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 24th September 2026

Present Councillors: B. Clark (Chair), D. Oxley, S. Hydes, A. Winsborough, T. Murphy, R. Ridler, R. Butler, C. Walker
Apologies were received from Councillors: M. Wordsworth, D. Brown
Absent: None
Officers: S. Wilkinson
There were no members of the public present
The meeting started at 6.30pm

FC576. To receive and consider reasons for absence
Reasons for absence for M. Wandworth and D. Brown were noted.

FC577. To receive declarations of personal and pecuniary interest for members and officers
S. Hydes, Item **FC597** and **FC611**

FC578. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)
None received.

FC579. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate
No requests to grant.

FC580. To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 30th July 2026 and *Thursday 10th September* 2026
Resolved: - That the minutes of Thursday 30th July and Thursday 10th September were approved
Voting: 8 councillors present. All voted in favour

FC581. 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 (admission to meetings) act 1960, S1(2)
None

FC582. Public Participation Session
No members of the public in attendance

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FC583. The Chair informed members that he had received the resignation of Councillor G. Beddows

The Council noted the resignation.

FC584. To note the minutes for committee meetings held since the last ordinary meeting of the council

a) **Recreation and Environment, Thursday 10th September 2026**
b) **Finance & General Committee, Thursday 17th September 2026**

Both minutes were noted.

FC585. To discuss the current flowerbeds in the parish

Resolved: The flowerbeds In Laughton common, Thurcroft and Brampton are looking beautiful and are in full bloom. The planters on the shop fronts have also been painted. The memorial garden at Brampton still has an issue with rabbits so not looking too good. Some flowerbeds with shrubs are looking ok. The committee recommend that the middle 2 flowerbeds in the garden are removed and grassed over, and all other beds have shrubs in them. Two 3-tiered flowed tubs to be installed next to the Brampton sign to be filled with flowers to replace the removed flower beds. A review of the current hanging baskets to be completed before next year's instillation also. Weeding in flowerbeds throughout the parish needs looking at. Environment meeting will look at the bigger picture at their meeting in February.

FC586. To discuss Brampton Memorial Garden

Resolved: Brampton would like to put a 1m high metal fence with gates around the entrance of their memorial garden to replace the wooden poles currently in situ. Committee recommended nothing to be done this year, but for the clerk to get costings and look at budgets in October, with a view to the works being considered for implementation next year.
Voting: 8 councillors present. All voted in favour.

FC587. To approve the purchase of 50 slabs to complete the renovation of the cremated remains plots in Thurcroft Cemetery

Resolved: that the purchase of the slabs be approved.
Voting: 8 Councillors present. All voted in favour.

FC588. To discuss having a letterbox to heaven in Thurcroft Cemetery

Residents have requested a post-box to heaven be installed in the cemetery. Clerk has obtained a quote from Granart for £790 net.

Resolved: Members considered the request for a 'Post-box to Heaven' and, following the number of requests received from residents, agreed to proceed with its installation.
Voting:- 8 Councillors present. 7 voted in favour. 1 voted against.

FC589. To approve a memorial bench in Thurcroft Cemetery

Resolved: Members approved the installation of the memorial bench in the cemetery. The Clerk will follow up with SHED regarding payment towards the associated works, which will be carried out by the Cemetery Warden. The owners of the bench will be advised that the bench is intended for the use of all cemetery visitors.
Voting: 8 Councillors present. All voted in favour.

FC590. To receive an update on the obelisks in Thurcroft Cemetery

Resolved: Members noted that artificial flowers are being placed in the vases beneath the obelisk. It was agreed that only fresh flowers should be placed in the vases, as there are insufficient vases available to accommodate individual arrangements. The Deputy Clerk will publish a notice on the Council's Facebook page to make residents aware of this requirement. It was further agreed that purchasers of memorial plaques be advised at the time of purchase that only fresh flowers may be placed in the communal vases beneath the obelisk.
Voting: 8 Councillors present. All voted in favour.

FC591. To discuss the upcoming skip day on the 24th October 2026

Resolved: that Members agreed to defer the proposed Community Skip Day until next year, to coincide with the Keep Britain Tidy campaign.
Voting:- 8 Councillors present. All voted in favour.

FC592. To approve the colour choice and design of the winding wheel at the entrance to Thurcroft

Resolved: that yellow be used on the spokes and mid blue be used on the remainder of the wheel.
Voting: 8 Councillors present. All voted in favour.

FC593. To discuss additional bulb planting in the village

Resolved: to accept the £2000 net quote from Hobsons Nurseries to plant 4000 crocuses, 2000 daffodils and 2000 tulips on Green Arbour Road, from the garage to the shops.
Bulbs to be planted in Thurcroft Memorial Garden with the help of the Willows School.
Cllr Oxley to provide the bulbs and contact the Willows School to arrange further.

Voting:- 8 Councillors present. All voted in favour.

RB

FC594. To discuss Christmas lights in Brampton, and Christmas trees for Brampton and Thurcroft

Resolved: that the purchase of a 10-foot Christmas tree for Brampton, a 16-foot Christmas tree for Thurcroft, an artificial tree for the entrance hall, and Christmas lights for all trees be approved, with a budget of £1,000.

Voting: 8 Councillors present. All voted in favour.

FC595. To receive an update from PKF on the 25-26 external audit

External audit has been received from PKF. Confirms internal auditor's conclusion regarding internal control objectives D, and other matters that the AGAR was amended. The notice of conclusion of Audit is already on the website and in the notice boards.

Resolved: Update received.

FC596. To instruct a new internal auditor for 26-26

Resolved: to accept a quote from **Elker Lodge Services Ltd** to be the new internal auditor at a cost of £550 pa.

Voting: 8 Councillors present. All voted in favour

FC597. To review the fees for regular users 26-27

Resolved: that council agreed that a new classification is created called production for Theatre group. This hourly rate fee will include the utilities instead of the utilities being separate. X-plore sport to be classified as Not for Profit – they are currently paying the Not for Profit fee. All Not for profit groups to be charged £10.00, one group to be brought in line. Sewing group to be charged the £5 per session for use of electricity. Rates to be reviewed again after the Gordon Bennett remodel. Remaining fees to remain the same.

Voting: 8 Councillors present. 7 voted in favour. 1 abstained.

FC598. To review the governance of the recent summer event

Resolved: The Committee reviewed governance matters. Members noted that all relevant incidents have been recorded by the Clerk in the Breaches Log. It was agreed that improved procedures need to be put in place, and the Committee noted that the Deputy Chair is developing an Events Pack, which will be shared with Members in due course.

FC599. To discuss redesigning the parish council website

Resolved: that the Clerk obtain quotations for the work on re-designing the website and report back to the Committee for consideration.

Voting: 8 Councillors present. All voted in favour.

FC600. To discuss having free charity stalls at the Christmas Fayre

Resolved: It was agreed that only charity organisations attending the Christmas Fayre for information and awareness purposes, and not for fundraising or sales, would be offered a free stall pitch. Two free charity stalls are available.

Voting: 8 Councillors present. All voted in favour.

FC601. To discuss having additional stalls outside, kitchen and bar inside at the Christmas Fayre

Resovled: It was agreed that the Miners Institute would operate the bar at the Christmas Fayre but would not provide tea and coffee. A separate coffee stall was approved at a charge of £15. Requests for a potato stall and a games stall were declined due to insufficient space outside. The Gordon Bennett Kitchen will be advertised for hire at a cost of £15. Applicants will be required to provide all relevant certificates and documentation before any booking can be confirmed.

FC602. To approve banner for the Christmas Fayre

Resolved: It was agreed to purchase two Christmas banners at a cost of £69 from KRT Prints. The Deputy Clerk was authorised to place the order, with a couple of Amendments: visit to Santa changed to **'Santa's Grotto'**. Craft Stalls to **'Stalls'. Date and time to be printed on the banner.**

Voting: 8 Councillors present. All voted in favour.

FC603. *To discuss the next parish newsletter*

Resolved: Cllr Butler will prepare a draft newsletter, including updates on progress with the park, the flowerbeds and the memorial garden fencing. Cllr Butler will also write the introductory message for the newsletter and present the draft newsletter to Members for approval.

FC604. To review the current communication within the council

The Committee considered current communications within the Council. It was noted that Councillors are encouraged to share Facebook posts published by the Clerk or Deputy Clerk and to avoid engaging in negative exchanges with members of the public on social media.

FC605. To approve the spend for Remembrance Sunday to include advertising, wreaths and buffet

DB

Resolved: that a budget of £500 be approved to cover advertising costs, the purchase of two wreaths, and items for the buffet, which will be organised by the Church.
Voting: 8 Councillors present. All voted in favour.

FC606. To approve the spend for selection boxes for the Christmas Fayre

Resolved: that a maximum expenditure of £350 be approved for the purchase of selection boxes. Clerk to purchase.
Voting: 8 Councillors present. All voted in favour.

FC607. To discuss the contingency plan for opening and closing the cemetery gates, including sick/holiday cover, antisocial behaviour and a point of contact

It was noted that a WhatsApp group will be established comprising the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Chair and three Councillors. The group will act as a point of contact and provide support to the Cemetery Warden should assistance be required.

FC608. To consider relevant planning applications as published on RMBC's weekly lists, along with any associated submissions received and any reports on previous planning applications/issues

Members noted the following: RB2026/1207, 75 Locksley Drive. RB2026/1253, Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall. RB2026/1020, Holmefield Common Lane.

FC609. To note accounts for payment and note contractual payments made under the clerk delegation

Contractual payments: Grass seed, sprayer and plastic wallets £48.72 Amazon, Lever Arch folders £4.47 Aldi, Recorded delivery postage for SRI bars £3.17

FC610. To note expenditure outside of the meeting between the Clerk and the Chair in line with Financial Regulation 4.1

Members noted a £20 payment for a sign at the cemetery, £204.58 for planning and £150 repair to the climbing frame in Laughton Common

FC611. To receive and consider any grant applications received by the Council

Resolved: That the Council consider the grant application from Toddler Group, which requested **£500** towards the purchase of equipment. The submitted costs, totalled **£444.58**, Members *agreed to award a grant of* **£444.58**, *with the funds to be paid directly into* Toddler Group's bank account.

Voting: 8 *Councillor present. 7 voted in favour. 1 abstained.*

FC612. To receive an update regarding the Whitestone Solar Farm

Members noted that all comments are now available to view online.

The Chair reported that a suggestion had been made for local parish councils to jointly fund support for objections to the proposed solar farm. Members agreed that further information was required before any commitment could be considered. No vote was taken.

FC613. To receive an update from the clerk (for information only)

- Decision on The Gordon Bennett planning application to be received before 23rd November.
- South Yorkshire Pension have all the information that they need, but no invoice received.
- Annual pay rise has been awarded to staff.
- Shaz Biggin has produced a report which will be shared when available.
- We have only one fee paying football team using the field.
- Football field has been marked and goalposts are up
- Poppy fencing to be installed in early October.
- Topsoil and re-seeding have taken place on most graves in the cemetery.
- All Christmas stalls have been sold and paid for

FC614. To notify the clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting

Non at present

FC615. To confirm the date and time of the next ordinary meeting of the council in the Council Chamber of the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall

29th October 2026 at 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 20.25pm

PB