

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE
3RD MARCH 2015**

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. P. Maddison (Chair), Mrs. P. English, Mrs. A. Kelly, J. Luke, Miss K. Mawson, M. McCoy, Mrs. J. Unsworth, T. Unsworth, J. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

No apologies were received other from County Councillor Morris Nichols.

PUBLIC

No members of the public were present.

177. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th January 2015 were accepted as a true record.

178. Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th February 2015 were accepted as a true record.

179. Minutes of the Finance Committee

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th February 2015 were accepted as a true record.

180. Co-option of Parish Councillor

The application of Mrs. Amanda Kelly,1, St. Bede Crescent, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3HN who had expressed an interest to be co-opted to the Parish Council to fill the vacancy that existed was considered.

Resolved: *That Mrs. Kelly be co-opted to serve as a member of the Parish Council.*

181. Public Question and Answer Session

No members of the public were in attendance.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

182. Police Report

The Chair welcomed PC Michele Burn to the meeting who reported that there had been 44 incidents in Thornley since the last meeting relating to:-

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Anti-Social Behaviour | 5 |
| Burglary | 1 |
| Theft | 2 |
| Criminal Damage | 1 |
| Drug Use | 7 |

Total incidents reported was down 15% year on year, anti-social behaviour was down 38% and crime down 25%

Members raised the issue of off road motor vehicles causing nuisance.

Resolved: *That the report be received.*

183. Unitary County Councillor

The Parish Clerk distributed a written report on behalf of Councillor Nicholls

Resolved: *That the report be received.*

184. Travellers

The Parish Clerk reported that no new information had been received in relation to travellers visiting Thornley.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

185. Risk Assessments – Revisions

The Parish Clerk reported that no alterations or amendments had been required.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

186. County Durham Association of Local Councils

The Parish Clerk reported that it had not been possible for its representatives to attend the previous meeting of the association.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

187. CDALC Medium & Small Councils Forum

Councillors' Mrs. P. English and T. Unsworth reported that it had not been possible for them to attend the previous forum meeting.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

188. East Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils

Councillor's Mrs. English & J. Luke reported that it had not been possible for them to attend the previous meeting of the association because of other commitments.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

189. New Thornley Partnership

Councillor T. Unsworth reported that no meeting had been held pending dissolution of the Partnership.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

190. Thornley Village Centre Management Group

On behalf of the Management Group Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that over the previous 3 weeks over 1900 people had attended function held in the centre.

A varied program of activities was currently available and new ones were being planned.

The facility was booked most nights of the week and children's party bookings were particularly popular at weekends.

The management group had taken the opportunity to avail themselves of 2 pages in the Parish Council Newsletter to inform all residents about the centre. It was anticipated that this would be distributed to all household in March.

Resolved: *That the report be received.*

191. Coopers Close Allotment Fencing

The Parish Clerk reported that an in accordance with an earlier decision¹ an initial estimate totalling £11,812.50 for the installation of the fence had been obtained.

This would be the minimum cost based on erection of the fence on land outside the allotment boundary i.e. on land not owned by the Parish Council. Costs could increase significantly if, following further investigation and a full site survey, the fence had to be erected in place of existing fencing.

The Parish Clerk informed members that the Parish Council did not currently have a budget to undertake this project.

Members highlighted the potential for significant criticism from a large majority of residents if it were to contemplate expending such a large sum on a project that would benefit only a small number of allotment tenants.

Members expressed the view that if, at some future date, the Allotment Association were prepared to be the lead applicant to attract funding from outside agencies to undertake the project, the Parish Council may be prepared to enter into a partnership arrangement and provide a degree of match funding.

Resolved: *That no further action be taken at present.*

192. Youll House

The Parish Clerk reported that an in accordance with an earlier decision of the Parish Council² an initial estimate totalling £96,950 for the conversion of the premises into a depot facility had been obtained.

The Parish Clerk informed members that the Parish Council did not currently have a budget to undertake this project.

Resolved: *That a decision be deferred to allow for time other options/estimates to be explored.*

193. Request to Lease Youll House (REF: 7371)

Miss Laura Ladler's application (deferred from a previous meeting³) to lease Youll House for the purposes of operating a Community Café was re-considered.

Resolved: *That Miss Laidler be advised that her application to lease the building be rejected on the grounds that the cost to the Parish Council to bring it up to a serviceable standard before it could be leased to a third party, was prohibitive.*

194. Application to Purchase Youll House

Mr. George Millers application (deferred from a previous meeting⁴) to purchase Youll House⁵. Was re-considered.

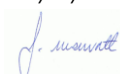
¹ Minute 164 refers

² Minute 29 refers

³ Minute 155 refers

⁴ Minute 168 refers

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Resolved: *That Mr. Miller be advised that his application be rejected on the grounds that, when no longer required, Youll House be advertised on the open market so as to give all interested parties an equal opportunity to acquire the premises.*

195. Free Regional Event

The Cleveland, County Durham and Northumberland County Associations invited representatives to attend an inaugural event in Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on the 28 March 2015; starting at 9:15am.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

196. Fly Tipping Cameras

Members considered information previously circulated on whether the Parish Council was prepared to fund cameras that could be used across the County to obtain evidence of flytipping.

Members agreed the principal but were sceptical that the cameras would be deployed so as to reduce flytipping in those parishes who had provided funding.

It was suggested that a more equitable approach would be that neighbouring parishes cluster together and obtain funding from their particular County Councillor representatives to deploy cameras within their own cluster group.

Resolved: *That the request for funding be received.*

197. Any 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.

198. Letter of Thanks

A letter of thanks was received from Leonora Mawson for the floral arrangements provided by the Parish Council to adorn the alter in Thornley Methodist Chappell at the recent burial service for her husband and former Parish Councillor Jack Mawson.

Resolved: *That the letter be received.*

199. Transfer of Land

New Thornley Partnership made it known that it was to dissolve in accordance with it's constitution and that it would like to transfer land in its ownership on the site of the Thornley Village Centre back to the Parish Council.

Resolved: *That the Parish Council accepts the offer made by New Thornley Partnership and that the Parish Clerk to arranges the transfer of the land back to the Parish Council ownership. The Parish Council to pay the costs incurred by both parties.*

200. Sunday Afternoon Youth Football

A request was received for an under 13 football team to utilise the Welfare Park as its home ground during the 2015/16 season and hire it at a reduced rate.

⁵ See also Minute 159

Resolved: That permission be granted but no reduction in fees be agreed.

* If you are having trouble viewing this document, please click here for more information.

