

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE
12TH JANUARY 2016**

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. P. English, Mrs. A. Kelly, Mrs. P. Maddison, M. McCoy, T. Unsworth, J. Williams, J. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>J. Luke</i>	<i>Personal</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. .K. Huntington (nee Scrivin)</i>	<i>Personal</i>	<i>Approved</i>

PUBLIC

No members of the public were present.

Meeting Commenced: 7:00pm

142. Draft Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held 3rd November 2015 were approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

143. Matters Arising - Progress Report of the Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk provided an update on outstanding and current issues.

- Traffic Calming Measures outside St. Godric's School Wheatley Hill – Durham County Council had undertaken repairs but not implemented the Parish Council's suggested long term solution to replace the "rubber cushions" with tarmacadam. Members pointed out that the chevron signage also required attention as it obscured the view of oncoming traffic. It was suggested that an officer of Durham County be invited to a future Parish Council Meeting to comment on this issue.
- Parish Newsletter – Due to other demands on officer time the publication date had had to be delayed. It was anticipated that this would now be produced in early 2016 or articles included on the Parish Council's Website which was due to go live on Wednesday 13th January 2016.
- Durham County Council had been contacted regarding the re-located round-a-bout at the junction of Dunelm Road, Cottingham Grove and The Villas. The new location had been determined after consultation with various parties and whilst understanding the concerns expressed by the Parish Council it was unlikely that it would be repositioned to its former location because of financial implications. It was suggested that an officer of Durham County be invited to a future Parish Council Meeting to comment on this issue.

- P.A.C.T. Meetings – the Police had been contacted seeking clarification as to whether meeting were still taking place in Thornley but no response had been received. Councillor Nichols reported that they were still taking place in Wheatley Hill.

Resolved: *That the report be received.*

Action: *Parish Clerk to make appropriate arrangements.*

144. Police Report

As the police were not present no report was available.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

145. Draft Minutes of the Facilities Committee Meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2016 were tabled for the member's information.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

146. Draft Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2016 were tabled for the member's information.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

147. Draft Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2016 were tabled for the member's information.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

148. Public Question and Answer Session

No members of the public were in attendance.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

149. Unitary County Councillor

County Councillor Morris Nichols provided a verbal report on potential implications on services resulting from having to meet Central Government restrictions on finance.

In order to provide a "private" bus service to villages in the locality, it was being suggested that Parish Council's make a financial contribution. A full feasibility study was to be undertaken to enable Parish Council's to determine their involvement.

Resolved: *That the report be received.*

150. Risk Assessments – Revisions

The Parish Clerk reported that no alterations or amendments were required.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

151. CDALC Medium & Small Councils Forum

Delegates reported that they were unable to attend.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

152. Delegates Report on Thornley Village Centre Management Group

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth provided a comprehensive report on the current situation and on recent events provided in the centre. Particular emphasis was given to the success of Christmas events attended by many parents and children.

Resolved: *That the report be received.*

153. 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.

154. Standards Training for Councillors

The Chair provided a detailed verbal report on the event organised by County Durham Association of Local Councils that both she and Councillor Mrs P. English had attended.

Resolved: *That the report be received.*

155. Society of Local Council Clerks Practitioners Conference

Approval was sought to attend this very worthwhile annual event being held in Stratford on Avon on Thursday & Friday 25th & 26th February 2016 as it provided up-to-date information via hands-on practical sessions.

Cost for Clerks and Councillors is £249 per delegate.

The Chair reported that she had attended conference previously and found it to be both interesting and beneficial. She would welcome the opportunity to represent the Council again but suggested that another member may wish to do so.

Resolved: *It was resolved that Councillor Williams (or in his absence Councillor Mrs. Unsworth) and the Parish Clerk attend subject to workload.*

Action: *Parish Clerk to make arrangement as necessary.*

156. Dog Patrol Areas

Members were informed of a scheme organised by Durham County Council in towns and villages in the area using volunteers to monitor dog fouling etc.

Resolved: *That further information be obtained for consideration.*

Action: *Parish Clerk to arrange.*

Meeting terminated 8:20pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Thornley Village Centre, High Street, Thornley on 1st March 2016 at 7:00 p.m.