman) _____ Date: _____

Thornwick St Mary Parish Council — Clerk to the Council: Mrs L. Carrow — clerk@thornwickstmarypc-demo.org.uk — These minutes are draft until formally approved and signed at the next meeting of the Council.