

# THRILOW AND HEATHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in The Barbara Pointon Room , Thriplow Village Hall on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.30 pm

**Present** Jane Gough, David Easthope, Sonya Cooper, Lynn Driscoll, Tom Harvey, Fergus Ramsay, Richard Taylor, David Schneider

**District Councillor** - Richard Williams (part-time)  
**Parish Clerk** - Martyn Corbet  
**RFO** - Austin Flynn

**Members of the Public also present** - Angus Batey

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

None

## **2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

The minutes having been previously circulated were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

## **3. Matters arising from the above-mentioned minutes not otherwise covered by this Agenda**

Cllr Easthope referred to item 5 (d) which mentioned the possibility of grants for drainage work. The parish clerk explained that such an application required a Working Committee. The reference at the meeting to the replacement of the flag had been omitted but is being pursued. Cllr Easthope stated that the “Life Saving Ring” in Farm Lane has been installed.

## **4. Health & Safety Reports, Health & Safety and Environmental Issues**

### **a) Heath & Safety Reports**

There are still some reports outstanding but these will be held over until the March when all are due again

### **b) Damage to the footpath in School Lane**

The parish clerk outlined what has happened since the last meeting. He contacted Cllr McDonald who in turn contacted CCC Highways. Cllr McDonald received the response that the work required is not thought to be urgent. There have been several accidents which have occurred. One recent accident resulted an ambulance being called. Cllr Williams suggested we contact Great Shelford who have similar problems. The parish clerk suggested getting Pippa Heylings involved. This avenue will be pursued but anyone suffering an accident should contact CCC and complain.

Cllr Harvey referred to a wall at the pumping station in School Lane. He has some pictures. It is not clear who this wall belongs to the parish clerk will write to Anglian Water in the first instance. **MC**

## **5. Parish Recreation Grounds and Maintenance**

### **a) Work Required on Thriplow Rec**

Cllr Harvey has completed the removal of the bricks from the demolished wall. Cllr Taylor raised queries over payment and the fact that the amount due to Cllr Harvey was paid in advance of the work being completed. Cllr Harvey explained that he has had logistical problems and that he had not hired a skip. Cllr Taylor said that he thought all work carried out on behalf of the parish council should be monitored by a parish councillor. Any variation from a quote should be notified. Payment should be made after the work is completed. Cllr Gough said that in certain cases it was necessary to purchase materials in advance.

### **b) Work required on the Heathfield Open Space**

#### **i) Repairs to Gate and Fences**

***Cllrs Harvey and Schneider withdrew from the meeting. Each had submitted a quote for this work so could not participate.***

Two quotes have been received. One was from Cllr Harvey and the other was from a company connected to Cllr Schneider. Both parish councillors left the room so that a discussion could take place. The quote from Zion was for £2,986.34 plus VAT. That from Cllr Harvey was for £895. A proposal to go with the quote from Cllr Harvey was made by Cllr Gough and seconded by Cllr Easthope and agreed with one abstention.

***Cllrs Harvey and Schneider rejoined the meeting.***

### **c) Ditches in Lower Street and beside The War Memorial**

**26/1**

Cllr Easthope read out an email he has sent to parish councillors.

*I met Rab of Camdrain on the morning of 19<sup>th</sup> December to look at the drains across the green. We started at the ditch by the memorial and followed the route across the green to the ditch that starts beside what was Hursts front gates )(No. 4 The Green)*

*I explained that we had cleared the drain between the road gully in front of Pegg's Close down to the war memorial a number of years ago, however this appeared to be blocked up yet again. I also explained that the gulleys by The Green, on School Lane and just outside the shop, both drain to soakaway manholes with the overflow running into the ditch beside the memorial. It would appear that there is little or no movement of water in this ditch from where it is culverted across The Green and it is our assessment that this is culverted drain is blocked somewhere under The Green.*

*I did explain that Owen MacKay, on behalf of the parish council, had organised the clearing of this drain some years ago and this had involved exposing the culvert approximately half way across the green and clearing the blockage from this point.*

*Rab felt that the first move would be to sort out the drain across the green and take it from there. He proposed that the ditch at both ends ought to be cleared out with a digger and the spoil taken away. So far as the 'Hurst' end of the drain is concerned he felt that this ought to be dug out for, say, 5 metres beyond the end of the culvert and then, when both ends of the culvert were clear, to high pressure jet the culvert.*

*Rab asked whether we had pursued various authorities, the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, and anyone else we could think of and I said that I believed that we had on the last occasion but without success. He said that he would try again on our behalf to see if he could find anyone that would take responsibility from the parish councils' shoulders. He will set the ball rolling right away and asked me to contact him again in the last week or so of January, by which time he would hope to have some news, even if it was negative.*

*Doing the above work I don't think will solve too many problems and we may have to extend the investigation farther back up Middle Street, School Lane and indeed Lower Street before we have any real success*

Cllr Easthope will contact Rab during the last week of January

**DE**

**d) Goal Posts on Thriplow Rec**

Cllr Schneider confirmed he has installed the goalposts. The mother of the young man who requested the goalposts has sent thanks on his behalf. The parish clerk said that spares for the goalposts can be located in Terry Smith's garage.

**e) Damaged Hurdles Way Sign**

The parish clerk has been approached by Rowan Pashley about this. He will order a new one. **MC**

**6. Updates and Progress Reports on:**

**a) Wooded Area at Hurdles Way**

Cllr Harvey said that none of the trees need to be removed and some bark needs to put down when the area is cleared up. He will look into it further. Angus Batey who is a representative from Hurdles Way Management Co would like to be kept informed of progress.

**b) Application re 20 mph Speed Limit**

It was agreed that another application will be submitted

**c) Progress on Parking on the Ringstone Open Space**

Quotes have been obtained from Zion to do the work. These were read out by the parish clerk. They are £2,359.39 for Bird's Mouth Fencing and £3,216.38 for grass guarding. This will secure extra parking. It was proposed that the work go ahead by Cllr Richman and seconded by Cllr Gough and agreed. Cllr Richman said that it needs to be made clear that the extra parking will be available to all Ringstone residents.

**7. Tree Works & Tree Protection Orders**

**a) Tree Works**

25/1883/TTCA – 20 Church Street – no objections

25/1473/TTCA – Thriplow (CofE) Primary School

**26/2**

Cllr Gough pointed out that the notification sought to fell some good live tree. This seems unnecessary and will change the scene of the area. Cllr Williams pointed out that an objection can be filed objecting to the felling of the good trees. Cllr Gough also said that felling the trees would disadvantage neighbours.

**MC**

**b) Work required in respect of removal of the tree stump on The Green – Review of Quote**

The parish clerk explained that the work has been delayed due to the need to obtain permission to do landscaping work. This has been applied for. Hopefully once the permission has been obtained the work can be carried out. It is time this matter was finalised. The householder has been extremely patient for which the parish council is grateful.

Consideration was also given to tree work which is required at Hurdles Way. The parish clerk read out a quote from Zion to cutback the trees. The quote was to cutback the trees to the level of the buildings. Angus Batey suggested it would be better to remove some of the trees. Cllr Schneider will obtain another quote for this work. Once received this will be circulated for consideration. Leaving it until the next meeting will mean the work could not take place till the Autumn.

The trees forming the boundary of the Village Hall premises with the verge on School Lane need to be inspected. The parish clerk will instruct a Tree Surgeon accordingly.

**MC**

**8. Footpaths**

There are no other issues and the damaged footpath in School Lane was discussed earlier at 4 b) above

**9. Planning Matters**

**a) Planning Applications Received**

None

**Planning Decisions Received**

None

**b) Planning Appeals**

None

**c) Any Miscellaneous Matters**

The parish clerk stated an application has been received in respect of the erection of a second Potato Store and also a retrospective application in respect of the original Potato Store. This application raises several issues which are important to residents living at Heathfield. It also raises an issues with regard to a live badger sett nearby. The parish clerk will apply for an extension of time so that the application can be considered properly before a response is made.

**10. Financial Matters**

**a) Authority was given to pay the following**

Date	Payee	Amount	VAT	Total
13/01	BWP	288.00	0.00	288.00
24/01	Payroll	1,429.70	0.00	1,429.00
12/01	Parish Clerk's Expenses	126.24	0.00	126.24

**b) The following payments were ratified having been paid between meetings**

Date	Payee	Amount	VAT	Total
21/11	SSE – Street Lighting	54.76	2.74	57.76
24/11	Npower – Street Lighting	186.15	9.36	196.51
25/11	Ian's Homeworks - Final Roundabout Repair	370.00	0.00	370.00
01/12	David Schneider – Goalpost for Thriplow Rec	133.96	0.00	133.96
03/12	British Gas – Smithy Electricity	22.24	1.13	23.74
09/12	Tom Harvey – Bollard replacement	50.00	50.00	50.00

12/12	Bank Charges	4.25	4.25	4.25
19/12	Npower – Street Lighting	203.86	10.19	214.05
22/12	SSE – Street Lighting	44.21	2.20	46.41
24/12	Payroll	1,429.70	0.00	1,429.70
07/01	British Gas – Smith Electricity	22.11	1.10	23.21

**c) Credits Received**

The RFO reported that rent of £1.15 has been received in respect of the electricity cable under the Village Green and £50.00 from a resident in respect of damage to a bollard.

**d) Section 106 monies**

The S106 monies remain invested in accounts with Cambridge Building Society and Saffron Building Society.

These monies are utilised for maintenance purposes and appropriate amounts to cover such expenditure are withdrawn on an annual basis. In line with present economic conditions the rate of interest payable is in accordance with prevailing market rates.

**e) Setting the Precept for the forthcoming Financial Year**

It was proposed that the Precept will increase by 15.7% in the forthcoming. This represents an actual increase £7,301.76 and is based upon projections of figures made by the RFO and approved by the parish council. The increased was proposed by Cllr Gough and seconded by Cllr Schneider and agreed.

**f) Renewal of Cambridgeshire ACRE membership**

After due consideration it was agreed that membership of Cambridgeshire ACRE should not be renewed.

**g) Fowlmere & Thriplow News**

The parish clerk has circulated the Annual Accounts for 2025. No financial contribution is required from the Parish council. There will be a meeting to discuss a changeover in the printing process once the editor returns from holiday.

**11. Alarms for Vulnerable Adults**

The parish clerk read out an email he had received from Peter Duff requesting consideration for the provision of alarms for vulnerable residents from S137 monies. He also read an email he has received from the Fowlmere Parish Clerk explaining how their system works and its costs. The costs are quite considerable as is the administration work required. It was stated by some parish councillors that help from other sources is available. It was decided not to go ahead. It was agreed that Mr Duff be invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting if he wishes to discuss this matter further.

**MC**

**12. Reports (if any)**

**a) Neighbourhood Forum**

There was nothing to report. Meetings are not taking place. The question of a meeting with representatives from AVTech was raised. The parish clerk is awaiting a response from them. Cllr Williams said that there has been a meeting with Duxford PC. He will raise having a meeting between AVTech and this parish council the parish clerk will pursue this.

**MC**

**b) Village Hall Management Committee**

A new circuit is being installed in the kitchen and also CCTV. A request has been received to provide a hole for WiFi cables and a power point. These are to be considered at the next TVHMC meeting on Wednesday.

**c) Police and Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Gough has heard nothing

**d) District Council Information**

Cllr Williams has prepared a report a copy of which is attached. The report has been circulated.

**e) County Council Report**

Cllr McDonald has prepared a report a copy of which is attached. The report has been circulated.

**13. Incursion of Lorries onto Hurdles Way**

The parish clerk will contact BigDay Signs to obtain a quote for a sign saying “No Left Turn For HGVs”.

**MC**

**14. Problems with Lorries using Duxford Business Park**

**26/4**

The parish clerk has done some research and Cllr Schneider has some photographs. It is proposed to convene a meeting of interested parties to discuss matters further and probably write to the Chief Planning Officer.

**MC**

**15. Barrels discarded near Heathfield**

No progress has been made with this matter. The parish clerk will pursue it

**MC**

**16. Problems with Flooding in parts of the Village**

Nothing more has been received although Cllr Easthope mentioned some TEAMS meetings which take place. They appear to be really about flooding and not necessarily helpful to us. Anglian Water have done a lot of work and have more to do to eliminate the problem.

**17. Update on area on the Village Green outside of The Green Man**

The parish clerk has contacted the parish councils solicitors who have drawn up an agreement in terms agreed between the parties. This was sent to Thriplow Green Man Limited on the 5<sup>th</sup> November. No response has been received. It is hoped this matter can be finalised soon.

**18. Update of Standing Orders and various policies**

Acceptance of the amended Standing Orders was proposed by Cllr Easthope and seconded by Cllr Richaman and agreed. Cllr Taylor raised some comments about the draft Complaints Procedure . This has yet to be finalised when the parish clerk has drawn up a Complaints Form.

**MC**

**19. Correspondence**

A list of correspondence received has been circulated to parish councillors

**20. Preparation and Distribution of the Annual Parish Meeting Leaflet**

The parish clerk will prepare the APM Leaflet and get it printed. He has already contacted outside contributors and asked for their reports. Parish Councillors preparing reports are:

Cllr Gough – Chairman and Police & Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Richman – Heathfield

Parish Clerk – Village Hall and Trees

Parish Clerk & Cllrs Harvey and Schneider – Health & Safety

**All reports must be received by 28<sup>th</sup> January to give plenty of time for preparation, printing and distribution. All parish councillors will participate in distribution.**

Cllr Easthope asked for a reminder to be included in the leaflet concerning Riparian Ownership Responsibilities for those whose properties border Water Courses.

**21. Date of next meeting**

9<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Annual Parish Meeting - 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

..... Chairman

..... Date

**26/5**

**Parish Council Report January 2026**

**Cambs County Council**

**IWM Duxford Avtech Plans 2026**

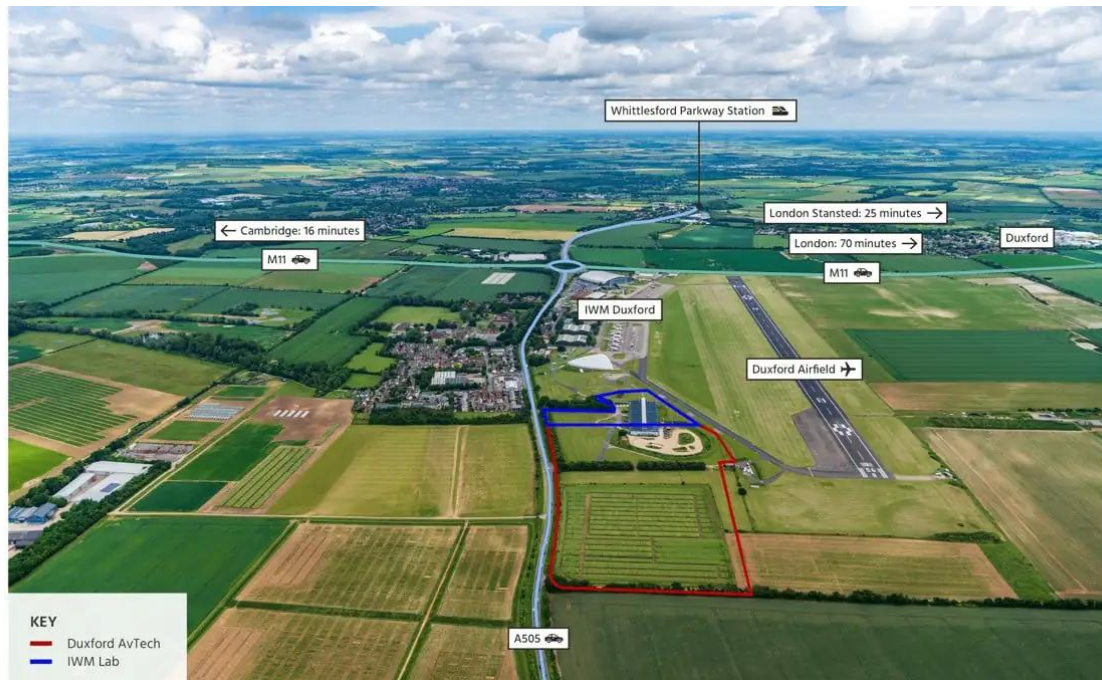
A new AvTech project is set to be submitted to South Cambs in the Autumn of 2026. So far we know that it is planned a £162m investment and 1,200 jobs over a period of 3-5 yrs.

Duxford AvTech is planned to be the UK's new home for the research and development, prototype testing, certification and manufacture of new low- and zero-carbon advanced air mobility technologies.

The technologies that will be developed include electric, hydrogen and hybrid-powered aircraft, alternative power sources, new materials, and associated technologies and services to shape future air transport.

It is a joint project between Gonville & Caius college and the IWM.

Key local concerns will be the air traffic and road traffic entering and exiting from the A 505.



Caption: High Level Location Drawing of the Site Courtesy of Henry Boot Developers.

### County Council Budget

Councillors on the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee considered the next stage in the development of the Council's draft business plan and budget proposals for 2026/27.

The Committee also considered the emerging new vision for the authority for 'a healthy, fair and sustainable Cambridgeshire', supported by three ambitions which would shape all future business planning activities.

The County Council must set a legal budget to deliver public services for Cambridgeshire, including social care, highways, education, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), waste disposal, public health, child protection, libraries and community services.

The draft business plan and budget paper discussed at committee sets out the latest financial position for the year ahead (2026-27), projecting growth of £31 million in the 2026-27 revenue budget – a 5.4% increase on 2025-26 – enabling the council to continue investing in key services. This would give the council a net budget of just over £600 million in 2026-27, and a gross total of about £1.2 billion once schools and services funded by specific grants from Government are included.

To develop a legal and balanced budget for 2026-27 and deliver the revised ambitions, the council has had to identify £40 million through a combination of savings or extra income.

Proposals set out at the committee mean that a £6.4m gap now remains, which will have to be closed before the Council sets its final business plan and budget in February 2026.

The draft business plan and budget proposals for 2026-27 will now be scrutinised by service and policy committees throughout January. Any feedback will then be presented to the

The business planning and budget consultation runs until 7 January 2026, with results reported to the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee on 29 January 2026.

You can find out more and have your say on our website.

You can read the full business plan and budget proposals on our website.

<https://yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business-planning/business-planning-26-27-phase-2-engagement/>

The meeting was live streamed on the council's YouTube channel.

## **District Report January 2026**

### **Cllr Richard Williams**

#### **Local Plan – Consultation Open**

The consultation on the draft Local Plan has opened. It close on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The Plan sets out where new homes, jobs, green spaces, infrastructure and community facilities may be built across Greater Cambridge over the next 20 years. The draft proposes meeting demand for about 50,000 new homes (including roughly 37,000 already planned) and anticipates 73,000 additional jobs. It includes possible expansion of towns like Cambourne, new neighbourhoods, employment sites (including logistics and research), and enhanced transport and nature-space provision. As noted in my November report, there are several areas of the report that are significant for the village – e.g. the proposed new Town on the A11.

The link to the consultation is here: <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan>

#### **Local Government Reorganisation**

As expected, S Cambs Council has made a submission to the Government proposing a new Council comprising of South Cambs and Cambridge City, and one for East Cambs, Hunts, Fenland and Peterborough for the local government report. As noted in my November report, other Councils have submitted alternative proposals. As you have probably seen in the news, the Government has proposed postponing elections in 2026 in areas undergoing Council reorganisation, where councils ask for postponement to 2027. I didn't support postponing elections in South Cambs and it has now been confirmed that elections will go ahead.

#### **AvTech at the IWM**

In December I attended a meeting with the developers of the AvTech proposal along with other local councillors. We all stressed the importance of traffic management on the A505, and the proposals seem to be developing to take account of this. I know that the developers are planning to meet with the PC in the coming months.

#### **Government Consultation on Changes to National Planning Policy**

The Government has launched a public consultation on a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), alongside a wider package of proposed planning reforms.

Residents can view:

- The Written Ministerial Statement issued by the Government
- The Oral Statement delivered to Parliament
- The Government press release
- The full consultation documents

The consultation is open for responses until 10 March: (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>).

Key proposed changes include:

- The Government has decided not to introduce statutory National Development Management Policies (NDMPs) at this time. Instead, national planning policy changes are being made through the revised NPPF, with the option to introduce statutory NDMPs in the future if required.
- The NPPF has been significantly restructured, with a new format and layout compared to previous versions.
- A number of new national planning policies are proposed, including:
  - A permanent presumption in favour of development in suitable locations, particularly in urban areas.
  - A “default approval” approach for housing near railway stations, including:
    - Development around stations within existing settlements
    - Development around well-connected stations outside settlements, including on Green Belt land
    - Proposed minimum densities of 40 dwellings per hectare around all stations, and 50 dwellings per hectare around well-connected stations.
  - Measures to increase density in urban and suburban areas, such as redeveloping low-density sites, corner plots, upward extensions, and infill development, including within residential gardens.
  - Additional support for small and medium-sized housing sites, with a new category of “medium development” (10–49 homes) aimed at reducing costs and regulatory burdens for small and medium-sized builders. This may include exemption from the Building Safety Levy.
  - Proposals to exempt very small developments (up to 0.2 hectares) from Biodiversity Net Gain requirements, alongside simplified rules for small and medium sites that are not exempt. Further consultation is also proposed on potential exemptions for certain brownfield residential sites.
  - £8 million of new funding for local planning authorities to help speed up the processing of major residential planning applications after outline permission has been granted. This funding will be targeted at authorities with high levels of development activity and strong growth potential, with £3 million allocated to London authorities.

The Council will be reviewing the proposals in detail and will submit a formal response to the consultation. Residents are also encouraged to review the consultation documents and submit their own comments directly to the Government before the deadline.

### **Weekly Food Waste Collections**

Weekly collections of food waste will begin in parts of South Cambridgeshire in January – rolling out collections to all households by the end of 2026.

The service will be extended across Greater Cambridge in phases throughout the year. All households will receive a letter with full details a few weeks before the service begins in their area to help ensure they are prepared.

Before their new collections begin, households will receive a new outdoor caddy to put out for collection at the kerbside with their wheelie bins each week, as well as a smaller indoor caddy to collect food waste in the kitchen. Most flats will share an outdoor wheelie bin in their bin store to empty their indoor caddy into. The weekly food waste collections will take place on residents' usual bin days.

Households in the first phase of the roll-out which will start in January will have received a letter before Christmas letting them know when to expect delivery of their caddies and the date that their weekly collection service will begin.

Thriplow and Heathfield are in the first and second waves of the roll out, so collections are likely to cover the whole of the Parish in the first half of the year. You can check your waste collection timetable at [www.greatercambridgewaste.org](http://www.greatercambridgewaste.org) by inputting your postcode.

### **Laptops and Training for Young People and Older Residents**

On 2 December 2025 S Cambs DC announced a new project to tackle digital exclusion: £21,000 is allocated to provide laptops to disadvantaged young people in local schools, and £5,000 to support digital-skills training for older residents in sheltered housing. The scheme is delivered in partnership with the charity Cambridge Online. The aim is to help young people access education and opportunities, support older residents to get online safely, and ensure no one is left behind by the “digital revolution”.

### **Design & Construction Excellence – call for Entries for 2026 Awards**

On 3 December 2025 the Council (via Greater Cambridge Shared Planning) opened submissions for the Greater Cambridge Design and Construction Awards 2026. These annual awards recognise high-quality building projects across the region — whether new builds, renovations, neighbourhoods, engineering/sustainability works, or craftsmanship — as well as individuals (young professionals, apprentices, site managers). Projects of any scale can enter; winners highlight best practice in design, sustainability, engineering, community value, and construction quality. Entries for project awards close 9 January 2026; for people awards, 20 February 2026.