

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE
30TH OCTOBER 2014**

110. Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA 2013).

The Parish Clerk reported that the National Training Strategy had developed a customised qualification for our sector, the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA 2013). This core skills qualification being awarded to those who submit a portfolio of evidence, within 24 months of registering, demonstrating the skills they have in local council administration.¹

Councillor J. Luke sought approval to enrol on the course starting in December 2014 at a cost to the Parish Council will be £190.

Whilst members applauded Councillor Luke for expressing a desire to undertake the course they felt that it would be premature for him to do so as the review of the refreshed portfolio won't be available until early April 2015 at the earliest.

Members were minded however to pay for the course in the future if the revised portfolio and qualification would benefit the Parish Council.

In the meantime Councillor Luke be advised to attend other training events whenever possible in order to gain more insight into the operations and procedures of Local Government and in particular Parish Councils.

Resolved: *That finance be approved in principal for Councillor Luke to enroll on the CiLCA course following the portfolio review if it could be demonstrated that certification would benefit the Parish Council.*

111. Hand Dryers - Thornley Village Centre

As Durham County Council did not install any hand drying facilities in the toilets, a quotation amounting to £900.00 had been obtained to install the electrical wiring required.

Subsequently members would need to determine the make and model of hand-dryers that they wish to purchase and install at additional cost.

Resolved: *That expenditure of £900 be approved.*²

¹ *Further details were provided for information.*

² *See Minutes 120 and 134*

112. Allotment Rents 2016 onward.

In accordance with Council policy and with the aid of computer software, the Parish Clerk gave a visual presentation of the effects of calculating allotment garden rents on the size of individual plots based on geographical digital mapping data available from Ordnance Survey.

It was suggested that if the methodology was approved all allotment holders be given as much notice as possible of the changes in order that they could have their allotments measured if they disputed the findings.

The new rent structure would become operative from April 2016.

Resolved: *That the presentation be given to officers from the Allotment Association before a decision is made on this matter.*

113. Request for Donation

The Thornley Village Centre Management Group made a verbal request for a donation toward the cost of organising the official opening of the centre on 29th November 2014.

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 £675.00*

114. 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.*