

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE
4TH NOVEMBER 2014**

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

County Councillor Morris Nichols.

PUBLIC

No members of the public were present.

116. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd September 2014 were accepted as a true record.

117. Minutes of the Finance Committee held 11th September

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th September 2014 were accepted as a true record.

118. Minutes of the Facilities Committee held 30th October 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2014 were accepted as a true record.

119. Minutes of the Personnel Committee held 30th October 2014

The Parish Clerk reported that no meeting had been held.

120. Minutes of the Finance Committee held 30th October 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2014 were accepted as a true record¹.

121. Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 30th October 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2014 were accepted as a true record.

¹ See Minutes 111 and 134

122. Co-option of Councillors

The applications made by Miss Kirsty Mawson, 27, Dunelm Road, Thornley, Co. Durham and George Wilson 11, Stanley Terrace, Thornley Co. Durham DH6 3ES to be co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill 2 of the 3 vacancies that exist, were considered.

Resolved: *That Miss Kirsty Mawson and George Wilson be co-opted to serve as a members of the Parish Council.*

123. Public Question and Answer Session

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

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

124. Police Report

As the Police were not present a report was unavailable.

Resolved: *The information be noted.*

125. Unitary County Councillor

A written report, provided in his absence, by County Councillor Nichols was considered.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

126. Risk Assessments – Revisions

The Parish Clerk reported that no revision were required.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

127. County Durham Association of Local Councils

The Parish Clerk reported that no delegates had been appointed to represent the Parish Council on this group following the resignations of Marion Brunskil and Irene Hind.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

128. CDALC Medium & Small Councils Forum

It was reported that no meeting had been attended.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

129. New Thornley

Councillor T. Unsworth reported that in its 20 years of operation the group had undertaken a number of regeneration projects in the village culminating in the development and construction of the new Village Centre.

Members of the group had decided that the time was right for it to be dissolved in accordance with its Constitution and its assets be transferred to the Village Centre Management Group. Land holdings be transferred back to Thornley Parish Council.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

130. Thornley Village Centre Management Group

The Chair reported that residents were embracing the centre and the number of bookings was increasing steadily.

Snagging issues were being addressed by Durham County Council and it was anticipated that the exterior (temporary) boundary fence could be removed in time for the official opening ceremony currently being planned to take place on 29th November 2014.

The Parish Clerk reported that “charcoal rot” and other diseases had been discovered in some trees in the vicinity of the Village Centre whilst investigating a location for a Christmas tree.

To prevent the disease spreading the Parish Clerk had sought a quotation to undertake the work as a matter of urgency.

Resolved: *That the information be noted and that authority be delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Finance Committee to award the contract to fell the trees as deemed appropriate.*

131. Proposed Sale of Land Mr. K. Turner

A request from Mr. Turner that a clause preventing him erecting a fence on the boundary-line and that he be allowed to park vehicles on the first 3 meters closest to his existing property be removed in order that the land sale could proceed.

Resolved: *That the clause(s) referred to be removed.*

132. Invitation

Wellfield Community School extended an invitation to attend the formal re-opening of the school following refurbishment on 21st November 2014 at 2:00pm

Resolved: *That members wishing to attend advise the Parish Clerk.*

133. 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.

134. Hand-dryers- Thornley Village Centre.

Councillor Luke referred to the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 30th October 2014² and suggested that the quotation was, in his opinion, excessive and sought clarification.

The Chair reported that whilst three firms had been requested to provide a quotation only one had done so.

Whilst agreeing that the Parish Council had followed appropriate procedures and that the installation of the hand-dryers was important to address Health & Safety concerns, members considered their installation was not deemed urgent.

² See Minute 111 and 120

Resolved: *That two additional quotations be obtained from appropriately qualified individuals or firms if possible and authority be delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Finance Committee to award the contract.*

135. Christmas Tree Lighting - Electrical Installation

For the benefit of new members, the Parish Clerk provided historical background information on the provision of the Village Christmas tree.

It had always been envisaged that a tree, previously positioned on the Village Green over the festive period, would be re-located into the grounds of the Thornley Village Centre when complete.

The electricity provision, associated timer, transformer, switchgear and external weatherproof cabinet were not included in the Centre's construction specification by Durham County Council and would therefore need to be commissioned by the Parish Council.

An estimate for all materials, switchgear and labour totaling £850 plus V.A.T. had therefore been obtained.

To ensure the tree and lights were installed in time for the switching on and Official Opening Ceremony of the Village Centre on 29th November 2014 instruction/official orders would need to be issued as a matter of urgency.

Resolved: *That two additional quotations be obtained from appropriately qualified individuals or firms if possible and authority be delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Finance Committee to award the contract.*