

Thurcroft Parish Council

Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, Green Arbour
Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9DD

e: clerk@thurcroftparishcouncil.gov.uk

w: thurcroftparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held Thursday 31st July 2025

Present Councillors: B. Clark (Chair), M. Wordsworth, A. Winnsborough, S. Hydes, C. Walker, T. Murphy, R. Butler, H. Bell, D. Brown.

Apologies were received from Councillors: V. Burford, D. Oxley, C. McCartan, R. Ridler, J. Richardson.

Absent: None

Officers: S. Wilkinson

There were no members of the public in attendance

The meeting started at 6.30pm

FC166. To receive and consider reasons for absence

The Council noted the apologies received from V. Burford, D. Oxley, C. McCartan, R. Ridler, and J. Richardson.

FC167. To receive declarations of personal and pecuniary interest¹ for members and officers

There were no declarations of interest received

FC168. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)

None received.

FC169. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

No requests to grant.

FC170. To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26th June 2025

Resolved: - That the minutes be approved

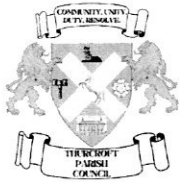
Voting: 9 councillors present. 5 councillors voted in favour, 4 abstained.

FC171. To identify any agenda items which may be considered following the exclusion of the press and public, due to the confidential nature to be discussed. Under Public Bodies 2 mem

Resolved: - Items 175, 178, 190, 191 and 192 are confidential.

FC172. Public Participation Session

Chairperson Initial:



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2 members of the public representing the British Legion present. Both want a meeting with Thurcroft Veterans, the council and the British Legion to discuss the memorial garden, and the current poppy policy. Meeting agreed by the council and will be arranged by the clerk.

FC173. To note the minutes for committee meetings held since the last ordinary meeting of the council

- a) **Finance and General Committee held on Thursday 24th July 2025**
- b) **Facilities and Events meeting held on 10th July 2025**

Both noted.

FC174. To receive an update regarding investing in the CCLA

Resolved: Clerk confirmed that the £750,000 CHAPs transfer has taken place on the 10th July and that the account now has a balance of £750,001.

FC175. To select an architect for the Gordon Bennett refurbishment

Cllr McCartan and A. Stockham have had meetings with 3 different architects regarding the remodel. All 3 quotes have been received.

Resolved:- Quotes were as follows:

Quote 1: £1680

Quote 2: £2500

Quote 3: £ 17800

Council have assessed each quote and quote number 2 from a non-profit that specialises in work for councils is the preferred quote.

Voting: 9 councillors present, all voted in favour.

FC176. To discuss the refurbishment of the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall

Resolved: - Clerk to arrange an initial meeting with the above winning architect to start the process. Council to have a full meeting after the initial meeting to discuss the wants and needs of the council for the refurbishment.

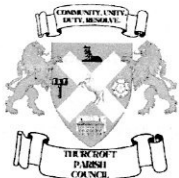
FC177. To appoint an internal auditor for 25-26

Resolved: - All voted In favour to keep Phil Parkin as the auditor for 25-26, but to reevaluate for 26-27.

Voting: 9 councillors present, all voted in favour.

FC178. To discuss the summer flowers and current horticultural contract

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Resolved: - Council noted that the summer flowers have not improved. Flower beds need weeding, and the entrance sign from Laughton to Thurcroft and a flower bed in Brampton still have not been filled. The council have decided to give KMAC the 90 days' notice to terminate the contract. Clerk to write to KMAC to confirm. Horticultural contract to be put to tender by the clerk.

Voting: 9 councillors present. All voted in favour.

FC179. To select an electrician to install security lights at the Gordon Bennett and the lights on Thurcroft MUGA

Resolved: Previous electrician took over 4 weeks to submit a written quote to the council and has been hard to get hold of. Trust in this electrician has diminished and a 2nd quote has been obtained. 2nd quote is for £1955, which is cheaper than the 1st quote. Council have decided to go with the 2nd quote from Avondale Electrical Solutions. Clerk to arrange the works.

Voting: 9 councillors present. All voted in favour.

FC180. To review the Gordon Bennett car park refurbishment

Resolved: - Resurfacing works have been carried out on the car park 15/7/25. Council thought that more of the carpark should have been included. Supplier have confirmed that the works carried out match the quote of 130m2. Going forward council will ask for a picture/diagram of works when asking for quotes, and clerk/deputy clerk to be present when receiving quotes in person. Council is happy to pay the invoice and look at the car park again after the refurbishment works have been carried out on the Gordon Bennett.

Voting: : 9 councillors present. All voted in favour.

FC181. To discuss the council taking on the planters on Thurcroft shop fronts

Resolved: RMBC are happy for Thurcroft Parish Council to taken on the wooden planters in front of the shops on Green Arbour Road. These planters are currently overgrown. Planters to be added to the horticultural contract. Council to investigate having these wooden planters instead of the flowerbeds on the opposite side of Green Arbour Road.

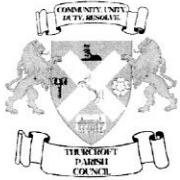
Voting: : 9 councillors present. All voted in favour.

FC182. To discuss purchasing dog poo bins and signs for Thurcroft park

Resolved: - Council confirmed we already have dog poo bins, and multiple bins that accept dog waste and no more are needed.

FC183. To discuss the outcome of the meeting with the police and RMBC regarding the hut on Thurcroft park

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Resolved: - A positive meeting was had with the council and RMBC 24.7.25 regarding relocating the hut. Proposed location attached as appendix 1. Hut to be moved in line with the skate park, and behind the MUGA //snowballs.funds.eclipses what 3 words location. Cameras can be placed on the corner of the Gordon Bennett, and on the far right light on the MUGA to give full visual surveillance on the hut. Clerk to arrange quotes for the relocation.

Voting: : 9 councillors present. All voted in favour.

FC184. To discuss the skatepark renovations budget

Resolved: The skate park has recently been painted graffiti style by Zoe Potter and looks fantastic. Cllr Oxley would like to pay Zoe for her efforts – Zoe volunteered for the job and did not submit a quote. We are unable to pay her but have suggested a £500 donation from the chairs budget as a thank you. Clerk confirmed that 25-26 does not have a budget line for the chairs allowance. Council voted to add a £1000 budget line for the chairs allowance that should have already been included, then pay Zoe £500.

Voting: : 9 councillors present. All voted in favour for both the £1000 budget line and the £500 payment to Zoe.

FC185. To approve purchasing 6 more grit bins for Thurcroft to prepare for winter

Resolved: Recreation and environment committee have identified that more grit bins are needed for the winter and requested 6 more bins. Locations will be decided at the next meeting 4.9.25. Council have approved 7 new bins, one of which is for Brampton-en-le-Morthern. Clerk to arrange the purchase.

Voting:- 9 Councillors present, all voted in favour

FC186. To review and update the current recruitment policy

Resolved: Recommended changes to the current policy are as follows:

Section 5 – shortlisting & interviews

Change four to six applicants to three to five

Interview panel to be clerk, chair OR vice chair, and 1 other councillor not 2 others

Minimum of 5 days' notice instead of 10 days currently for an interview

Recommendations all approved by full council

Voting:- 9 Councillors present, all voted in favour

FC187. To improve the social media interaction with the local community

Resolved: Cllr S Hydes wanted to discuss our low interaction rate on Facebook. Cllr S Hydes and Cllr H Bell to work with the deputy clerk in producing more social media posts for the council. Councillors will share links to our post, instead of sharing on different sites to increase traffic to the Facebook post/website. Cllr H Bell to produce a "share and like" competition post for our upcoming summer fair.

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FC188 To adopt the new civility and respect pledge

Resolved: Thurcroft Parish Council is the 1855th council to have signed up for the pledge which will be displayed in all our notice boards, in the chambers and on our website. We are a part of the cultural change within the local council sector, along with most of Rotherham's parish councils who are already signed up for the pledge.

Voting:- 9 Councillors present, all voted in favour

FC189 To update the working time policy to include bereavement leave

Resolved: Thurcroft Parish Council will include 1 week's full paid bereavement leave as standard, and an extra day to attend the funeral. Bereavement leave for a child under 18 years and over 24 weeks in gestation is 2 weeks. Any further leave would be self-certificated sick leave for one week, then a fit note would be needed from a Doctor for any further leave. Clerk to update the policy to reflect this.

Voting:- 9 Councillors present, all voted in favour

FC190 To discuss 25-26 pay rises for staff

Resolved: Finance committee approved and propose the following to full council:

Clerk to move from SLCC point 24 (£17.79 per hour) to 26 (£18.72) from 1st August to reflect the responsibility of the RFO role. Clerk to receive the pay rise (from point 24) backdated to 1/4/25, once SLCC agree the terms. Clerk to move to point 27 (currently £19.20) 1/12/25 after being in the role for 1 year, as per her contract.

Admin to be moved from minimum wage £12.21 onto NJC pay scale 2 at £12.65 from 1/8/25, and to be moved onto pay scale 3 after 1 year of service in February 26.

Lengthsman, cleaner and relief caretaker to be moved from NJC point 2 to 3 from 1/8/25 at £12.85 after 25/26 pay rise, and to receive the point 2 pay rise of £0.39 per hour back dated to 1/4/25.

Deputy Clerk to move from NJC point 7 to point 8 on 1/9/25 after 1 years' service, and to receive the point 7 pay rise of £0.42 per hour backdated to 1/4/25.

Caretaker to move from NJC point 2 to point 9 from 1/8/25 to reflect the responsibility he has for the Gordon Bennett memorial hall. This is an increase from £12.65 to £14.13 per hour, after the pay rise. Caretaker to receive the £0.39 per hour pay rise from point 2 backdated to 1/4/25.

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Voting:- 9 Councillors present, all voted in favour

FC191 To review current pay scales and discuss implementing a yearly pay scale review

Resolved: Finance committee to agree pay scale range for each job role within the council. Pay scale review to take place in March 2026 to decide if employee to receive a pay scale increase, as well as the yearly NJC approved pay rise.

Voting:- 9 Councillors present, all voted in favour

FC192 To formalize the appraisal process

Resolved: Clerk and chair to carry out a yearly appraisal with employees in March, to feed into the pay scale review above.

Voting:- 6

Councillors present, all voted in favour

FC193 To discuss antisocial behaviour at Thurcroft Cemetery

Resolved: There has been reports of anti-social behaviour at Thurcroft Cemetery with motorbikes and quad bikes on the land, evidence of drinking and smoking drugs and playing loud music. Suggestions from Rotherham crematorium are that we lock both gates and have designated opening hours, but this will impact other users of the cemetery. Council will for now monitor the situation to see if it improves after the letter has been sent.

FC194. To note accounts for payment and note contractual payments made under the clerk delegation

Payments and Receipts for June shown to council and noted.

Resolved: - That the payments and receipts be noted.

FC195. To note expenditure outside of the meeting between the Clerk and the Chair in line with Financial Regulation 4.1

Payment for the wallpaper from B&Q for £105.30, and for the buffet lunch at the 1st aid course for £77.20.

FC196. To receive and consider any grant applications received by the council

Resolved: Grant application received from Thurcroft Welfare Community Hub Bowling Club for £441 for the green to be maintained, which covers seed, fertiliser and top dressing for the green.

Voting:- 9 Councillors present, all voted in favour

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FC197. To receive an update regarding Whitestone solar farm

Resolved: - No new updates currently.

FC198. To discuss erecting a plaque to remember Frank Wright the founder of cadets in Thurcroft.

Resolved: - Council is not approving any plaques in remembrance due to council policy.

FC199. To receive an update from the clerk (information only)

- The container has been moved from the car park to behind the Gordon Bennett.
- The external audit is nearly complete, and no issues have been raised so far.
- Clerk has had meetings with the Library and the Willows school to build a better community working partnership with both.
- We have a meeting with Thurcroft Hubstars FC to discuss them renting Hangsman Lane on a long-term basis, and have confirmed that we own the land
- We have been selected for some minor works to be carried out by RMBC to replace the VAS outside the gallows pub at Laughton Common

FC200. To consider relevant planning applications as published on RMBC's weekly lists (40-47) along with any associated submissions received and any reports on previous planning applications/issues.

Resolved: - No new applications.

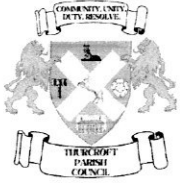
FC201. To notify the clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting

Nothing to add currently.

FC202. To confirm the date and time of the next ordinary meeting of the council on Thursday 25th September 2025 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber of the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall

The meeting closed at 20.29pm

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Appendix 1

Proposals to relocate the Thurcroft Youth Shelter (The 'Hut')



Location for the Youth Hut

Chairperson Initial:

[Handwritten signature]