

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
1ST JULY 2014**

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth, (Chair), Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. P. English, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. P. Maddison, Mrs. J. Middleton, M. McCoy, T. Unsworth.

APOLOGIES

County Councillor Morris Nichols.

PUBLIC

No members of the public were present.

40. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Chair referred to minute 17 and reported that the Wheatley Hill Heritage Group had now taken possession of the St. Bartholomew's Church windows. Having noted this, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th March 2014 were accepted as a true record.

41. Minutes of the Facilities Committee held 26th June 2014

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th June 2014 were accepted as a true record.

42. Minutes of the Personnel Committee held 26th June 2014

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th June 2014 were accepted as a true record.

43. Minutes of the Finance Committee held 26th June 2014

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th June 2014 were accepted as a true record.

44. Co-option of Parish Councillor

The application of John Luke MOUNT PLEASANT, Dunelm Road, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3HX who had expressed an interest to be co-opted to the Parish Council to fill the vacancy that existed was considered.

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

45. Unitary County Councillor

In his absence Councillor Nichols provided a written report that was presented on his behalf by the Parish Clerk¹.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

46. Police Report

The Chair welcomed the police to the meeting who reported that there had been 61 incidents in Thornley since the last meeting relating to:-

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Anti-Social Behaviour | 16 |
| Nuisance | 5 |
| Environmental | 8 |
| Noise | 2 |
| Criminal Damage | 1 |
| Theft of Motor Vehicles | 1 (later found burned out) |
| Theft from Cars | 1 |

Incidence relating to off road vehicles was a problem and seizures were on the increase.

Body cameras had now been issued to all police officers to aid the collection of evidence.

Test purchases for the sale of alcohol to the underage were being carried out and so far only 1 licensee had been found to be breaking the law.

People were being advised to take extra care when making online purchases because of bogus web-sites.

Neighbourhood Watch were issuing shed alarms free of charge for those that applied in an effort to prevent theft.

Members raised concern over anti-social behaviour in the Gore Hill Estate, incidence of theft/damage on the Coopers Close allotment site and the parking of cars on the pavement at the bottom of Gore Hill bank and Dunelm Road.

Resolved: *The information be noted.*

47. Street Wardens Report

As the Street Wardens were not present a report was unavailable.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

48. Public Question and Answer Session

No items were raised by the person(s) attending.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

49. Risk Assessments – Revisions

The Parish Clerk reported that no revision were required.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

¹ *Copy made available to members.*

50. County Durham Association of Local Councils

Councillor Mrs Brunskill reported that as previously advised it was not possible for either herself or Councillor Mrs. Hind to attend these meetings because of the time they were held.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

51. CDALC Medium & Small Councils Forum

Councillor Mrs. English reported that it had not been possible for either herself or Councillor T. Unsworth to attend because of other commitments.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

52. New Thornley Partnership

Councillor T. Unsworth reported that it was anticipated that the Partnership would receive £500 to be used in organising children's activities.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

53. Thornley Residents Group

Councillor Mrs Brunskill reported that the group was to host a fundraising event in Youll House on 3rd July 2014 and that a trip to Kendal was being arranged to take place late Summer.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

54. Register of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Registerable Interests

Members were reminded that if their personal circumstances had changed since completing their Register of Disclosable Pecuniary & Other Interests forms following the elections held in 2013 these must notified to the Monitoring Officer at Durham County Council.

Appropriate forms could be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

55. Village Greens (Training Event)

At a recent event attended by the Chair and the Parish Clerk it was ascertained that Thornley did not have a Village Green as determined by Act of Parliament.

The area in Thornley commonly referred to as the village green was owned and maintained by Durham County Council as open space.

Should members wish to pursue designation of this are as a Village Green it would need to make a specific application.

It was noted that such an application could be challenged by D.C.C. as land owners.

The alternative would be to ask D.C.C. to register it themselves.

It was also be noted that various criteria must be met before an area could be designated and once designated (as a Village Green) a number of statutory regulations would come into force.

Resolved: *That a decision be deferred until such time as additional information could be provided to members by way of a presentation on the process involved.*

56. Request for Donation (REF: 7142)

East Durham Community Transport requested a donation to fund their core activities in 2014/15.

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.*

57. [Planning Permission \(REF: DM/14/00272/FPA\)](#)

Durham County Council advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. Paul Duffy to demolish an existing single storey and erection of two storey pitched roof extension to rear of existing dwelling 115, Dunelm Road, Thornley, Durham, DH6 3HX

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

58. [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.

59. [Chair's Remarks](#)

The Chair reminded members that they should not directly instruct members of the workforce to carry out tasks within the Parish. Any issue requiring attention should be directed to the Parish Clerk who would program the work if it was within the remit of the Parish Council.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

60. [Welfare Park](#)

The Parish Clerk reported that because of vandalism the dugouts at had had to be demolished for health and safety reasons

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

61. [Internal Audit Report of Accounts ending 31st March 2014](#)

The Parish Clerk reported that the internal audit of accounts from 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 had been completed by W.J. Smith² and the accounts were in order.

Resolved: *That the report be received.*

62. [Annual Audit of Accounts 2013/14.](#)

The Parish Clerk reported that BDO Stoy Hayward had requested minor alterations be made to the annual audit return to record the LCTSS Grant (£19,578 awarded by Durham County Council) be recorded as other income and not included in the Precept amount.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

² *A copy of the Internal Auditors report was provided to members.*

63. Temporary Seasonal Worker

The Parish Clerk reported that following his resignation the Chargehand Gardener had produced a sick note.

As this had left the Parish Council short staffed he had, after consultation of the Chair and Vice Chair, employed the services of a temporary seasonal worker.

Resolved: *That the action of the Parish Clerk be endorsed.*

64. Annual Playground Inspection

RoSPA provided their Annual Inspection of play equipment in the village.

In all cases the faults identified were very low, low or medium risk items.³

Where attention was required this was to be addressed as soon as possible.

Resolved: *That the report be received and remedial action be taken where necessary.*

65. Recognition of the Commencement of WW1

The Chair suggested that it was considered fitting that Parish Council lay a wreath to on the War Memorial to mark the 100th anniversary of the commencement of WW1 on 4th August 2014.

Resolved: *That the Chair undertakes this duty at the appropriate time.*

66. Northumbria in Bloom

The Chair reported that an application had been made to Northumbria in Bloom for funding a planting project relating to the WW1 Centenary.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

67. Unmaintained Areas -D.C.C.

With the aid of photographs, the Chair highlighted a number of areas of land in the village in the ownership of Durham County Council which were not being maintained to an acceptable standard⁴ and suggested that this be brought to the attention of D.C.C.

Resolved: *That D.C.C. be requested to bring the maintenance standard of their land in the village up to an acceptable standard.*

³ *The report is available for members.*

⁴ *Photographs provided to members.*

68. Allotment Break-in

Councillor Luke reported that 4 allotments on the Coopers Close allotment site had been broken into and reports made to the police.

Resolved: That the information be noted.