

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARMTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ARMTHORPE COMMUNITY CENTRE, WELFARE PARK, CHURCH STREET, ARMTHORPE, ON THURSDAY, 06 OCTOBER 2026

PRESENT:

Chairperson: Councillor C Brodhurst Brown.

Councillors: A Barrington, A Bradley, C Head, T Needham, A Nicholas, E North, C Parry, and M Phillips.

City Councillor: C Marriott

Clerk to the Council: S Youngman.

Forty members of the public.

NOT PRESENT: Councillors C Trewick and M Walton

Before the meeting started Councillor C Brodhurst read a statement and issued her resignation, this was followed by the resignations of Councillors A Barrington and C Head. All three members left the meeting.

The remaining members of the Council were asked to nominate a Chair to enable the meeting to proceed. The meeting was briefly adjourned to enable Council members to discuss the matter.

Council members returned to the meeting; Councillor A Nicholas thanked the members of the public for their patience. Council members were asked to nominate a Chairperson.

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor T Needham for the duration of the meeting.

64 ITEMS TO WHICH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM

RESOLVED: None

65 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

RESOLVED: None

66 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors L Bradley, M Jackson, L Monks and City Councillor N Pritchard.

RESOLVED: To approve the reasons for absence.

67 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 01 SEPTEMBER 2026

Deferred.

68 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

Deferred.

69 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

a. Mercel Avenue Allotments: Deferred.

b. Rands Lane Burial Ground.

- i. Appointment of members to deal with the complaints received from members of the public.

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillors A Bradley, T Needham, A Nicholas, C Parry and M Phillips to review the complaints.

c. Play Park Project: Deferred.

d. Website: Deferred.

70 PLANNING: Deferred.

71 FINANCE: Deferred.

72 CITY COUNCILLOR UPDATES: Deferred.

73 POLICIES: Deferred.

74 CORRESPONDENCE: Deferred.

75 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Deferred.

76 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS: Deferred.

PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public complained about the process of checking memorials and asked how the contractor measures the weight applied to memorials.

Councillor T Needham provided an overview of the meeting held on 01 October and advised that an investigation into procedures and policies is taking place.

A member of the questioned who would be paying for the memorials to be reinstated. Members of the public were advised that families are responsible for paying a qualified stonemason to reinstate memorials.

A member of the public stated that the stonemason should have to pay to reinstate the memorials.

A member of the public recommended fencing of the area of the burial ground where the memorials have been laid down.

A member of the public asked in testing will continue. Council members confirmed testing would continue once a review has taken place.

A member of the public questioned why the burial ground wasn't closed whilst the work was carried out.

A member of the public questioned whether the stonemason filmed the work being carried out.

A member of the public advised that he had cleaned and leant on a memorial, whilst doing this there was no movement.

A member of the public advised that a 25kg weight should be applied to test the stability of memorials.

A member of the public advised that they had leant on a memorial and had experienced no movement.

A member of the public advised that they visit the burial ground regularly and commented about memorials being laid down that were not leaning.

A member of the public queried the tender process for the contract.

A member of the public questioned whether all four members of staff carrying out the work for the contractor are qualified.

A member of the public requested to see a copy of the risk assessment carried out by the contractor.

A member of the public queried the policies and procedures followed by the contractor/Council and complained about personal property without notification.

A member of the public reported the contractor to be over zealous when checking memorials.

A member of the public referred to the quote provided by the contractor.

A member of the public referred to government guidelines for checking memorials and advised that memorials should only be laid down in case of extreme danger.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

DRAFT