

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE
6TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Ms. J. Grant, Mrs. A. Kelly, Mrs. P. Maddison, M. McCoy, T. Unsworth, G. 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</i>	<i>Personal</i>	<i>Approved</i>

GUESTS

County Councillors Mrs. L. Hovells, M. Nicholls

PUBLIC

Two members of the public were present.

Meeting Commenced: 7:00pm

65. Appointment of Councillor

The Chair welcomed Councillor David Smith to the meeting following his unopposed election to fill the vacancy as a Parish Councillor. Declarations of Office were signed and Declaration of Members Interest were submitted.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

66. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th July 2016 were accepted as a true record.

67. Police Report

As the police were not present no report was available.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

68. Unitary County Councillor

County Councillors Morris Nichols and Mrs. Lucy Hovells gave a detailed verbal report on the continuing difficulties faced by Durham County Council to reduce its budget and achieve Government targets. Approximately £180 million of savings had been achieved in recent years with a further £29 million to be achieved on the 2017/18 budget. The target would be to reduce spending by £250 million overall.

Members of the public were also being encouraged to participate in a consultation scheme and make suggestions as to where further saving might be achieved.

A new draft bus timetable commencing in October 2016 had been agreed.

A meeting was to be arranged in late September/early October 2016 between officers of D.C.C. and the Village Centre Management Group to try and resolve the outstanding issues.

The overgrown hedges at the side of Ludworth Road and "The Gables" were to be attended to.

The firm building the Crossways development was to be requested to extend the footpath to improve pedestrian access.

Problems caused by traffic speeding on the Gore Hall Estate had been raised with the Chief Constable to try and eliminate the danger to residents.

The review into Youth Services had been completed and would be considered by Cabinet in September.

Investment in Youth Provision and Care Services was under consideration so as to provide a "Mix & Match" across all areas.

Resolved: That the report be received

69. Public Question and Answer Session

An attendee at a local school who was undertaking a project on the Coopers Allotments questioned the council's policy on the letting of allotments, the removal of structures on vacated allotments and the decommissioning of vacant gardens.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk provides the resident with a written response.

Action: The Parish Clerk

70. Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th August 2016 were accepted as a true record.

71. Draft Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting 25th August 2016 & Income and Expenditure report

The minutes of the meeting were tabled for information.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

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

The Parish Clerk referred to previous meetings when the topic had been discussed and reported that Ex-Councillor J. Williams¹ had failed to communicate with the Parish Council in any way and the debt remained outstanding.

Resolved: *That no further action be taken.*

- **Village Centre –Phase II** At a meeting of the of the group held on 2nd August 2016 it was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council that firm quotations be obtained from 3 particular firms to provide a MUGA, a Skate Park and 6 items of outdoor fitness equipment following which applications for funding be obtained from appropriate sources.

Resolved: *That the information be noted*

73. Risk Assessments

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

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

74. 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.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

75. Delegates Report on Thornley Village Centre Management Group

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported verbally on the success of the recent Summer program of activities, outlined events being planned to take place in the Autumn and Christmas period and on the current position of the Phase II development.

Resolved: *That the report be received.*

76. Planning Permission (REF:DM/16/02451/FPA)

Durham County Council advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr Andrew Bland 59, Dunelm Road, Thornley, Durham DH6 3HW to erect a single storey pitched roof extension to rear of existing dwelling.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

77. Planning Permission (REF: DM/16/01833/FPA)

Durham County Council advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr Huntington 1, Ellerby Mews, Thornley, Durham DH6 3FB for a single storey extension to rear of existing dwelling.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

78. Planning Application (REF:DM/16/02429/COL)

¹ See also Minute 44

Durham County Council advised that a Certificate of lawfulness of a proposed development for the construction of dormer roof extension to rear and insertion of 4no. roof lights to front roofslopes of an existing dwelling has been made by Mr Willis 1 Ashwood Grange, Thornley, Durham DH6 3ET

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

79. 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.

80. Planning Application (REF:DM/16/02429/COL)

Durham County Council advised that Mr & Mrs David Hamblin had applied for planning permission to construct a private garage at 69, Dunelm Road, Thornley, Durham DH6 3HW.

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

81. Proposed Installation of Bollards Bridleway 13

Durham County Council advised that in order for their nominated grounds maintenance contractor to gain entry to the "Jubilee Wood" it would be necessary to have the boulders, installed by the Parish Council to prevent vehicle access, replaced with dropped bollards at a cost of £998.19.

D.C.C. requested that the cost be divided between the three agencies.

Members suggested that a contribution would not be necessary if access could be gained via the Parish Council's land at the side of the Village Centre.

Resolved: That the proposal be made to D.C.C.

82. Allotments

Councillor Smith requested that the decommissioning and letting procedure for allotments be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

The Parish Clerk pointed out that decisions of Council could only be changed after a period of 6 months had elapsed.

It would only be possible therefore to accede to Councillor Smiths request after March 2017.

Resolved: That the item be placed on the agenda of the first meeting of the Parish Council after March 2017.

Action: The Parish Clerk

The next meeting of the Parish Council to be held in Thornley Village Centre, High Street, Thornley on 1st November 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Terminated: 09:15pm