

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE
29TH OCTOBER 2015**

PRESENT

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

PUBLIC

No members of the public were present.

Meeting Commenced: 11:00am

98. Draft Minutes of the previous Meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held 27th August 2015 were approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

99. Parish Precept 2016/17

The Parish Clerk reported that it was appropriate at this time to consider the budget for 2016/17 and set the precept to be raised via Durham County Council. The Precept for 2015/16 was £133,197 plus an LCTSS grant of £19,095.

Examples provided by Durham County Council of possible precept amounts and how they would impact on budget proposals were tabled.

Members were mindful of the need for financial constraint but considered that an increase of 1.99% would be required to meet increased demand on services even though this may necessitate expending from reserves.

The Precept required would be £141,905 (an increase of £8,708) plus an LCTSS Grant of £13,418 (a reduction of £5,677).

This would equate to an increase equal to a £2.32 per annum on Band "D" properties.

Resolved: *That the Parish Precept for 2016 be increased by 1.99% to £141,905 plus LCTSS Grant of £13,323 and that Durham County Council be advised accordingly.*

100. Review of Welfare Park Hire Fees 2016

The Parish Clerk reminded members that it was appropriate at this time to consider if hire charges should be increased on 1st April 2016.

Resolved: *That there be no increase in the Welfare Park hire fees for 2016.*

101. Review of Allotment Rents 2016

The Parish Clerk reminded members that it was appropriate at this time to consider if allotment rents should be increased on 1st April 2016.

Resolved: *That there be no increase in allotment rents for 2016.*

102. Review of Cemetery Fees & Charges 2016

The Parish Clerk reminded members that it was appropriate at this time to consider if Cemetery Fees & Charges should be increased on 1st April 2016

Resolved: *That there be no increase in Cemetery Fees and Charges for 2016.*

103. Request for Donation (REF: 7637)

Thornley Residents Group requested a donation of £50 to cover the cost of providing a Bugler at the Annual Remembrance Day Service.

Resolved: *That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £50.00*

104. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

Resolved: *That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk makes arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.*

105. Additional Urgent Items of Business

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) Act, 1985, section 100B (4)(b), the Chair following consultation with the Proper Officer, agreed that the following items of business not shown on the agenda, be considered as a matter of urgency.

106. Request for Donation

Thornley Village Centre Management Group requested a donation of £350.00 to provide attractions etc., to coincide with the Parish Council's switching of the Christmas tree lights ceremony on 1st December 2015.

Members were mindful to accede to the request but it was pointed out that this could not be approved at this meeting because of the rules governing expenditure of items not shown on the agenda.

Resolved: *That this be deferred for formal approval at the next meeting of the Finance Committee.*

Meeting terminated: 11:30am

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held in Thornley Village Centre, High Street, Thornley on Tuesday 7th January 2016 at 11:00am.