

**MINUTES OF  
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE  
2ND SEPTEMBER 2014**

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIES**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>J. Luke</i>	<i>Personal</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>T. Unsworth</i>	<i>Personal</i>	<i>Approved</i>

*County Councillor Morris Nichols.*

**PUBLIC**

**No members of the public were present.**

**81. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councillor Williams referred to minute 59 and sought clarification as to whether Councillors could instruct staff to undertake tasks.

The Chair reiterated that it was not appropriate for staff to be given instructions by anyone other than their line manager as this could lead to disruption of the works schedule. Any matter requiring attention should be reported to the Parish Clerk who would then program the works as necessary.

Having noted these comments the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st July 2014 were accepted as a true record.

**82. Minutes of the Facilities Committee held 1st September 2014**

John Williams referred to minute 70 and suggested that a possible location for future development as a football pitch was on the former colliery site adjacent to the Officials Club/Library Allotments.

Having noted this observation, the minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2014 were accepted as a true record.

**83. Minutes of the Finance Committee held 1st September 2014**

Councillor Williams requested that all Councillors be provided with a copy of the Expenditure & Budget Control reports not just those members on the Finance Committee and sought additional information and clarification on several items of expenditure from a previous report.

The Parish Clerk stated he would provide Councillor Williams with the information following the meeting when he could access the financial records.

Having noted these comments, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st September 2014 were accepted as a true record.

**84. Resignation of Councillor (REF: 7185)**

Members were advised that Councillor Marion Brunskill had tendered her resignation.

The Monitoring Officer had been advised and arrangements were being made to call an election or fill the position by means of co-option.

**Resolved:** *That the information be noted*

**85. Resignation of Councillor (REF: 7192)**

Members were advised that Councillor Jennifer Middleton had tendered her resignation.

The Monitoring Officer had been advised and arrangements were being made to call an election or fill the position by means of co-option.

**Resolved:** *That the information be noted*

**86. Resignation of Councillor (REF: 7193)**

Members were advised that Councillor Irene Hind had tendered her resignation.

The Monitoring Officer had been advised and arrangements were being made to call an election or fill the position by means of co-option.

**Resolved:** *That the information be noted*

**87. Public Question and Answer Session**

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

**Resolved:** *That the information be noted.*

**88. Unitary County Councillor**

As Councillor Nichols was not present no report was available.

**Resolved:** *That the information be noted.*

**89. Police Report**

The Chair welcomed P.C. Kelly Hide to the meeting who reported that there had been 92 incidents in Thornley since the last meeting relating to:-

Anti-Social Behaviour      20

Burglary                      3

Criminal Damage          2

Overall reports in Thornley were down 12% on 2013 and Anti-social Behaviour was down 34%.

Members raised concern over speed in the village by cars and Quad bikes.

A Speed Watch was to be initiated to operate between 7:00pm and 9:00pm in an effort to bring this under control.

**Resolved:** *The information be noted.*

**90. Street Wardens Report**

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

**Resolved:** *That the information be noted.*

**91. Risk Assessments – Revisions**

The Parish Clerk reported that no revision were required.

**Resolved:** *That the information be noted.*

**92. County Durham Association of Locals**

As the Council's delegates had resigned from the Parish Council no report was available but it was understood that no meeting had been held.

The appointment of new delegates be considered at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**Resolved:** *That the information be noted.*

**93. CDALC Medium & Small Councils Forum**

Councillor Mrs. English reported that no meeting had been held.

**Resolved:** *That the information be noted.*

**94. New Thornley**

Councillor Mrs. English reported that a ceremony to mark the anniversary of the beginning of WW1 at the Thornley Memorial had been successful. Commemorative Wreaths had been placed by Councillor Mrs. J. Unsworth on behalf of the Parish Council & Miss Lilly Jobes (a young child from Thornley) on behalf of residents.

**Resolved:** *That the information be noted.*

**95. Thornley Residents Group**

As the Council's delegates had resigned from the Parish Council no report was available.

Councillor Williams volunteered to the Parish Council representative if it could be ascertained that the Residents Group still required a representative from the Parish Council to serve on the group.

**Resolved:** *That the information be noted and a decision to appoint a new representative be deferred until it could be determined if such an appointment was required.*

**96. Timetable of Training Events for the Remainder of 2014**

The County Durham Training Partnership provided a list of Events available to members.

Members wishing to attend any events were advised to contact the Parish Clerk who would make appropriate arrangements.

**Resolved:** *That the information be noted.*

**97. Sustainable Communities Act**

The Parish Clerk reported that Sevenoaks TC had made a submission to Government under the Sustainable Communities Act to allow Parish and Town Councils to be allocated a share of the business rates collected by central government.

Members were asked to consider if they wished to support the Sevenoaks Town Council submission.

**Resolved:** *That the Parish Council support the submission of Sevenoaks TC.*

#### **98. Tapestries – Youll House**

The Parish Clerk provided historical background and explained that they belonged to the Thornley Tapestry Group which it was understood was no longer operating as most, if not all, of the membership, had either passed away or were now no longer able to participate.

The tapestries were however still hanging in glass cabinets on the walls of Youll House.

A relative of one of the members had applied to the Parish Council to ascertain what was to be done with the tapestries now that Youll House was no longer available for public use and its future uncertain.

Members were informed that the Parish Council had no claim on the tapestries and therefore it must be up to the tapestry club to determine what should be done with them.

It was suggested that because some considered the tapestries to be part of the heritage of Thornley they should be displayed in the new Thornley Village Centre.

It was explained that because the Village Centre was managed by a charitable organisation, independent from the Parish Council, it would be up to them to make such a decision.

Members expressed the view that whilst it was not necessarily the ideal solution they had no difficulty with tapestries remaining in Youll House until such time as a final decision was made on its future.

**Resolved:** *That the applicant be advised that the tapestries could remain in the Youll House until such time as a final decision was made on its future but if they wished to remove them they were at liberty to do so or if they wished to seek alternative accommodation they should approach the appropriate organisation.*

#### **99. Planning Permission (REF: DM/14/01489/VOC)**

Durham County Council advised that planning Permission had been granted to Mr G Miller to a variation of condition 2 pursuant to PL/5/2013/0215 to remove porch from front elevation, amend dormer windows and add a portico (Retrospective) at land to the rear of Glenside, The Villas, Thornley, Durham.

**Resolved:** *That the information be noted.*

#### **100. Annual Audit of Accounts Ending 31st March 2014 (Ref: 7237)**

The Parish Clerk reported that BDO Stoy Hayward LLP had completed the audit of the parish council's accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2014.

There are no matters which came to their attention which required the issuing of a separate additional issues arising report and that arrangements must now be made for the residents to view the Notice of Conclusion of Audit.

**Resolved:** *That the information be noted and arrangements be made for residents to view the Audit Report.*

#### **101. 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.

**102. Thornley Village Centre Management Group**

The Chair pointed out that the Parish Council had signed the lease for the Village Centre and that Management Group had now obtained Charitable Status.

The focus of the group was to get the premises fully functional and to fundraise to develop outdoor facilities.

The organisation of an Official Opening of the Centre was currently under discussion with a provisional date in early October.

As the Parish Council had supported the development of the facility in collaboration with various resident groups it was sincerely hoped that all Councillors would encourage its use and encourage residents to volunteer to assist in its further development.

It was suggested that the Parish Council's representatives (Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth & Mrs. P. Maddison) present a report on the group's activities to the Parish Council on a regular basis.

**Resolved:**        *That the information be noted and that the report of the Thornley Village Centre Management Group placed on future the Parish Agendas as a standing item.*