

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE
5TH MAY 2015**

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. A. Kelly, J. Luke, Mrs. P. Maddison, M. McCoy, T. Unsworth, J. Williams, J. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Mrs. P. English</i>	<i>Personal</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. .K. Huntington (nee Scrivin)</i>	<i>Personal</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>County Councillor M. Nichols</i>	<i>Personal</i>	<i>Approval</i>

PUBLIC

No members of the public were present.

Meeting Commenced: 7:00pm

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor Luke referred to minute 161 and sought clarification on the actual cost incurred.¹

Councillor Luke referred to minute 176 and sought an up-date on the employment of an apprentice via Durham County Council.

The Parish Clerk reported that the position had been advertised in the collages in the area and that to date 9 applications had been received.

The Personnel Committee would select those thought suitable for interview in due course.

Following clarification the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd March 2015 were accepted as a true record.

2. Public Question and Answer Session

No members of the public were in attendance.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

3. Police Report

The Chair welcomed PCSO Andy Gilhooley who reported that since the previous meeting the following incidents had occurred in Thornley relating to:-

Anti-Social Behaviour 2 – quad bikes

¹ ***As the information was not available in the meeting they were proved to Councillor Luke in the days following.***

Burglary	1
Criminal Damage	1
Theft from Cars	1
Damage to Motor Vehicles	4
Attempted Break-in	2
Common Assault	1

Although % of incidents in various categories had increased this could, in the main, be attributed to a particular domestic incident.

Members raised the issue of persistent vandalism at the Welfare park when windows were being broken, fire started on the football pitch and perimeter fencing.

Resolved: *That the report be received.*

4. Unitary County Councillor

No report was available from Councillor Nicholls

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

5. Risk Assessments – Revisions

The Parish Clerk reported that no alterations or amendments were required.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

6. County Durham Association of Local Councils

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

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

7. 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.

Members were asked to note that that next meeting of the Smaller Local Councils Forum had been scheduled to take place on the 22 May 2015 in Peterlee Town Council Offices, Shotton Hall, Peterlee, County Durham SR8 2PH but this has now been rescheduled to the 29 May 2015 commencing 2:00pm.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

8. East Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils

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

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

9. New Thornley Partnership

Councillor T. Unsworth stated that the Partnership was in the process of disillusionment and there was nothing to report.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

10. [Thornley Village Centre Management Group](#)

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that the operation was going well and that applications for funding to other agencies was to be sought to undertake Sport Development/Youth Work.

Whilst the original "Winter Warmers" meals program had come to an end this had continued because of demand on a self-sustaining basis.

Resolved: That the report be received.

11. [Planning Approval \(REF:DM/14/01406/FPA\)](#)

Durham County Council advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr Keith Turner 2 Fairview, Thornley, Durham DH6 3BL for change of use from open land to showman storage and placement of 1 no. static home on previously approved showman storage area.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

12. [Parish Council Website](#)

In order to comply with current Legislation members considered the options available, the implications and the mechanics/administrative functions necessary to maintain a Parish Council Website.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk obtains quotations from appropriate firms for consideration by the Finance Committee.

13. [NALC Conferences](#)

The National Association of Local Councils advised that it was to host 3 events covering a broad range of topics in London primarily for Councillors at a cost of £90 per delegate per event.

Resolved: That the information be received.

14. [SLCC Regional Roadshow](#)

The Society of Local Council Clerks advised that it was to hold a Roadshow at Ramside Hall, Durham on Wednesday 3rd June 2015.

Early bird offer - £69 + VAT for members (deadline 6th May)

After 6th May - £79 + VAT for members

One additional free place if 3 places are booked.

The Chair has expressed an interest to attend subject to other commitments.

Resolved: That the Chair be authorised to attend.

15. [Local Council Award Scheme](#)

The Chair and Parish Clerk reported that the award scheme could be obtained by Council's that could meet the specified criteria of the 3 available levels, Foundation, Quality and Gold.

Whilst Thornley Parish could meet many of the set criteria to obtain the Foundation level it fell short in other areas, particularly member training.

Members considered the options available, the implications and the potential benefits of obtaining the Foundation level.

Resolved: That Councillors avail themselves of the training available and the Parish pursues accreditation as soon as possible.

16. Annual Audit of Accounts Ending 31st March 2015

The external auditor (BDO LLP) advised that the annual audit of the 2014/2015 accounts would take place on 3rd June 2015.

The accounts had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/817).

Members were asked to approve Section 1 and Section 2 of the Annual Audit Return and to authorise the Chairman to sign it on behalf of the Parish Council.

Members were also advised that arrangements had been made to inform residents of their rights to inspect the accounts etc., in accordance with the statutory regulations, from 5th May 2015 to 2nd June 2015.

Resolved: *That the statement of accounts and statement of assurance be accepted along with answers required in section 2, and that the statement be signed by the Chairman on behalf of Thornley Parish Council.*

17. 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.

18. Christmas Tree Illumination

The Parish Clerk provided a quotation from a firm specialising in Christmas lighting totalling £2,228 for the purchase and installation of lights on an established deciduous tree growing outside the Village Centre which had been used previously in place of a cut Norway Spruce (or similar) tree that had to be purchased every year.

A second quotation totalling £8,663.94 had also been obtained for illuminating trees planted on the green opposite the Village Centre.

Resolved: *That only the quotation for £2,228 be accepted and arrangements be made to dress the tree in time for the Christmas 2015.*

19. Delivering Differently

Durham County Council provided information on a grant initiative up to £20,000 to work in partnership the Parish and Town Councils to allow assets or services to be transferred or delivered differently to create efficiencies e.g. grounds maintenance.

Resolved: *That the Parish Clerk identifies areas of work/locations and pursues the initiative with the County Council if feasible.*

20. Sale of Land to K. Turner

The Parish Clerk reported that the sale of the triangular piece of land adjacent to the former 5-a-side football pitch to Mr Turner had been completed.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

21. Sale of Land to P. Singh

The Parish Clerk that after many months of negotiation agreement had been reach on the terms of sale. It was anticipated that completion would take place within 2 weeks.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

22. Request for No Ball Game Notice

The Parish Clerk reported that a request had been made for the Parish Council to erect a No Ball Games Sign inside the perimeter fence of the children's play are at Ellerby Mews.

Whilst agreeing that the practice of playing ball games in the play area was potentially hazardous, particularly to infants using the equipment, they had no way of policing or enforcing the rule.

Resolved: *That the request be refused.*

23. S.L.C.C. Conference

With the aid of brochures and other information obtained whilst at conference, the Chair gave a verbal report on the various seminars and workshops attended. it was considered to be a very worthwhile event providing up-to-date information on the ever changing role of parish council's, the opportunity to network with other Council's and improve a knowledge base.

Resolved: *That the report be accepted.*

24. Karate Club Sign

The newly established Sho Shin Kai Karate Club which has operates within the Thornley Village Centre requested permission to erect a sign, adjacent to the entrance on the outside of the premises.

Resolved: *That permission be granted on the understanding that the sign is erected by the Parish Council.*

Meeting Terminated: 8:45pm

