

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE
4TH JULY 2017**

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. P. English, Ms. J. Grant, Mrs. A. Kelly, Mrs. P. Maddison, M. McCoy, P. Nuttall, D. Smith, T. Unsworth, G. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

No. Apologies were recorded

PUBLIC

3 members of the public were present.

Meeting Commenced 7:00pm

47. Draft Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th May 2017 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

48. Police Report

As the police were unable to attend the meeting PCSO Kelly Hyde had asked that the Parish Clerk present her report.

Since the previous meeting the following incidents relating to Thornley had been reported.

Anti-social Behavior	-	4
Theft from motor vehicle	-	6

Resolved: That the report be received

49. Unitary County Councillor

As Councillor Nichols and Councillor Hovells were unable to attend the meeting they had asked that the Parish Clerk present their report.

Issues relating to the maintenance of paths in Thornley had been reported to the relevant officers to deal with.

Progress on the installation of Yellow No Parking lines outside Thornley Primary School would be provided when it became available.

Officers were to be asked about extending the 216 Bus Service to Sedgefield.

Members requested that they be provided with usage figures before considering if additional funding should be earmarked.

Resolved: That the report be received.

Action: The Parish Clerk

50. Public Question and Answer Session

Members of the public raised a number of issues relating to Planning Applications submitted to Durham County Council.

The Parish Clerk explained that the Parish Council had, like many residents, opposed the applications but these had been rejected by the Planning Officers.

Residents reported that it was likely that the travelling community were to organise a Horse Fayre in Thornley in the coming weeks and asked what measures were to be taken to restrict trespass onto parish land.

The Chair, Members and Parish Clerk explained the current position and the difficulties encountered when trying to prevent unauthorised encampments and needs of allotment holders.

More long term solutions were still being considered by the Parish Council.

Resolved: that the information be noted.

51. Draft Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting 29th June 2017

The minutes of the meeting were tabled for information.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

52. Draft Minutes of the Facilities Committee Meeting 29th June 2017

The minutes of the meeting were tabled for information.

The Parish Clerk reported that a prospective tenant had now declined the offer to become an allotment tenant and as a result there would be no necessity for the designated members (Councillors Mrs. A. Kelly, P. Nuttall, D. Smith, T. Unsworth) to meet with him to sign a tenancy agreement.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

53. Draft Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting 29th June 2017

The minutes of the meeting & the Income and Expenditure report were tabled for information.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

54. Matters Arising - Progress Report of the Parish Clerk & Councillors

Planning Decisions – as previously reported, the Parish Council had submitted written objections to a number of planning applications for developments in Thornley. These had been rejected by the Planning Officers and the necessary approvals had grants.

Fly-tipping – A number of fly-tipping issues had been reported to Durham County Council for enforcement action to be taken.

Training – Members were reminded that Councillors could attend a training event specifically designed for members at Shotton Hall on 26th July 2017 and that an S.L.C.C. Training Seminar was to be held at the Best Western Plus Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgfield, Co. Durham TS21 2EH on Wednesday 19 July

Horses on Parish Land – A number of horses had again been tethered by person or persons unknown. Notices were to be posted and the assistance of Durham County Council would be requested to have them removed.

Resolved: *That the report be received.*

55. Risk Assessments

To consider if changes or additional Risk Assessments are required.

56. Delegates Report on CDALC Medium & Small Councils Forum

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

The agenda for the next meeting to be held on 27th July 2017 were provided to Councillors Mrs. P. English and T. Unsworth.

Members were informed for potential changes to the employment status of the Executive Officer and subscription rates and requested that their representatives be given a mandate to support or oppose the proposed changes.

Resolved: *That delegates vote in favour of the proposed motion.*

57. Travellers

The Parish Clerk provided members with information relating to a potential Horse Fayre that may take place in Thornley in the near future and briefed members on Court Order that was in place to restrict access to Parish Council land.

Resolved: *That arrangements be made to prevent access to the former Thornley Colliery site via the Bridleway 13 by repositioning existing obstacles to further restrict entry if possible.*

58. Business Continuity Plan – Wheatley Hill Community Primary School

Durham County Council reported that it is working in partnership with Wheatley Hill Community Primary School to develop a business continuity plan. As part of the plan they are trying to identify some suitable nearby premises that the school may be able to request use of to help provide short-term continuity of education to pupils from the school in the event the school premises cannot be used (e.g. following a fire, flood, etc.).

Resolved: *That Thornley Village Centre be identified as an alternative premises in the Business Continuity Plan for Wheatley Hill Community Primary School.*

59. Planning Application (REF: DM/17/01877/FPA)

Durham County Council has advised that Mr. Jeffery Stoker has applied for retention of 2 CB aerial masts measuring 9.4m and 10.67m at 50, Shinwell Crescent, Thornley DH6 3DF

Resolved: *That no objection be raised.*

60. Planning Application (REF: DM/17/01877/FPA)

Durham County Council has advised that LCC Bell Developments Ltd has applied for Planning Permission for 19 self-build plots with vehicular and pedestrian access and demolition of 84 Dunelm Road (outline with some matters reserved) at Dunelm Stables to the rear of Dunelm Road, Thornley DH6 3HY

Resolved: *That no objection be raised.*

61. 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.

62. Allotments

The Parish Clerk referred to the Minutes of the Facilities Committee held on the 29th June 2017¹ which required a decision to be made by the Full Council. Members were informed that a tenant had received a number of warnings in the past about the condition of his allotment and the storage of materials on the access path and that contrary to allotment law some tenants may be carrying out business activity from their allotments.

Resolved: *That the specific tenant be advised that he must not store materials on the access path and all tenants be notified of the allotment law relating to business activity.*

63. CDALC – Election of Officers

Members were informed that several vacancies existed on the County Durham Association and were requested to suggest the names of potential nominations.

Resolved: *That the information be received.*

64. Request for Donation

Thornley Primary School advised that they were to host a huge school festival catering for 500 children from various schools on 5th July 2017 and requested a donation to provide craft items.

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.*

¹ Minute 27 refers

65. Planning Application – Consultation

Members expressed growing concern that despite their objections planning permission was being granted by officers of Durham County Council regardless the fact that the developments were not in the best interest of village and should therefore be refused.

Resolved: That the Chief Executive be advised of the Parish Council's concerns.

66. Cemetery Fees

Councillor Ms. Grant pointed out that some of the neighbouring Council's no longer charged for the burial of children and that Thornley Parish Council may wish to follow suit.

Resolved: That the Finance Committee be requested to consider waving charges for the burial of children

Meeting Terminated 8:20pm