

**MINUTES OF  
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
FACILITIES COMMITTEE  
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE  
27TH AUGUST 2015**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. P. English, M. McCoy, T. Unsworth,**

**APOLOGIES**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Mrs. P. Maddison</i>	<i>Work Commitments</i>	<i>Approved</i>

**PUBLIC**

**No members of the public were present.**

***Meeting commenced: 10:00am***

**62. Draft Minutes of the Meeting 28th July 2015**

The draft minutes of the meeting held 28th July 2015 were approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

**63. Progress Report of the Parish Clerk**

The Parish Clerk reported on the following issues:-

**Allotment Tenants Survey** – 51 survey forms had been issued 18 of which had not been returned. 29 tenants were in favour of the annual rents should be the same even though some are bigger than others and 4 were in favour of rents being based on the actual size of the plot.

**Attempted Break-in at Cemetery** – Thieves had removed a number of tiles from the roof but had not gained entry to the premises. Arrangements had been made to undertake repairs as soon as practicable.

**Vandalism at Welfare Park** – The “dugouts” recently restored by the football teams had been demolished and windows in the facility were constantly being attacked. The teams had been advised of the need to repair/rebuild the dugouts if they deemed it necessary and arrangements were being made to have the windows bricked at Parish Council expense to prevent further damage.

**Future of Depot Site** – A meeting had been held with an officer of D.C.C. to discuss the situation and a number of proposals had been made in an effort to resolve the situation and prevent “Notice” being served on the Parish Council to vacate the land. As the matter was ongoing progress reports would be made to members as it developed.

**Youll House Furniture** -- In accordance with an earlier decision of the Parish Council the (unrequired) furniture and equipment had been donated to other organisations in Thornley. Steps were being taken to dispose of remaining items by the most appropriate method.

Sure Start would also be advised to remove their toys and other items (in storage) should the Parish Council subsequently decide to demolish the premises.

**Grounds Maintenance** – A temporary assistant gardener had been employed to assist with the burials and other operations over the summer months.

**Horses on Parish Land** – Although some difficulties had been faced in determining the ownership of a pony tethered on Parish land without permission this had now been resolved and an application was awaited.

**Picnic Tables** – In accordance with an earlier decision of the Parish Council 2 picnic tables had been ordered and delivered. Unfortunately they were faulty and had had to be returned to the supplier. It was anticipated that replacements would be delivered on week commencing 31st August 2015.

**Resolved:** *That the report be received.*

**64. Village Centre – Phase II Development**

In order to progress the Phase II development permission was sought to make application(s) to appropriate agencies for funding the appointment of a firm to undertake a Feasibility Study.

It was suggested that an application also be made to Durham County Council to earmark 106 funds for the same purpose.

**Resolved:** *That permission be granted.*

**Action:** *The Parish Clerk to arrange.*

**65. Youll House Demolition**

In accordance with an earlier decision of the Parish Council a quotation totalling £8,500 to demolish the premises had been obtained.

The Parish Clerk advised that should the Parish Council decide to proceed with the demolition it would need to comply with Standing Order for Contracts by placing an appropriate advertisement in the local press to give all suitable firms the opportunity to undertake the work. This was because the estimated cost exceeded £5,000.

**Resolved:** *That the premises be demolished but in view of its nature, the decision referred to the full meeting of the Parish Council for endorsement.*

**Action:** *The Parish Clerk to agenda as appropriate.*

***Meeting terminate: 10:40am***

**Date of next normal meeting of the Facilities Committee to take place in Thornley Village Centre on Tuesday 29th October 2015 commencing 10:00am**