

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE,
10TH JANUARY 2017**

Meeting Commenced 7:00 p.m.

133. Apologies for Absence

| <i>Councillor</i> | <i>Reason for Absence</i> | <i>Resolved</i> |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Mrs. .K. Huntington</i> | <i>Personal</i> | <i>Approved</i> |

GUESTS

County Councillors Mrs. L. Hovells, M. Nicholls

PUBLIC

No members of the public were present

134. Minutes of the previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st November 2016 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

135. Police Report

On behalf of PCSO Kelly Hyde the Parish Clerk the following incidents had been reported to the police since the last meeting: -

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Anti-social behaviour | 2 |
| Burglary | 1 |
| Theft from Motor vehicle | 1 |

Resolved: That the report be received.

136. Unitary County Councillor

County Councillors Morris Nichols and Mrs. Lucy Hovells updated members on the continuing difficulties faced by Durham County Council to achieve the budget cuts necessary to meet Government targets including staff restructuring. Issues relating to bus services, environmental impact, roadworks and stray horses were also commented on.

Resolved: That the report be received.

137. Public Question and Answer Session

As members of the public were not present, no questions were raised.

Resolved: That the information be noted

138. Draft Minutes of the Facilities Committee Meeting held on 5th January 2017

The minutes of the meeting were tabled for information.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

139. Draft Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 5th January 2017 & Income and Expenditure report

The minutes of the meeting were tabled for information.

Resolved: That the information be noted

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

- War Memorial Lighting – an order to repair the lighting had been placed with Durham County Council. It was anticipated that this would be completed on 11th January 2017.
- Properties in the Rookery – Enquiries were ongoing to determine if planning permission had been obtained for all of the properties on this development.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

141. Risk Assessments

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

142. Delegates Report on CDALC Medium & Small Councils Forum

Delegates reported that no meeting had been held

Resolved: That the information be noted

143. Delegates Report on Thornley Village Centre Management Group

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that events such as Halloween, Christmas Lights Switch-on and Pantomime had been well supported.

New user groups were being attracted to use the centre which was now proving to be an asset to the community

Resolved: That the report be received.

144. Planning Permission (REF: DM/16/03035/FPA)

Durham County Council advised that planning Permission had been granted to Thornley Parish Council to erect a storage building and access at Thornley Village Centre, High Street, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3EL

Recommendation: That the information be noted.

145. Operation of Thornley Village Centre

The Parish Clerk reported that the Thornley Village Centre Trustees had advised that they were no longer in a position to manage facility and would be notifying the Charity Commission to wind-up the C.I.O. in due course. ¹

¹ ***Referred to Full Council by Facilities Committee held 5th January 2017***

They requested the Parish Council to take over the future management and operation of the centre for use by residents.

Resolved: *That the Parish Council accept responsibility for the management & future operation of the Village Centre.*

Action: *The Parish Clerk to prepare a staff structure report for consideration.*

146. Parish Precept 2017/18

The Parish Clerk reported that it was appropriate at this time to consider the budget for 2016/17 and set the precept to be raised via Durham County Council. Details of the current and proposed precept amount and LCTSS Grant and what impact various increases would have on budget proposals were tabled for consideration.

It was noted that Durham County Council was to reduce the Parish's LCTSS Grant by £3,362 for 2017/18.

Members were mindful of the need for financial constraint but considered that an increase of 1.99% would therefore be required to meet the shortfall and potential increases in utility costs and other service expenditure.

This would equate to an increase equal to a £6.39 per month on Band "D" properties.

Resolved: *That the Parish Precept for 2017/18 be increased by 1.99% to £148,791 plus LCTSS Grant of £10,056 and that Durham County Council be advised accordingly.*

147. 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.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Thornley Village Centre, High Street, Thornley on 7th March 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

148. John Scott Youll V.C. Memorial Plaque

The Parish Clerk reported that the H.M. Government had initiated the installation of memorial plaques to service personnel awarded the Victoria Cross.

In County Durham, the Area Action Partnership was charged with arranging the installations and to establish where they should be positioned, they intended carrying out consultation exercises.

As a "consultee" the Parish Council would be requested to advise on its preferred location for the plaque.

Resolved: *That the A.A.P. be advised that Parish Council's preferred location be adjacent to the "Pit Wheel" in front of the Thornley Village Centre.*

Action: *The Parish Clerk.*

149. War Memorial Arch

The design of a proposed arch for installation at the Thornley War Memorial was tabled for approval.

Resolved: That the design be approved.

Action: The Parish Clerk to obtain estimates for its purchase and installation.

150. Planning Permission (DM/16/04020/FPA)

Durham County Council advised that Miss Rachel Benn had applied for a change of use of the upper floor at McCoys 4, Hartlepool Street, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3BG to a Tattoo Studio.

Resolved: that no objection be raised.

151. Proposed Replacement of Electricity Sub-Station

Durham County Council advised that it had received a request from Northern Powergrid to replace the sub-station in Thornley and request that any objections to the proposal be submitted as soon as possible.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

Meeting Terminated 08:10pm