

The Thoburn Land Trust.

Minutes of a meeting of the Thoburn Land Trust held on Wednesday Thursday 17 July 2025 at 9.20pm in Rolvenden Village Hall

Present: Councillors: A. Hinge (Chair), Cllrs. Back, Balch, Bryant, Geerts, Gilchrist

In attendance: Louise Goldsmith, Parish Clerk.

1. Apologies for absence:

An apology for absence was received from Cllrs. Green and Walker and the reasons for absence were accepted.

2. Declarations of interest:

None.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19 June 2025 were approved.

4. Finance

a) To receive information on the accounts

The Unity Trust Account balance as at the 17 July 2025 was £11,415.06

5. Land Registry

The Clerk advised that it could be several months before the parkland, title number K806834, is correctly registered. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council, as the Corporate Trustee, should discuss with Wellers about taking action to enforce the restrictive covenants in the car park.

6. Charity Commission

The Clerk has received correspondence from the Charity Commission advising that they have looked at the application to see if they can make an early registration decision. As that was not possible, the application is now waiting in a queue for a more detailed review. Due to the high demand for registration services the Land Registry has advised that this could take up to 16 weeks. A Case Officer will then assess whether they need more information to enable them to decide if the Thoburn Trust can be registered as a charity.

7. Future use of the Land

a) Kentish Stour Partnership

Cllr. Hinge met with Emily Davis from the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership on the 2 July 2025 to consider whether the existing pond on the Thoburn land could qualify for grant funding. Cllr. Hinge advised that unfortunately the pond does not

qualify for District Level Licencing Scheme for remediation works but useful advice was given on what could be done to enhance it.

b) To receive a report from CLM and the next steps

CLM have advised that the report on a desk-based Constraints and Opportunities Assessment and a site visit to confirm habitat classifications will be sent to the Clerk next week. The Clerk will find out what the next steps are and when the consultation is likely to take place.

c) To discuss quotes to replace a section of the fencing

Given the above possibility of grant funding for fencing reopening in the summer the Clerk had obtained two quotes to replace the fencing on the southerly section. It was agreed to accept a quote from Simon Mathews Fencing which will be used in any grant application.

d) RPA Capital Grant Scheme

The Clerk has been advised that the RPA capital grant scheme reopened last week. The Thoburn Trust might be able to claim a fixed rate sum of approximately 50% of all the proposed gates and fences. It was acknowledged that this grant might not be available in the future. Members agreed to take up an offer from CLM to make the application for RPA grant funding. It was agreed that, if possible, an application should be made to fence the whole perimeter scheme to include the internal hedges being double fenced. In addition, it was agreed that the application should include applying for funding for some sensible pedestrian gates and tree planting. It was agreed that the planting of disease resistant elm trees could be a good option. It was also noted that Emily Davis from the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership has suggested that funding for hedgerows and fencing could be available from the Lund Trust. It was agreed that Cllr. Hinge and the Clerk should meet with CLM on site to discuss the requirements and the grant application.

8. Date of the next meeting:

Thursday 21 August 2025 after the Full Council Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed:

Date: