

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE
5TH SEPTEMBER 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

5 members of the public were present.

Meeting Commenced 7:00pm

89. Minutes Silence for County Councillor Morris Nichols

All present stood and remained silent as a mark of respect in memory of County Councillor Morris Nichols.

90. Chair's Briefing – Meetings Protocol

The Chair reminded members of the protocols to be observed in order that the business of the council could be conducted in accordance with Standing Orders.

91. Draft Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th July 2017 were tabled for discussion.

The Chair referred to minute 49 and pointed out that the Parish Clerk had presented the report not PCSO Kelly Hyde.

Having noted this amendment, the minutes were approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

92. Draft Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 4th July 2017 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

93. Facilities & Community Officers Report

The Chair introduced Brenda Hodgson, the newly appointed member of staff, who provided a comprehensive verbal report on the work she had undertaken since taking up her position and on the issues to be addressed to increase usage of the Village Centre by engaging with residents and the wider community.

Resolved: That the information be noted and future reports be considered by the Facilities Committee.

94. Police Report

The Parish Clerk reported that PCSO Kelly Hyde had been transferred to Peterlee and as a result no report was available.

Whilst members understood that it was essential that police resources were focused on combatting criminal activity they expressed concern that a police presence at meetings was desirable in order that they could be kept up-to-date on incident and activities in the village.

Resolved: That the Councillors concerns be brought to the attention of the Chief Constable.

95. Unitary County Councillor

As the election to fill the vacancy created by the death of Councillor Nicholls had not been held, no report was available.¹

Resolved: That the information be noted.

96. Public Question and Answer Session – Waste Bins

A member of the public reported that youths were congregating on the football pitch near Bridle Path 13 and depositing litter. They requested that an additional litter bin be positioned at this location. In addition dog owners were allowing their animals to foul at the entrance to the newly open outdoor gym area and suggested that an additional dog waste bin be located there.

It was pointed out that maintenance of the Bridle Paths was the responsibility of Durham County Council and that as there were bins nearby it may be uneconomic for them to install additional receptacles.

Resolved: That the D.C.C. be requested to investigate and install suitable bins if they considered it appropriate.

97. Public Question and Answer Session – Allotments

The daughter of an allotment tenant enquired why photographs of her father's allotment had been taken using an unmanned "drone". It was pointed out that all the Parish Council allotments had been photographed from the air to determine if they were being maintained in accordance with Tenancy Agreements.

The photograph in question had highlighted that because of the excessive amount of combustible material stored on the allotment it was considered to be a fire hazard.

It was pointed out that the Cemetery had also been surveyed and that the drone had been deployed in accordance with current legislation governing there use.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

98. Draft Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2017 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

¹ Councillor Ms. J. Grant informed members that she was to stand for election to fill the vacancy.

99. Draft Minutes of the Facilities Committee Meeting 31st August 2017

The minutes of the meeting were tabled for information.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

100. Draft Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting 31st August 2017

The minutes of the meeting were tabled for information.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

101. Draft Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting 31st August 2017

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

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

The Parish Clerk provided an update on the use of the new depot and arrangements for sale and demolition of the old unit.

The new locks for the Coopers Close Allotment Site had now been fitted.

Resolved: that the information be noted.

103. Risk Assessments

The Parish Clerk reported that although there were no alterations or amendments were required it was considered appropriate to have the newly installed outdoor Gym equipment inspected by R.o.S.P.A. on an annual basis if possible.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

Action: The Parish Clerk to arrange.

104. Delegates Report on CDALC Medium & Small Councils Forum

Councillors Mrs. P. English, T. Unsworth reported that it had not been possible to attend the previous meeting of the association.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

105. Delegates Report on East Durham Association of Parish & Town Council's

Councillors P. Nuttall and D. Smith reported that it had not been possible to attend the previous meeting of the association.

Resolved: that the information be noted.

106. NALC National Conference and Exhibition 2017

The Parish Clerk reported that Councillors had been provided with information on the conference which was to be held in Milton Keynes on 30th & 31st October 2017. Only Councillor Mrs. Unsworth had responded.

Resolved: That the Chair and Parish Clerk be authorised to attend.

107. S.L.C.C. National Conference

The Parish Clerk requested that he be permitted to attend the Society of Clerks 43rd National Conference at the Hinckley Island Hotel, Leicestershire on the 18th and 19th October 2017.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk be authorised to attend subject to workload.

108. Planning Approval (REF: DM/17/00399/OUT)

Durham County Council advised that outline planning permission had been granted to Emery Steel Contract Ltd., to develop 7 residential detached homes on land adjacent to Gore Hall Farm, Gore Lane, Thornley Co. Durham DH6 3D

Recommendation: That the information be noted

109. 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.

110. CDALC Annual General Meeting

The Chair reported that the 71st CDALC Annual General Meeting was to be held at 10:00 on Saturday 21 October 2017 when delegates would be asked to cast their votes for the election of vice president.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that delegates be mandated to cast their vote for Cllr E Connor (Horden Parish Council).

111. Allotment Waiting list

The Parish Clerk reported that in accordance with existing policy on the letting of allotments, it would be necessary to call a meeting of the Allotments Panel comprising Councillors Mrs. A. Kelly, P. Nuttall, D. Smith and T. Unsworth.

Resolved: That the prospective tenant be invited to meet Councillors on a mutually convenient date and time to sign a Tenancy Agreement.

Action: The Parish Clerk.

Meeting Terminated: 19:57