

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE
5TH JANUARY 2017**

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

No apologies were recorded.

Meeting Commenced 11:00am

121. Draft Minutes of the previous Meeting – Copy attached

The minutes of the previous meeting held 25th October 2016 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

122. 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.*

123. Internal Audit.

The Parish Clerk informed members that although the Internal Auditor had completed the audit of account from 1st April 2016 to 30th September 2016 and had indicated that there were no anomalies, his actual report had not been received in time for the meeting because of the Christmas holiday period.

Resolved: *That the information be received.*

124. New Parish Depot/Storage

The Parish Clerk provided a verbal update on the status of the project and indicated that in 11 firms had been requested to submit quotations. Only 3 had responded.

Resolved: *That the contract for the construction be awarded to Trimdon Construction who had submitted the lowest quotation.*

Action: *The Parish Clerk to progress.*

125. Coopers Close Allotment - Paths Resurfacing

An estimate received for the resurfacing of the paths on the Cooper's Close allotment site was tabled for discussion.

Members expressed the view that whilst resurfacing work was required it was considered that it could be undertaken “in house” and at less cost if plant and labour could be made available.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

Action: *When feasible the Parish Clerk to include the work in the scheduled works program.*

126. Coopers Close Allotment - Erection of Fencing

The Parish Clerk reported the tenants of A6 and B5 had requested that the front fencing of their plots to be replaced by the Parish Council following removal of the original fencing during the redevelopment of the site.

An estimate to undertake the work was tabled for discussion.

Although members were mindful of the reason for the requests they expressed the view that this be left to the individuals concerned as it was only Council policy to maintain the sites perimeter fence not internal fencing.

Resolved: *That the request be declined.*

Action: *The Parish Clerk to advise the tenant of the decision*

127. Request for Donation

A request from Durham Constabulary for a donation toward the “Mini Police Project” deferred from the meeting held on 25th October 2016 was considered.¹

Resolved: *That in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, the Parish Council should incur the following expenditure, which in its opinion, was in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and would benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £350.00 payable when the project commenced.*

128. Request for Donation (REF: 8088)

A request from the Great North Air Ambulance for a donation to help fund the service over the next 12 months was considered.

Members were advised that a previous donation of £300 was made in 7th January 2016.

Resolved: *That in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, the Parish Council should incur the following expenditure which, in its opinion, was in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and would benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £300.00.*

129. Request for Donation (REF: 8043)

A request from the Haswell & District MENCAP Society for a donation to fund a £5,000 shortfall in 2017 budget was considered.

¹ Minute 90 refers.

Members are advised that a donation of £50.00 made to the Society in January 2014

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

130. Request for Donation (REF: 8085)

A request from Wheatley Hill Community Centre for a donation to allow them to continue providing a valuable service to families of Wheatley Hill was considered.

Members were advised that no previous donations have been made to the Community Centre by the Parish Council.

Resolved: *That the request be received.*

131. Request for Donation (REF: 8104)

A request from NEPACS (Durham Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society) for a donation to aid them in their efforts to support a positive future for prisoners and their families was considered.

Members were advised that no previous donations have been made to the society by the Parish Council.

Resolved: *That the requested be received.*

132. Replacement of Grounds Maintenance Equipment

The Parish Clerk provided background information on this subject and requested that members considered entering into a 5-year financial lease agreement to purchase a replacement tractor and ancillary equipment used for grave digging and grounds maintenance.

Resolved: *That the equipment be purchased by means of a 5-year lease agreement.*

Meeting Terminated: 11:00am

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held in Thornley Village Centre, High Street, Thornley on Thursday 2nd March 2016 at 11:00am.