

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
1ST MAY 2001**

PRESENT

Councillor G. Bland, T. Unsworth, W. Middleton, J. Mawson, G. Wilson, C. O'Brien, P. Maddison, M. Wharrier, L. Mawson, J. Williams, M Fishwick.

Apologies

A. Race, J Unsworth, A. Robson.

Members thanked Cllr Bland for the work and time she had put into the position of Chairman and **resolved that a letter be sent recording these thanks.**

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting the Minutes were accepted.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th April 2009 were accepted as a true record.

2. Agenda Format

The Agenda format will be changed and Members will be given three clear days notice of any Business to be transacted. Exceptions can be brought up by the Chairman after consultation with the Clerk in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to Information) Act, 1985, Section100B (4)(b).

Resolved: To accept these changes.

3. Distribution of Millennium Coins

Members discussed the distribution of Millennium Coins and the poor response.

Resolved: Members resolved that coins would be distributed on request.

4. Events

The Parish Clerk reported that no progress or information regarding events being held in Thornley by District of Easington.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

5. Litter in Shinwell Crescent.

After the site meeting on 5/4/01 Cllr Mawson reported Shinwell Crescent litter free.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

6. Maintenance of Welfare Park

The Parish Clerk reported that the grass cutting contract had been awarded to Turfrite as the lowest bid.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

7. Request for Donation

A request for a donation had been received from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £250.00.

8. Request for Donation

The Parish Clerk reported that a request for a donation had been received from St. Godric's School.

Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £250.00.

9. Request for Donation

A request for a donation was received from the St John's Ambulance.

Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £25.00.

10. Illness

The Parish Clerk reported that Councillor Race was ill and could not attend meetings of the Council.

Resolved: Flowers be sent to councillor Race and wishing her a speedy recovery.

11. Heating in St. Bartholomew's Church

Members requested an update on the Heating problem at the Church, as it was understood that it had been repaired.

Resolved: That any information obtained be reported to the next meeting.

12. Police Report

There has been damage done by Youths to windows and also the Library. Young people are gathering near the off license and the area is being monitored. A total of 11 complaints have been received regarding young people in the area of Stanley Terrace, Greenwood Cottages, Kent Close Hillside Crescent and the Library.

Pc Williams would be the dedicated officer for Wheatley Hill and Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

13. Clerk's Training.

It was reported that a two day training course was available for the Parish Clerk.

Resolved: The clerk should attend at a cost of £100 plus transport and accommodation.

14. Casual Vacancies

A letter from Mrs. Clough was read out regarding the way in which casual vacancies are filled.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

15. Cleaning of Bus Shelters

A letter from a local firm offering to clean bus shelters has been directed to District of Easington.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

16. Annual Audit

An information leaflet for Clerks to prepare for Audit had been received. Thornley's Audit day would be 29th June 2001.

The books would be made available for inspection on 18th May 2001 in the Library and posters would be up in the village on Thursday 3rd May 2001.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

17. ACAS Seminar

The Parish Clerk reported that information obtained at a recently attended seminar would be useful in future years.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

18. Annual Waste Contract – Thornley Cemetery

The Parish Clerk reported that the collection of waste by the District of Easington would be £88.00 for one bin.

Resolved: That the contract be approved.

19. Repairs to Youll House

The Parish Clerk reported that the cost of repairs to the guttering on Youll House would be £130.00.

Resolved That the repairs be undertaken as soon as possible.

20. Skills Festival

The Parish Clerk reported that a skills festival was to be held at Peterlee Leisure Centre on 16th May 2001.

Resolved: that the information be noted.

21. Parish Paths

Members discussed the P3 claim form received from Durham County Council for work required next to Pit Wall, next to 5 a side pitch, from 5 a side pitch to Library area and a new footpath across the new field to Wheatley Hill.

Resolved: That a map showing footpaths in the parish should be displayed in Youll House.

22. A Health Promotion day

The Parish Clerk reported that a Health Promotion Day was to be held at Easington Council Offices on 15th May 2001 from 10am to 3pm.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk attends.

23. Grave Digging Course

The Parish Clerk reported that a 5 day training course was being arranged.

Resolved: That Mr Abbs attend at a cost of approx £800.00

24. Tidy Easington District

A guest speaker gave a presentation on footpaths in the District.
The vandalised bridge was reported for action.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that the District of Easington be requested to provide a litter bin at Coopers Close shop.

25. New Thornley

It was reported that slow progress was being made with the land sale but this should be completed shortly.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

26. Area Forum

The Parish Clerk reported that the Area Forum would take place in the near future.

Resolved: That the Parish representative raise any items of concern.

27. District Councillor

The Station House problem was going through the courts for action.
Progress was being made as people are being moved out of Coopers Close.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

28. County Councillor

The new structure for running the Council was still settling down.
Cars outside St. Godric's was causing problems and a site for a car park was needed and could be progressed through the Regeneration Groups.
The Village signs had been erected.
It had been reported that kerb damage at the entrance to the Library was caused when landscaping work was being done for the Parish Council.
There may be a new format for Inter Parish Sports to include Schools.
Regarding foot and mouth there has been 4 days without an outbreak in County Durham.
Bus service 22 was a cause for concern and a change in timetable was being considered. In fact all services were being looked at to improve connections in the area.
There was a problem with lights at the Church and Library.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

29. Youll House

Cllr G. Wilson reported that all was going well with no problems.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

30. Parking Problems

The Chairman reported that the problems caused by lorries parked outside the Showman's Compound would be passed to the District of Easington for action.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

31. The Annual Parish Meeting

Chairman announced that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held 22 May 2001 at 7pm in Youll House.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

32. Annual Audit

The Parish Clerk reported that the Accounts would be available for inspection at the Library from 10.30 - 12.30 and 1.30 - 2.30 on Friday 18th May 2001. Also by appointment at Youll House until Audit day 29th June 2001. The Clerk to advertise the above in the Library, Post Office and Shops from 4/5/2001.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

33. Availability of Grants

Councillor Middleton agreed to investigate what grants may be available through "Tomorrow's History"

Resolved: That the information be noted.

34. Planting Schemes

It was reported that £280 was being made available from New Thornley for purchasing plants for the Village. The money was to provide flower beds at the approaches to the village but permission had not been granted by Durham County. Members also that £10 be used to purchase seedlings when available. Members resolved that plans to provide plant boxes and hanging baskets be delayed until next year.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

35. Finance Report

The Clerk gave details of payments made and why the cheques are now copied before issue.

Cllr Bland agreed to continue working with the Audit Manager and would report to the Council when the business was complete.

Resolved: To accept the changes and decided that only two signatures would be needed on cheques. Not to include either the Clerk or Cllr Middleton.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
5TH JUNE 2001**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth, W. Middleton, J. Mawson, G. Wilson, C. O'Brien, A Robson, J Unsworth, P Maddison, L. Mawson, J William's.

Apologies

Councillor A. Race, M. Wharrier, M Fishwick, G Bland

36. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true record.

37. Donation

St. Bartholomew's Church requested a donation toward a heating fund.

Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £50.00.

38. Audit of Accounts

The Parish Clerk reported that everything required for Audit on 29th June 2001 was complete.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

39. Allotment Plan

It was suggested that a plan of the allotments showing the name of tenants be provided.

Resolved: Cllr Unsworth to produce the plan.

40. Parish Paths

The Parish Clerk reported that a map showing footpaths in the parish would be available for the next meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

41. Showmen's Vehicles

A member expressed concern that the lorries parked outside the Showman's Compound were the subject of complaints and yet other vehicles were parked in the area for longer periods.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

42. Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Annual Meeting was held on 22nd May 2001 but no members of the public attended.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

43. Annual Parish Council Meeting

Members of the public were asked for their comments and the Clerk gave a short explanation on this matter.

As a result of this discussion more effort to promote the Parish Meeting would be made next year.

The accounts for the Parish Council were available for the Public inspection on 18th May 2001 at the Library.

No requests for information were received.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

44. Memorial Area

Andrew Neville from Groundwork Trust gave some proposals for work to be done at the Memorial area.

Resolved: That the Clerk would produce a suitable scheme with Groundwork Trust and identify funding partnerships to produce a new path linking Thornley and Wheatley Hill.

45. Police Report

The dedicated beat officer for Thornley and Wheatley introduced himself as P.C A Stafford before giving his report.

There had been reports of two house burglaries, two thefts from sheds, two thefts, two thefts from cars and two of criminal damage. The Library area and the rear of Youll House are being given extra attention. There has been little change in complaints over the past few years and new methods will be tried to improve matters. Problems at Coopers Close will be checked. P.C. Stafford stressed that matters must be reported to the Police so that profiles can be built up of trouble areas. Problems at the demolition sites would be checked. Drug complaints were investigated but sometimes a file was built up before action was taken. Underage drinking was a problem with youths moving from Wheatley Hill to Thornley due to the "Alcohol Free Zone". Stanley Street would also be checked.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

46. Correspondence

Members after discussing the list provided:-

Resolved: That items 2, 13, 25, 33, 39, 40, 41, 43, 54, 55, E24, E25, E23, E22, E19, 58 be paid and action proposed on items 11, 26 be carried out by the Clerk.

47. Tidy Easington District

Representatives from McDonnell's at Peterlee spoke on work to be done in the community to raise litter awareness.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

48. New Thornley

Going well with slow progress towards the Resource Centre.

An open day was to be held at Youll House on 16th June 2001 from 10am to 2pm to discuss the projects being done.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

49. Area Forum

No meeting had been held but delegates were invited to a review held by the District of Easington and a Challenge Workshop produced some good interaction.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

50. Youll House

Trips being arranged at £2.00 a head for over 60's.

A Christmas party has been organised for 4/12/2001.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that the Parish Council Meeting to be held on 4th December 2001 be held at the Community Centre.

51. District Councillor

It was reported that a firm selling insurance called "Claims Advance" was working in the District and was claiming to have the support of the District of Easington. This was untrue.

The gardens of void properties were being strimmed.

The area of Shinwell Crescent had been inspected by Mr Huntington.

A request for an "Alcohol Free Zone" had been made. However new regulations had been introduced.

Station House had to be improved within 3 months.

The costs of improvements for Elvet Place were still being sought.

A court injunction was being made for The Queens Head building.

Demolition has started at Coopers Close and will be done in stages.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

52. County Councillor

Cllr Nichols sent his apologies and reported that bollards would not be put in at the Green.

Lights problems at the Library and St. Bartholomew's Church would be reported. Also that a streetlight is permanently on outside 7 Church Walk.

53. Grazing of Horses

Members considered a request for grazing horses on Council land.

Resolved: To grant permission on receipt of a letter confirming third party insurance and for a six-month period.

54. Street Lighting

Members requested action to provide a light at Peters Bakery to improve lighting in the Cut area.

Resolved: That Durham County Council be requested to install a streetlight at the stated location.

55. Grasscutting – Welfare Park

It was reported that the grass cutting service provided by Turfrite was not up to standard required.

Resolved: Clerk to report to next meeting after contacting Turfrite.

56. Finance Report

Expenditure for April 2001 was £3,095 and Income £38,395.

Expenditure for May 2001 was £2,776 and Income £1,042

Under Best Value all operations have to be considered and Members resolved that two items would be discussed at each Meeting of the Parish Council

Resolved: That the information be noted.

57. Youll House Rental Fees

The Parish Clerk reported that at present Youll House Age concern did not pay rent.

Resolved: To allow Age Concern to use the facility free of charge.

58. Payment for the Calculation of Wages

The Parish clerk reported that the charges made by Edward Egglestone & Co Ltd who calculated the wage transactions had been compared to those of the District of Easington.

Resolved: That the services of Edward Egglestone & Co Ltd would be retained.

59. Personnel Report

The Parish Clerk reported that M Abbs would be on holiday from 14th June 2001 to 2nd July 2001. During this period the other two members of staff would cover for his absence.

Due to off takes from wages reducing after April 2001 a back payment will have to be made to all staff.

Resolved: That payment be made by cheque as soon as possible after Standing Orders had been amended.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
3RD JULY 2001**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth, W. Middleton, G. Wilson, C. O'Brien, A Robson, M Fishwick, L. Mawson J Mawson, G Bland, J William's.

Apologies

Councillor A. Race, M. Wharrier, G Wharrier, J Unsworth, P Maddison

60. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true record.

61. Parish Paths

Up to date maps showing footpaths etc. in the Parish were distributed and further copies to be made available to Members.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

62. Attendance at Parish Meetings

The Parish clerk reported that the press were not interested in an article regarding lack of attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting. Members agreed that lack of understanding of what the meeting was for could be a factor.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

63. Future Projects

Several schemes were considered for the New Field along with the provision of a new path to join Thornley and Wheatley Hill. Most of the path will be on Thornley Parish Land.

Resolved: That Further meetings were planned to progress these matters.

64. Flooding

A problem with water flow from the area had been investigated by Northumberland Water but no burst had been found on their supply. Results from a further test by the Coal Board were not yet available but the sampler did not think it was mine seepage. A plan of the area was to be checked to ensure no there were no paths near the site of the three mine shafts in the area.

Resolved: That the Clerk should take action to prevent water damage to a nearby footpath.

65. Pedestrian Lighting

Lights at the Library area and St. Bartholomew's Church had been reported and also the light outside 7 Church Walk.

A request for a light on the gable end of Peters Bakery to light the cut area has been made. Cllr Nichols agreed to progress this matter.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

66. Insurance

Insurance details have been received.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

67. Grazing of Horses

A letter requesting permission to graze horses on parish land was received.

Resolved: That and permission be granted for six months.

68. Grasscutting – Welfare Park

The Parish Clerk reported that member's complaints had been passed on to Turfrite. Although standards had improved they were still not as required.

Resolved: That if no improvement was made the Clerk approach District of Easington to take over this part of the Contract.

69. Burials

The Parish Clerk reported that members of staff covering the holiday of M Abbs had coped well.

The Committee thanked Cllr Middleton for locking and unlocking the Cemetery gates.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

70. Back Pay

The Parish Clerk reported that the back pay for staff had been paid. The delay was due to waiting for the Standing Orders to be in place before calculating the amount to be paid.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

71. Police Report

No burglaries or car thefts had been reported. Three thefts, 3 criminal damage and 12 complaints re young people mostly in the Youll House and Coopers Close area. Offenders were being identified and parents contacted.

New bylaw from May 2001 is the Criminal Police Justice Act, which is enforced by a partnership between Police and District Council. Renewal of liquor licenses are held in February 2002.

A Member thanked the Police for the help received at the Library area.

Funding for a scrambler type motorcycle is being sought for Divisional use.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

72. Sexton's Report

M Abbs reported 9 internments, 11 plots sold and 7 headstones placed giving an income of £1,220 over 6 months.

Paths were up to standard and grass cutting a little behind because of holidays.

He agreed that Turfrite grass cutting was not up to The District of Easington standard.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

73. 5-a-side nets

It was suggested that the 5 a-side nets should be replaced because they were in a poor condition.

Resolved: To replace the football nets as soon as possible

74. Correspondence

After discussing the items on the list provided.

Resolved: That items 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 22, 31, 32, 42, 43, 44, 45, 73, 74, 75, 82, 84, 89, 92, 93, 94 be paid and action proposed by the Clerk be carried out. Members resolved to donate £35 to Crime-Stoppers, Headstones at Cemetery to be checked for safety and report to next meeting, Grass cutting operations to improve or revert to District of Easington, Delay Pavilion Roof until funding found, Durham County Council estimate accepted for work at Library entrance, explanation by Chairman and Cllr Fishwick re letters in the Press, £50 donation to Methodist Toddlers Group.

75. Tidy Easington District

Mr Johnson from Durham Waste Management gave information on the project to trial a household waste digester at Thornley Crossings.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

76. New Thornley

A successful open day was held on 16th June 2001. Electors were pleased with the projects and the work of New Thornley.

The appraisal for the Resource Centre is done and now funding is being sought.

The Village Green project planning is almost complete.

The funding for the Village Stones is in place and work will soon be started.

Nick Holmes gave a talk on funding.

A sponsored litter pick has been held on Sunday 1st July 2001 to raise funds for Gore Hill Playground.

Members asked if the Parish Council would take care of liability insurance for the stones.

A £100 donation is being returned to the Council asking that it be re-issued in the name of New Thornley.

There was an under spend on flowerbeds. If flowers are planted at Bow Street Play Area would the Council maintain them

When making a bid for funds for the Resource Centre it had been suggested that the playing fields could be included.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that a donation of £100 be made when returned to New Thornley, that the Parish increases its public liability if required for the play area and that the plants be maintained at parish council expense.

77. Area Forum

Next Meeting would be held on 17th July 2001 at Wellfield School.
Members requested that Bow Street Garages be placed on the agenda and the problem of rats in the area.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

78. Youll House

Next Meeting would be held on 10th July 2001.
Cllr Wilson attended a Seminar on Playgrounds. Information on equipment and funding was given to the Clerk.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

79. Town & Parish Liaison Committee

The A.G.M. had been held. A Play Day was being arranged for 1st August 2001 at the Howletch site.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

80. Youth Project

It was reported that the Youth Project was going well. Sponsorship forms have been handed out to raise funds. Gus Robinson has loaned a boxing ring.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

81. District Councillor

As the District Councillor was present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

82. County Councillor

Members congratulated Cllr Nichols on his re-election. 14-16 new Councillors are being inducted.
An information sign is being provided for the pit pony.
£10,000 has been allocated for Dunelm Road traffic calming measures.
Safe routes to School are being organised.
Some verges in the County are being cut and making a mess with litter.
Talks being held regarding asylum seekers being brought to the County.
Lights in the Parish being repaired.
Cllr Nichol's was now Chair of Health & Safety in the Community.
Members requested a light for the compound behind the paper shop.
Trees on the Wheatley Hill side of the chicane near the School needed trimming back.
Information on housing problems regarding Private Financial Investment was requested.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

83. Personnel Report

As reported wages for the Staff are back to normal as were all payments by Standing Order.

Overtime payments for the Clerk ended this month and the books are with the Auditor.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

84. Finance Report

The Parish Clerk reported that £6845.88 had been spent making a total spend of £12,717.36 this financial year. Well within the expected profile.

The Audit bill for 98/99 is £1567.22 and 99/00 is £1925.03.

Resolved: That a letter commenting on the fact that if the previous Auditor had intervened earlier costs would have been reduced.

85. Cemetery Fees & Charges

Cemetery charges had been compared with other neighbouring authorities and were slightly higher for most services.

Resolved: No change in Cemetery Fees.

86. Welfare park Hire Fees

Last season there was no charge for the use of the football facilities.

Resolved: That no charge be made for this season.

87. Outstanding Audit

Cllr Bland gave an update on meetings with the Audit Office.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
4TH SEPTEMBER 2001**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth, W. Middleton, G. Wilson, C. O'Brien, A Robson, M Fishwick, J Mawson, G Bland, J Williams, P Madison

Apologies

Councillor A. Race, L Mawson.

88. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true record.

89. Footpath Plans

No progress on the repairs to the footpaths as work was stopped by the Chairman although a resolution had been passed authorising the Clerk to progress the work.

Further copies of the footpaths were requested by to Cllr. Mitchell, J Williams, O'Brien, and Cllr. J Mawson.

Resolved: That estimates should be provided for the October Meeting regarding the cost of a drainage channel to divert the water.

90. Grasscutting – Welfare Park

Turfrite grass cutting operations were now up to standard. A request has been made for an access gate to be made at no cost to the Council.

Resolved: That the Clerk would progress this matter.

91. 5 a-side nets

The 5-a-side nets have been delivered.

Resolved: That they would be kept in the "green cabin" and a key provided to Cllr Mawson.

92. Dangerous Headstones

Members discussed a report on the gravestones that could be a danger to the Public.

Resolved: That notices be displayed at the Cemetery and 4 weeks notice given before action is taken is taken to make the sites safe.

93. Request for Donation

The Heritage Trail Project requested a donation to aid their work in the area.

Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £250.00.

94. Cemetery Paths

The Parish Clerk reported that the lowest tender for the Cemetery Paths Extension had been provided by the District of Easington.

Resolved: That the tender price of £7,600 be accepted.

95. Millennium Coins

Resolved: That Centenary Coins would be sold at £3.00 each.

96. Resignation of the Parish Clerk

Clerk's resignation would be discussed under Personnel.

Cllr O'Brien put forward a letter of resignation.

Councillors' Bland, Middleton, Fishwick and Mitchell also handed in a letter of resignation over the manner of conducting business by the Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

97. Request for Donation

Stuart Dowding requested a donation to further his efforts in sport.

Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £500.00.

98. Coopers Close Allotments

Members were reminded of their responsibility regarding Pecuniary Interest. Cllr T Unsworth, Cllr J Unsworth and Cllr P Madison took no part in the discussions.

47 people attended an open Meeting on 28th August 2001 to discuss the future of this site. 24 allotment holders out of a possible 35 attended and indicated they would be willing to form an Association to run the site and if required purchase the plots. A further meeting was to be held on 25th September 2001 at the Catholic Club and the Clerk would to arrange for a speaker on the formation and running of an Allotment Association.

The Clerk pointed out that the Council should not take the responsibility for the upkeep of the Allotments but Associations could access Grants.

Resolved: That the site would be purchased subject to valuation at £10,000. The cost of selling the plots on to individuals would also be provided for the next meeting.

99. Police Report

As the police were not in attendance no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

100. Damage to Playgrounds and Repairs

The Parish Clerk reported that there was a monthly inspection carried out by the District of Easington and repairs were authorised as required along. Repairs to structural damage at Gore Hill were also being undertaken.

The covering at Bow Street has been noted and replacements ordered.

A Member requested action over a sticking gate at Bow Street.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

101. Report on Footpath Proposals and Water Damage

Members agreed to wait for progress to be made regarding footpaths before a report was made.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

102. Tidy Easington District

As no meeting had taken place a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

103. New Thornley

Village stones project going well. Sport England approached re grants.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

104. Vermin

A rat problem in Thornley was being attended to by the Environment Dept.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

105. Sale of Land

Land at the North end of the Village out to tender.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

106. Stray Dogs

There had been 40 stray dogs picked up and 5 people fined in the area of Thornley, Shotton and Trimdon.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

107. Youll House

Cllr G. Wilson reported that the next meeting would be held on 11th September 2001.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

108. Youth Project

As the delegate was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

109. District Councillor

At Hartlepool St North a compulsory purchase order has been issued.
Demolition at Cooper's Close was delayed while people move out.
Vandalism is also causing problems.
Two Outreach Workers were to work in the Village.
The Village Housing Plan should be available in October.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

110. County Councillor

Big changes in the Social Services to meet the demands of an aging population (33% over 65).
Plan is to spend 60 million pounds to replace 25 inadequate care homes with 10 big modern homes.
Private care homes would also have to improve accommodation.
Provision for the frail and infirm also has to be made.
East Durham had the longest waiting list for improvement work to enable people to remain in their own homes. There is a three-year plan to improve matters.
Safe routes to schools had been completed and should start this month with £10,000 to be applied for.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

111. Village Green Improvement

Proposals for the Village Green. Improvements were shown to members and the public.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

112. Finance Report

The Parish Clerk reported that £7,583 had been spent in July 2001 which included large payments to the Audit Commission £2,300 spent in August which keeps spending within profile
The sum of £38,000 would be available from September to April 2002 after the second payment of the Precept in November 2001.
The expected balance at the end of the year was £15,000.
Members were requested to indicate projects for 2002/2003 so that the Precept could be planned for the November Meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
4TH SEPTEMBER 2001
EXEMPT ITEMS NOT FOR PRESS OR PUBLICATION**

EXEMPT ITEMS NOT FOR PRESS OR PUBLICATION

In accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 the press and public be excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 1 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

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PURPOSES**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
2ND OCTOBER 2001**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth, A Robson, L Mawson, J Mawson, J William's, P Madison, M Wharrier, J Unsworth.

Apologies

Councillor A. Race, G Wilson.

114. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes were confirmed with addition of Cllr L Mawson as present

115. Matters Arising

Copies of Footpath plans were handed to Cllr Mawson and Cllr William's. The District of Easington and Kemps requested to provide estimates for repairs to path. However the water seepage may have been caused by a leak at the Library Allotment site.

Gate for access when grass cutting to be left until next grass cutting season.

Key is to be cut for Cllr Mawson to give access to the "Green Cabin".

Waiting for the Coopers Close land to be valued before proceeding with purchase of land.

The District of Easington awarded contract for paths at the Cemetery but are requesting extra money to provide access to the Ludworth side.

Resolved: To decide at the next meeting regarding extra payment.

116. Donations

The Parish Clerk reported that because of a £500 donation being made to Mr Dowding the budget was over expended.

A member reported that Mr Dowding had recently won the Open British Championship.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

117. Coopers Close Allotments

An Open Meeting re Coopers Close Allotments held on 25th September 2001 had been well attended and an Association was to be formed with the G. Ramage, 7 Hawthorn View, Thornley appointed Secretary. The Association was to make a request, after the land is purchased by the Council, for a 99-year lease and suggest that 5% of rent collected would be paid to the Council.

Resolved: To agree to those conditions.

118. Playground Maintenance

One gate had been repaired at Bow Street play area and another is to be repaired.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

119. Water Bill

An account for water consumption totalling £1868.15 was discussed.

Resolved: To leave the water off to the Allotment site until repairs are completed.

120. Sale of Land

Members requested more information for the next meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

121. Casual Vacancies

The casual vacancies that existed on the Parish Council were discussed.

Resolved: That names would be given to the Clerk within 14 days and Vacancies filled at the next Meeting

122. Police Report

As the Police were not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

123. Report on Footpath Proposals and Water Damage

Members agreed to wait for progress to be made regarding footpaths before a report is made.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

124. Tidy Easington District

Cllr Wilson attended instead of Cllr Mawson. Speaker was the C.P.O. who gave the talk used in Schools. Problem of overgrown gardens in Thornley was discussed and action is being taken.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

125. New Thornley

A Meeting was held to identify projects and funding.

A Youth Project Meeting had been held to define how to work together on future projects.

Village Stones and Flower Beds were going through planning.

A new Constitution had been agreed to ensure Charity Status.

A request for the return of £100 Donation (for Flower Beds not used) was made.

Area Forum

The next meeting would be held on 3rd October 2001.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

126. Youll House

No report was presented.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

127. Youth Project

No report was presented.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

128. District Councillor

Poor response to housing survey with only one more week for returns.
Outreach workers are requesting funding from The District of Easington.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

129. County Councillor

Cllr Nichols sent his apologies and informed Members that Safe Routes to Schools was going forward and the Traffic Calming Project.
District and County were being asked for funding to regenerate the area.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

130. Finance Report

The Parish Clerk reported that £3,234 had been spent in September 2001, which was well within profile.

Resolved: That the information be noted and Mr A Pickering be appointed to undertake the Internal Audit of Accounts.

131. Welfare Park – Roof Repairs

The £25,000 estimated cost of repairing the pavilion roof was discussed.

Resolved: To delay the repairs until the Precept for the following year had been determined.

132. Parish Precept 2002/3

The estimated level of expenditure for 2002/3 was considered.

Resolved: That the Precept for 2001/2002 be set at £76,000

133. Request for Donation

Thornley Community Association requested a donation for the Boxing Club.

Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £100.

134. Exclusion of the Press & Public

In accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 the press and public were excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 1 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

135. Minutes of the Personnel Sub Committee

Members considered the minutes of the Personnel Sub Committee held on 2nd October 2001

Resolved: That the minutes be accepted.

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PURPOSES**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
2ND OCTOBER 2001**

EXEMPT ITEMS NOT FOR PRESS OR PUBLICATION

In accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 the press and public be excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 1 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
6TH NOVEMBER 2001**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth, A. Robson, L Mawson, J Mawson, P Madison, G Wilson, J Unsworth.

Apologies

Councillor J Williams, M Wharrier.

Members observed one minute's silence to mark the death of Cllr Race

137. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes were confirmed with alteration of "Flower Beds" not included in Planning Permission and £100 was from "Flower Festival"

138. Matters Arising

A key has been provided to Cllr Mawson for access to the "Green Cabin" Coopers Close Allotments to be discussed in Finance.

Still no decision from The District of Easington re Cemetery Path Contract. Cllr Wilson to raise the concern over delay in decision at the Consultative Panel and Area Forum.

Members resolved to pay £75 to have the meter checked at the Library Allotments and to make enquiries re unauthorised water use.

No progress on land purchase but it appears that it is to improve boundary lines in the area.

A cheque for £100 donation will be provided after clarification that it is to be made out to New Thornley Partnership.

Mr Middleton thanked the Parish Council for the £100 donation to the Boxing Club.

Resolved: That the back pay of £6.00 to C and D Jacobs and £10.74 be made to cover the weeks between the pay award and start of the Standing Orders.

139. Parish Clerk Vacancy

The present Clerk would leave on 14th November 2001 after working 3 months notice and taking holidays owed. Minutes for this meeting will be done and no further hours are available to be worked. An arrangement to cover until the next Clerk is employed was required. Equipment and documents would be handed over on 14th November 2001 at Youll House to Cllr Wilson. A list of work to be completed will also be provided.

There were no applicants to interview at the meeting on 16th September 2001.

Resolved: To advertise in the Northern Echo and enquiries to made at the District of Easington. The Chairman decided to cancel the Northern Echo advert with no reason given.

140. Co-option of Members

A list of five people was provided for consideration.

Mrs. A Williams 27 Thornlaw North, Mr J Cairns 62 Dunelm Road, District Councillor G Wharrier Woodlawn The Villas, Mrs. M. Ollett "Glenelg" Stanley Terrace, Mr J Ollett "Glenelg" Stanley Terrace.

Resolved: That co-option take place at the next Meeting.

141. Correspondence

Cllr Wilson would attend a meeting on 11th November 2001 regarding the future of "Inter Parish Sport.

142. Internal Audit

Mr Pickering had submitted an Invoice for £140 for internal audit services.

Resolved: To pay £140 to Mr Pickering for the six month Audit.

143. Rural Transport

Members were given information on Rural Transport Grants.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

144. Police Report

PC Oliver introduced himself as the Beat Officer and reported two recorded crimes - damage at the Community Centre and theft of garden furniture at Dunelm Road. Young people were causing problems in Stanley Terrace, Shinwell Crescent and at the Surgery. Motorbikes were still a problem. Members discussed the amount of cans and bottles left at the Library car park.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

145. Report on Footpath Proposals and Water Damage

No report was available

Resolved: That the information be noted.

146. Tidy Easington District

The work of Thornley's lighthouseman was discussed and the excellent job he was doing to keep the Parish tidy. The speaker was from Community Development, which includes projects with school children. One project at Haswell went well and included Tidy Ted on a litter pick.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

147. New Thornley

The environment project on the Village Green had started and 5 other projects were planned.

Display boards had been obtained to be used in exhibitions etc. The updated business plan for the resource Centre was nearly complete.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

148. Area Forum

It was agreed that Henry St. drainage and the delay in the Cemetery Paths contract be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

149. Youll House

The new chairman was Mr High.

Organisation is going well. Other meetings attended included Rural Transport Grants and a consultative meeting on boundary changes. At the Consultative Panel a dog waste bin made by the District of Easington was on display.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

150. Youth Project

No report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

151. District Councillor

Difficult to get Youth Leaders in Thornley.

The Housing Open Day went well and was now being assessed.

The nine bungalows planned may be increased to eleven. This should be finalised by January 2002.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

152. County Councillor

Safe routes to school were ready to be implemented.

A car park opposite the Catholic School had been put forward for planning permission.

A light was to be provided at the Showman's Compound.

Stanley Street light was still being discussed.

The Transport Grant already mentioned could involve Thornley, Wheatley. Hill and Deaf Hill. The Clerk at Thornley is waiting for replies on this matter.

Dunelm Road traffic calming is ready to start.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

153. Remembrance Day

Members discussed the purchase of wreaths for the Remembrance Day Service.

Resolved: To purchase three wreaths for Remembrance Sunday.

154. Casual Vacancies

The clerk to contact the Electoral Officer re the Casual Vacancy.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

155. Coopers Close Allotments

Problems at Coopers Close Allotments were now resolved.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

156. Request for Account Information

The Chairman produced a letter from Cllr B Wilson dated 10th September 2001 requesting a copy of the Parish accounts for 1999/2000 and 2000/2001. The Clerk had already assured the Audit Manager that no letter had been received.

Resolved: That a letter of apology be sent to the Audit Manager and to Cllr Wilson re the delay in agreeing to his request. No explanation was given by the Chairman.

157. Finance Report

The six-month audit completed with no problems and this year spreadsheets were audited. A table showing monthly expenditure was explained to Members showing that average spending (excluding one off payments) runs at approx. £5000 per month which gives a total of £60,000.

As the valuation of Coopers Close Allotments may be as low as £3000.

A grant for £5000 may be available from Sport for All for the Pavilion Roof.

With a balance of £76,000 the Clerk suggested a precept of £70,000 (a reduction of £6000) for next year.

Resolved: To set a precept of £76,000 (unchanged)

158. Request for Donation

Thornley Stoneham Group requested a donation for lighting equipment.

Resolved: Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £100.

159. Exclusion of the Press & Public

In accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 the press and public were excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 1 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

160. Minutes of the Personnel Sub Committee

Members considered the minutes of the Personnel Sub Committee held on 16th November 2001.

Resolved: That the minutes be accepted.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
16TH NOVEMBER 2001
EXEMPT ITEMS NOT FOR PRESS OR PUBLICATION**

EXEMPT ITEMS NOT FOR PRESS OR PUBLICATION

In accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 the press and public be excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 1 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

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PURPOSES**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
THE METHODIST CHAPEL, DUNELM ROAD THORNLEY
ON
4 DECEMBER 2001**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

Councillors P Madison, L Mawson, J Mawson, J. Ollett, M. A. Ollett, A. Robson, J Unsworth, G. Wharrier, A. Williams, J. Williams, G Wilson.

APOLOGIES

Councillors M. Nichols, M Wharrier.

162. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2001, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record.

163. Matters Arising

The Parish Clerk was asked that if official receipts had not been issued to the Catholic Club and the Labour Club in respect of cash received for wreaths for the Remembrance Day Service, this be done as a matter of course.

The Parish Clerk was asked if there had been any response from Northumbrian Water in respect of their investigation of the suspected water leak on the service to the allotment site.

The Parish Clerk responded saying that he had not seen any correspondence from Northumbrian Water in papers that had recently come into his possession. He would investigate further and report to the next meeting of the Parish Council

164. Co-Option of Parish Council Members

As there were no applications to fill vacancies on the Parish Council using the statutory election procedures the persons listed below were co-opted to the Parish Council.

Mrs. A Williams 27 Thornlaw North, Thornley,

Mr. J Cairns 62 Dunelm Road, Thornley,

District Councillor G Wharrier Woodlawn The Villas, Thornley,

Mrs. Ollett "Glenelg" Stanley Terrace, Thornley,

Mr. J Ollett "Glenelg" Stanley Terrace, Thornley.

With the exception of Councillor Mr. J. Cairns, (who was not in attendance at the meeting) all signed "Declarations of Office".

165. Appointment of Temporary Parish Clerk

The report of the Chairman, a copy of which had been previously circulated was considered.

Members were advised that the former Parish Clerk had formally resigned his position with effect from 30th November 2001. As he would be on holiday from the 14th November 2001 he could not provide administrative support.

To ensure continuity, an advertisement was placed in the Sunderland Echo, the Job Centre and the local shops, seeking applications from suitable individuals to fill the vacancy. The closing date was 1st October 2001.

Only 5 individuals requested details of the post but none were returned by the due date. This was reported to the Parish Council on 6th November 2001 Minute 138.

In view of the lack of response and the necessity to fill the vacancy, the Chairman in consultation with the District Councillor G. Wharrier, sought guidance from the District of Easington.

As a result of these discussions Mr W.D. Moore (former Head of Community Development, Arts & Leisure at the District of Easington) and Mr. K. Lavan had been contacted about the situation.

Mr. Lavan had stated that he could not consider taking up any offer of employment, should one be offered, as he had other commitments.

To ensure the administration of the Parish Council's affairs was maintained the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council had therefore arranged for W.D. Moore to undertake the duties and responsibilities of the Parish Clerk on a voluntary basis pending the appointment of a new Parish Clerk.

Resolved: That the action of the Chairman and Vice Chairman be endorsed.

166. Police Report

Police Constable Oliver of Durham Constabulary gave a verbal report as follows:-

A theft from a house in Coopers Close had taken place between 6.00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. This highlighted the need for all residents to be vigilant as not all crimes from property takes place overnight.

A motor vehicle previously stolen in the St. Aidan's area had now been recovered.

Here had been a theft of wheel and wheel trims from a Ford Fiesta in the Albert Street area.

A Yamaha scooter had been reported stolen.

There had been a number of reports of "nuisance" and of youths congregating in various parts of the village.

Reports of a burglary but nothing had in fact been stolen.

In Ashford Grove, a man aged about 60 years old had approached an elderly lady and had used "high pressure" sales techniques to make her purchase items of bedroom linen. It was considered that the items had been vastly overpriced. All residents should be made aware of the situation and any further incidents should be reported to the police as soon as possible.

A new section within the police force had been created to combat the growing number of incidents being reported of motorcycles being used in “off road” locations. Special off road police motorcycles had been purchased and once officers had received the proper training the scheme would be implemented. P.C. Oliver would keep the Parish Council advised on progress.

In reponse to a number of complaints made in the past, a memorandum had been sent to all officers in the division highlighting the need for police offers to be more aware of the manner they employ when talking to members of the public. It was hoped that this would have a beneficial effect and reduce the number of complaints being received.

A Rural Beat Officer had been appointed for the area. The officer(s) would patrol the various villages on a rotational basis over a period of 6/8 weeks. This was in addition to normal police activity. Officers would pay particular attention to targeted areas or to activities of concern to local residents.

P.C. Oliver stressed the need for all incidents to be reported, as this would aid the police and help them target resources accordingly.

Resolved: That the report given by P.C. Oliver be received.

167. Report of the Parish Clerk

Alteration of the Bank Mandate

The Parish Clerk reported that because of resignations by a number Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk it would be necessary to amend the Bank mandate for security reasons.

Resolved: Agree to the use of The Co-operative Bank p.l.c. (“the Bank”) Business Customer Services (“the Service”) subject to the Bank’s standard terms and conditions of use of the service, a copy of which is available. The persons listed below shall be our authorised representatives when using the service or such other persons as may be advised to the Bank in writing from time to time by persons authorised to instruct the Bank under our general mandate.

Name of Chairman or authorised signatory and position:-

T. Unsworth	Chairman of the Thornley Parish Council
J. Mawson	Vice Chairman of Thornley Parish Council
Mrs. J. Unsworth	Parish Councillor
Mrs. P. Maddison	Parish Councillor
G. Wilson	Parish Councillor
J. Williams	Parish Councillor
W.D. Moore	Parish Clerk

In all other aspects, the mandate with the Bank will continue unaffected.

168. Pavilion Roof - Update

The Parish Clerk reported that there have been further reports concerning the condition of the Pavilion roof and the amount of rainwater seeping into the changing areas. He had inspected the building and would report to a future meeting of the Parish Council on various options and costs of carrying out roofing repairs and possible refurbishment of the building.

Resolved That the report of the Parish Clerk be considered at the first available opportunity in order that the financial implications could be considered

169. Capital Works 2002 -2003

The Parish Clerk explained that in order that budgets and work schedules for 2002- 2003 could be prepared, members should consider those schemes, which they deemed important/necessary for the maintenance or improvement of the village.

He explained that this list and all other budgets should have been prepared some months ago by the outgoing Parish Clerk. This would have enabled the Parish Council to fix a precept more in line with its' perceived levels of expenditure for 2002/2003.

Schemes currently proposed were:

Repair to Pavilion Roof.

Installation of new path in the cemetery.

Extension and refurbishment of Cemetery Lodge

Hanging Baskets & Floral Tubs

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk produce cost estimates for the aforementioned schemes in order that a program of works could be determined within the budget set for 2002/2003.

170. New Thornley

It was reported that the proposal to obtain Charity Status was progressing well and that the names people willing to be nominated as Trustees had now been considered.

Three speakers had attended the last meeting and had spoken on various issues.

The sculpture had been instructed to proceed with the carving of the Village Stones.

New Thornley is to create its' own Internet Web Site. The first training session will be held on 6th December 2001.

A bid has been submitted by the Partnership to obtain funding in order that it can employ an administrator for approximately 16 hours per week.

The partnership has been successful in obtaining a grant from the District of Easington Safety Partnership to provide a "dusk till dawn" security provision for the elderly of the village in both council and private dwellings.

A management group has been formed in order to obtain funding for building the Resource Centre.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

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171. Area Forum

It was reported that only 3 representatives had been present at the last meeting of the forum. Discussion had centered on works taking place in Wheatley Hill, which had attracted European funding.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

172. Inter Parish Sport

It was reported that at the meeting held in October, eight Parish Council's had shown an interest in being involved in participating in an Inter Parish Sport event. Officers from the District of Easington would be revising the format of the event and these were to be discussed at the next meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

173. Youll House

It was reported that the M. Wigham had been elected Chairman of the Committee. The financial balances were healthy and that as a result additional grants could not be accessed at the present time.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

174. Tidy Easington District

It was reported that a number of "Dog Litter" receptacles had been manufactured by the District of Easington and it had been suggested that a trial scheme be introduced in the area. These bins would be emptied on a weekly basis. Further information would be reported to the Parish Council as matters progressed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

175. Consultative Meeting

It was reported that the District of Easington is to appoint 6 new lenghtsman to undertake street sweeping and other related duties in the various villages in the district. It was anticipated that these operatives would work two & a half days per week and could become permanent posts on the establishment.

There had been reports that the number of tractors and gangmowers operated by the District of Easington to maintain the grassed areas may be reduced in the future. In order that the reasons for this could be explained to the Parish Council Mr. D, Roberts had volunteered to brief the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that the Parish Clerk contact Mr. Roberts to make the necessary arrange to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council.

176. District Councillor

It was reported that in addition to the work on 9 houses in the St. Chad's area 2 more could be added to the program if the need was proven.

Twelve 2-bedroom bungalows and eight 3-bedroom houses were included in the first phase of the development. DARMA would commence work after Christmas.

The garages in Coopers Close had been demolished but some difficulties had arisen with the owners of three properties. It was hoped these could be resolved in the near future.

Bids had been submitted for funding from the latest element of the funding program.

Land at the rear of Thornlaw North had now been sold to private developers.

Some issues had arisen in relation to the Youth projects, which were taking place in the villages, and these were being discussed with the District of Easington.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

177. County Councillor

Although Councillor Nichols was not present at the meeting he had submitted the following report:-

The Miners Heritage has completed the Pit Pony signs.

It is anticipated that work on the Safe Routes to School program in Thornley will commence in March 2002 at a cost of £12,000.

The issues raised by one resident for traffic calming measures in Dunelm Road have been resolved and the designs approved. It is anticipated that works will commence in the near future.

There is a need for the Parish Council's of Thornley Wheatley Hill & Trimdon Foundry to meet at an early opportunity in order that the Parish Transport Scheme can be progressed.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that the Parish Clerk be instructed to arrange a meeting with representatives of Wheatley Hill and Trimdon Foundry to discuss the Parish Transport Scheme

178. Request for Donations

The East Durham Women's Aid Refuge for women and children forced to leave their homes due to physical violence, mental and sexual abuse requested any amount to help with the organisation of trips out during the summer, activities at Christmas and educational needs.

Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £20.00.

179. Councillor A. Race

Following the death of Councillor A. Race the Parish Council considered making a donation to the Hospice in lieu of flowers being provided at the burial service.

Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £30.00.

180. New Thornley Partnership

New Thornley Partnership requested permission to develop an area of land, which was in the ownership of Thornley Parish Council as a wild meadow.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk contacts Kay Fotheringham at Groundwork East Durham to arrange a site meeting. Details to be provided to all Parish Councillors in order that they could attend if they chose to do so.

181. Department of Environment Food & Rural Affairs Consultation Paper.

The Parish Clerk reported that a consultation paper had been received from D.E.F.R.A. This set out proposals for a model charter covering the relations between all parish and town councils and their principal authorities; the additional benefits that a Quality council can expect; how the Quality concept will work and the tests councils should meet to achieve this. Responses should be received by D.E.F.R.A. by 14th February 2002.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk reports to the next meeting of the Parish Council on a suitable response.

182. New Thornley Partnership

The Parish Clerk informed members that the Solicitor representing New Thornley Steering Group had advised that the transfer of land from the Parish Council to New Thornley had now been registered with H. M. Land Registry. The Solicitors wished to be advised what arrangement the Parish Council would like to make in respect of the Land Certificates. They had offered 3 alternatives 1) Post them to the Parish Council 2) arrange collection 3) store them in their strong room at their Hartlepool Office.

An alternative was to use the facilities offered to Parish Council's by the District of Easington.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk makes arrangements to obtain the documents and deposit them with the District of Easington for safekeeping.

183. Parish Councils Model Code of Conduct

The Parish Clerk informed members that the Department of Transport had provided a copy of the Model Codes of Conduct Order 2001. All authorities must adopt their own code of conduct by the 5th May 2002 and send a copy of the document to the Standards Board of England.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk brings forward a Code of Conduct for member's approval and adoption by the due date.

184. The Society of Local Council Clerks

The Parish Clerk informed members that the Society of Local Council Clerks had forwarded a subscription renewal for 2002 along with details of the Annual conference taking place 4th -7th April 2002 in Plymouth. The cost of the subscription renewal was £45.00

Resolved: That the subscription for the coming year be renewed.

185. To Appoint Representatives - Meetings and Events

District of Easington Proposed Communications Strategy. Meeting with the Chief Executive, District of Easington. Date and venue to be advised.

Resolved: That Councillor G. Wilson and the Parish Clerk be authorised to attend the meeting on behalf of Thornley Parish Council.

Durham County Council Waste Local Plan Wednesday 12 December 2001
County Hall 2.00 p.m.

Resolved: That Councillors G., Wilson and J. Williams be authorised to attend the meeting on behalf of Thornley Parish Council.

District of Easington Consultative Panel Thursday 13th December 2001. 2:00 p.m. Council Chamber.

Resolved: That Councillor G. Wilson be authorised to attend the meeting on behalf of Thornley Parish Council.

District of Easington Invitation to the Chairman's School Carol Concert. Thursday 13th December 2001 7.00 p.m. Peterlee Leisure Centre. Tickets are £1.00 each.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk purchases 5 tickets in order that Parish Councillors can attend the event.

Easington District Inter Parish Sports Event Meeting 30th January 2002 630 p.m. Peterlee Leisure Centre.

Resolved: That Councillor G. Wilson be authorised to attend the meeting on behalf of Thornley Parish Council.

Easington Area Association of Parish & Town Councils- Notification of a Meeting to be held Council Offices Easington 5th December 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Offices Easington.

Resolved: That Councillors T. Unsworth and J. Williams be authorised to attend the meeting on behalf of Thornley Parish Council.

District of Easington Targeted Communities Package. Notification of a meeting to be held at the Community Centre Horden on 4th December 2001 at 10:00 a. m.

Resolved: That Councillor J. Unsworth be authorised to attend the meeting on behalf of Thornley Parish Council.

186. Playground Equipment

The Parish Clerk informed members that District of Easington Playground Equipment Inspection Report Dated 30th October 2001 had been received. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these have been ordered and will be fitted in due course by the District of Easington.

Resolved: That the information given be noted.

187. New Thornley Partnership

The Parish Clerk informed members that New Thornley Partnership had provided details of the projects they proposed undertaking as part of the S.R.B. European Funding Program 2002-2004. These were available from the Parish Clerk.

Resolved: That the information given be noted.

188. District of Easington Agenda 21 Strategy Document.

The District of Easington had extended an offer to send a speaker to a future meeting of the Parish Council to brief members on the various aspects of the Agenda 21 Strategy Document.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk makes appropriate arrangements.

189. Staff Christmas Holiday

Michael Abbs has requested 6 days annual leave over the Christmas and New Year period. Allowing for the 3 statutory days given, this would effectively give him 2 weeks leave.

Resolved: That the information given be noted.

190. Planning Applications

Notice of a Proposed Temporary Road on land South of Coopers Close by Northumbrian Water had been received from the District of Easington.

Resolved: That the information given be noted.

Notice of Approval to erect Private Garage at 19 Kenton Crescent Thornley had been received from the District of Easington.

Resolved: That the information given be noted.

191. Letter of Thanks

A letter of thanks has been received from Thornley Youth Musical Group in respect of the donation of £100 made to Thornley Stoneham Group.

Resolved: That the letter be received.

192. Questions from the public.

The Chairman gave members of the public attending the meeting the opportunity to ask questions or comment on items discussed in the meeting. A resident highlighted concern that no safety barriers had been erected around the works being undertaken at the village green. In view of the depth of excavations, this was considered a danger to the public, particularly at night.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk contact the Groundwork Trust as a matter of urgency in an effort to rectify this oversight on the part of the contractor.¹

¹ Kay Fotheringham of Groundwork East Durham was contacted by telephone on Wednesday 5th December 2001. She stated that arrangements would be made for the Contractor to install Safety Barriers as a matter of urgency.

193. FINANCE REPORT

Cooper Close Allotments

The Parish Clerk reported that he had paid an outstanding invoice from Durham County Council for the sum of £146.88 in respect of Professional Fees for the valuation of the allotment at Coopers Close.

Resolved: That the action taken by the Parish Clerk be endorsed

194. PURCHASE OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT

The Chairman reported that because of the resignation of the former Parish Clerk it had been necessary to appoint a temporary Parish Clerk.

In order that the Clerk could operate effectively from his home address it had been necessary for the Chairman and Vice Chairman to authorise the purchase of some additional items of equipment, stationary and telephone services.

Resolved: That the action taken by the Chairman & Vice Chairman be endorsed.

195. Budgets

The Parish Clerk reported that in view of the difficulties arranging the duties of the Parish Clerk to be undertaken at short notice it had not been possible to produce a budget report as at 30th November 2001.

In addition he could find no evidence that any estimates had been produced for 2002/2003 and this would present some difficulties.

In an effort to correct matters he had produced a set of estimates (for illustrative purposes only) based on the actual audited expenditure up to 30th September 2001 and in accordance with the precept, which the Council had previously agreed. I.e. £76,000.

He pointed out that the figures used to draw up the estimate sheet might need to be revised before they could be used as a means to assess the Council expenditure for the coming financial year.

Resolved: That the estimate sheet produced by the Parish Clerk form the basis for assessing expenditure for 2002/2003 subject to the individual amounts having to be revised if necessary.

196. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Resolved That the next scheduled meeting due to take place on 1st January 2002 be cancelled and that the next meeting take place at Youll House, Thornley on Tuesday 5th February 2002 at 7:00 p. m.

197. APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE IN CONNECTION WITH PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS

The Parish Clerk informed members of the various items of expenditure incurred since the last meeting and requested authorisation to settle the under-mentioned accounts:-

<i>Plus Publishing Services.</i>	
<i>Local Councils Update</i>	
<i>12 Editions per year.</i>	
<i>Subscription Renewal</i>	<i>£60.00</i>
<i>Society of Clerks</i>	
<i>Subscription Renewal</i>	<i>£50.00</i>
<i>M. Abbs</i>	
<i>Phone Card for Business use</i>	<i>£5.00</i>
<i>W.D. Moore</i>	
<i>Postage</i>	<i>£4.38</i>
<i>Computer items</i>	<i>£34.98</i>
<i>Staples U. K.</i>	
<i>Stationery & Office equipment</i>	<i>£165.87</i>
<i>Staples U. K.</i>	
<i>Stationery Items</i>	<i>£29.70</i>

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle the accounts

198. Tree & Shrub Planting

The Parish Clerk informed members that in order that the tree and shrub planting program could be undertaken over the winter period it would be necessary for the requisite number of trees and shrubs to be purchased.

Permission was sought to order the necessary materials up to a value not exceeding:-

<i>Tree s and Planting Materials</i>	<i>£250.00</i>
<i>Tools & Equipment</i>	<i>£50.00</i>

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk be authorised to purchase materials up to the value indicated

199. Personnel Report

Appointment of Parish Clerk

Members considered a report of the Chairman showing details of an application by W.D. Moore for the post of Parish Clerk and were reminded that he had been undertaking the duties & responsibilities of the Parish Clerk since 14th November 2001 on a purely voluntary and temporary basis.

Resolved: That the post of Parish Clerk be offered to Mr Moore; The contracted number of hours to be worked in a week is raised from 12 to 16; That the Chairman & Vice Chairman be authorised to agree terms and conditions and sign a Contracts of Employment. The Parish Clerks Terms & Conditions to be reviewed in 6 months.

200. Staff Christmas Bonus

The Parish Clerk informed members that it has been practice in previous years for the Parish Council to present members of its workforce with a Christmas bonus in recognition of their work during the previous 12 months.

Resolved: That the staff receives a Christmas bonus of £20:00

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
5TH FEBRUARY 2002**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

Councillors, J. Cairns, J Mawson, Mrs. Mawson, Mrs. P Madison, J. Ollett, Mrs. M. Ollett, J. Williams, G Wilson, G. Wharrier

APOLOGIES

Councillors Mrs. A Robson, Mrs. J Unsworth, Mrs. M Wharrier, Mrs. A. Williams

201. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

With the amendment that the apologies of Cllr. J. Cairns be recorded, the minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2001, were accepted as a true record.

202. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

203. Local Agenda 21 Strategy

The Chairman introduced Councillor David Taylor Gooby of the District of Easington who then gave a short presentation on the Agenda 21 Strategy.

The subject was broad ranging and covered aspects ranging from the development of sustainable environmental projects and grant aid, through to energy conservation.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Taylor Gooby for his presentation and for giving up his time to brief members on work being undertaken by the District of Easington.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

204. Maintenance of Grassed Areas & Dog Fouling

The Chairman introduced David Roberts and Colin Huntingdon of the District of Easington who then gave a short presentation on both these topics.

It was pointed out that the district council had revised its plant and grass cutting machinery requirements for 2002 and that as a result improved maintenance standards would be achieved throughout the district.

In addition the district council was keen to enter into partnership with parish council's to improve working practices.

The issue of dog fouling was to be addressed by the use of enforcement procedures and the installation of "dog bins" in designated areas. Of the initial 27 produced by the district council one was earmarked for Thornley.

The Chairman thanked both Mr. Roberts and Mr. Huntingdon for their presentation and for giving up their time to brief members on work being undertaken by the District of Easington.

Resolved: That the information be noted

205. Sextons Report

The Sexton, Michael Abbs gave a report on the operation at Thornley Cemetery since July 2001.

There had been:-

- 13 internments*
- 2 burials of cremated remains*
- 3 plots purchased*
- 7 headstones erected*
- 2 inscriptions replaced.*

In addition there was some minor repair work required to the cemetery lodge roof and a number of flagstones in the Garden of Remembrance need replacement.

Problems with unauthorised access were a recurring problem as the post and wire fence needed repair.

A skip was also required for the removal of old wreaths.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that the Parish Clerk addresses the general maintenance issues.

206. Police Report

PC Stafford introduced himself as the Beat Officer and reported that on 4th January 2002 4 house burglaries had been reported, attempt had been made to break into a garden shed and 3 other had been entered and items stolen.

Arrests had been made subsequently.

There had also been 4 thefts of motor vehicles and a general rise in car crime. In addition there were 6 cases of criminal damage and 2 people had been arrested.

P.C. Stafford pointed out that a firm was operating in the village was using "dubious" methods to invite tenants to use their services to improve home security via the local council.

Although the firm was legitimate tenants were being asked to sign up for a loan of approximately £900. If the council did not undertake to carry out suggested improvements to security then the loan would have to be repaid by the tenant. It was suggested that anyone who was approached should read any documentation very careful before signing.

P.C. Stafford also gave details of a youth project he was hoping to implement in the near future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

207. Co-Option of Parish Council Members

As there were no applications to fill vacancies on the Parish Council using the statutory election procedures the person listed below was co-opted to the Parish Council.

Mrs. Irene Hind 8, Stanley Terrace, Thornley, Co. Durham

Mrs. Hind signed "Declarations of Office".

Resolved: That the information be noted.

208. Model Code of Conduct

A report of the Parish Clerk previously circulated to each member was considered.

Resolved: That the Code of Practice be adopted and that the Parish Clerk sends a copy of the document to the Standards Board of England by the due date.

209. Pavilion Roof Renewal

A report of the Parish Clerk previously circulated to each member was considered.

Resolved: That tenders be sought from the companies listed in the report plus any other firm that expresses an interest to carry out the work.

210. Computerised Accounts

A report of the Parish Clerk previously circulated to each member was considered.

Resolved: That the Financial Director Alpha computerised accounting system be purchased from RBS Software Solutions at a cost of £245 with Telephone training costing £50.

211. New Letter Heading

Three new letter-heading designs produced since the last meeting were considered.

Resolved: That design number 1 be approved subject to minor alteration. The Parish Clerk to make appropriate arrangements for the new letterhead to be purchased

212. Facilitator - Thornley Regeneration Partnership

Following the withdrawal of support by the District of Easington, Thornley Regeneration Partnership had approached the Parish Council to ascertain if they could provide assistance in facilitating their group until a full time officer was appointed.

Resolved: That the services of the Parish Clerk be made available to the Thornley Regeneration Partnership for a period of 3 months. The cost of increased working hours is borne by the Parish Council.

213. Road Salt – Request for additional containers.

A request had been received for additional salt containers to be placed at "Bow Street and St. Bede's Terrace.

The containers could be purchased from Durham County Council at a cost of £130 each. The Durham County Council would also provide salt as and when required.

Resolved: That the containers be purchased in the 2001/2002 financial year if sufficient funds were available, otherwise the purchase be delayed until later in the year.

214. Wild Meadow – Report on the Site Meeting

The site meeting had not taken place because of inclement weather.

Resolved: The Parish Clerk to arrange a site meeting once conditions improved.

215. Community Transport

The Clerk's to the Parish Councils' at Wheatley Hill and Trimdon Foundry had been contacted in regard to the Community Transport Scheme.

Unfortunately no response has been received from Trimdon

At a meeting held some months ago representatives of Thornley Parish Council had met with their counterparts in Wheatley Hill and had agreed that the two Parishes would collaborate on a number of projects e.g. improved bus services on Bank Holidays and links to nearby retail outlets.

No detailed work has been undertaken on any projects.

Members were aware that each of the Parish Councils' could obtain up-to £10,000 per year over 3 years to fund various transport schemes that would benefit their communities.

Matched funding of 25% must be obtained by the individual Parish Council's either from its own resources or from other sources.

To apply for funding it would be necessary for members to identify specific projects.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk arranges a meeting with members of Wheatley Hill Parish Council to progress the initiative.

216. Department of Environment Food & Rural Affairs Consultation Paper, Quality Council's

At the last meeting it was reported that a consultation paper had been received from D.E.F.R.A. This set out proposals for a model charter covering the relations between all Parish and Town Councils and their principal authorities; the additional benefits that a Quality council can expect; how the Quality concept will work and the tests councils should meet to achieve this. Any responses should be received by D.E.F.R.A. by 14th February 2002.

The proposals contained in the document and the questions posed did not affect the council's current operation.

Resolved: As responses from other larger Town & Parish Councils were likely to encompass observations of the Parish Council, no response be made at present.

217. Peterlee & District Sunday League

The League Secretary had requested permission to hold a Cup Final on the Welfare Ground on Sunday 17th March 2002 commencing 10:30 a.m.

Resolved: That permission be granted at a cost of £50.

218. Thornley Young Peoples Project

A report of the Parish Clerk previously circulated to each member was considered.

Resolved That Thornley Parish Council agree in principal to reassigning the Right of Way to Thornley Young Peoples' Project provided that it is not a designated Bridle Path and on completion of the premises on the site indicated; that improvement to the access track are undertaken and Durham County Council adopts it. The Thornley Young Peoples Project pays the costs incurred for the reassignment of the Right of Way.

219. New Thornley

The Parish Clerk read out a report prepared by Cllr. Mrs. Unsworth. Funding applications have now been submitted for the resource Centre. It is proposed to employ a Community worker/Manager to be put in place approximately 3 months prior to the completion of the building in order to promote activities of the centre. Schemes have been forwarded to the villages Companies in East Durham using the intermediate labour market, Various grants have been submitted for Gore Hill play area and Northern Rock has allocated a Grants Officer to the scheme. Three members of the Regeneration Group have been successful in obtaining a grant of £10,000 to complete the Resource Centre project. The A.G. M. is to be held in the catholic Club on Tuesday 19th February 2002 commencing 7 p.m.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

220. Area Forum

Cllr. G. Wilson reported that although the meeting had gone well attendance was rather poor and there was little to report to the Parish Council on this occasion.

It appeared that the general public were disinterested in the concept of participation at this forum and that this should be brought to the attention of the District of Easington who may wish to address the situation.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Clerk write to the District Council expressing concern over the future of the forum.

221. Inter Parish Sport

Cllr. G. Wilson reported that name of the event was to be changed to District of Easington Inter Parish Family Fun Day to reflect the emphasis on fun and participation rather than competition.

The event was to be held on Sunday 20th October 2002.

Age groups for the various events would be in the range, under 5 to over 50 years of age.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

222. Youll House

Cllr. G. Wilson reported that the financial balances were healthy and that the management of the centre was going well.

Over the Christmas period £7,700 had been expended on functions held in the centre.

The Parish Clerk reported that because of "storm" the roof of Youll house had been damaged.

As the cost of repair was covered by insurance, steps had already been taken to have repairs carried out and a claim had been submitted to Cornhill Insurance.

The estimated cost involved was £380.00.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

223. District Councillor

Cllr. G. Wharrier reported that housing related proposals were going according to plan.

Properties in the south were to be rented accommodation administered by the Three Rivers Housing Association

Bellway Homes were to construct and put up for sale houses in the Northern area.

The public were to be advised of the finding of a report on 27th and 28th February 2002.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

224. County Councillor

The Parish Clerk read out a report prepared by Cllr. M. Nicholls in his absence. The County Council had received a poor settlement in the way of a Standard Spending Assessment. (SSA) Discussions have therefore been held in London in an attempt to address the situation and its likely impact on services.

There is a problem with the disposal of refrigerators at the Waste Disposal Company as current legislation dictates that all CS gases have to be removed before they are shipped abroad.

There have been a numerous reports of break-ins to old age pensioner's bungalows. Discussions have taken place with the Police Authority to try and ensure that more police are active in the village.

Work on the Dunelm Road traffic calming measures are to be completed in the near future. Additional areas will be looked at in the new financial year.

The Wheatley Hill to Bowburn Bypass has finally received the go-ahead at a cost of £6.2 million. Investigations are been made to see if this work will extend to address safety concerns at the Crossways Hotel junction.

Resolved: With the observation that the traffic calming measures, as designed and implemented at Dunelm Road were not effective, the information contained in the report be noted.

225. The Citizens Advice Bureau

The Citizens Advice Bureau had requested a final contribution toward the running costs of the Outreach Services. It was a condition of the Northern Rock Foundation Grant Award that the Town & Parish Councils collectively contribute a minimum of £4,000 per annum.

Thornley Parish Council had approved a previous donation of £250 on 7th March 2001.

Resolved: Subject to clarification that the Parish Council had previously agreed to contribute a total of £500 during the current financial year, a donation of £250 be forwarded to C.A.B.

226. District of Easington's Standards Committee

The District of Easington had requested the Town & Parish Councils within the district to collectively nominate 2 representatives to be members of the Districts Standards Committee. This committee will have responsibility to oversee the adoption and monitoring of the Codes of Practice in Easington.

Resolved: That Cllr. Greg Wharrier's name be put forward to serve on this committee.

227. District of Easington's Standards Committee – Consultation meeting

Resolved: That Cllr. T. Unsworth and Cllr. J. Williams be appointed to attend

228. To Appoint Representatives Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The next meeting of the association was to take place on Wednesday 6th February 2002 in the Council Chamber Seaside Lane Easington, commencing 7:00 p.m.

Resolved: That Cllr. T. Unsworth and Cllr. J. Williams be appointed to attend.

229. To Appoint Representatives Durham Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Durham Association had received our request for re-admittance and had advised that they will forward an invoice for £127.00 in respect of the Annual Subscription 2002/03 in the near future. It was necessary to appoint delegates to attend future meeting of the Association

Resolved: That Cllr. T. Unsworth and Cllr. J. Williams be appointed to attend

230. Education in the Community

Durham County Council is to re-launch the Community Education Service as Education in the Community at Wingate & District Community Centre on Thursday 7th February 2002.

In invitation has been received for a Parish Council representative to attend.

Resolved: That Cllr. G. Wharrier be appointed to attend

231. Cemetery Footpaths

The Parish Clerk reported that the District of Easington had now advised that they would no longer be in a position to undertake the construction of the footpaths in the Cemetery.

A report of the Parish Clerk that had been previously circulated to each member was considered.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk consult with the District of Easington and draws together a Select Tender List and seeks tenders in the appropriate manner for the work to be undertaken in the next 12 months.

232. Survey Coopers Close

Smith's Gore had advised that they intended preparing photographic Schedules of Condition of the land in the vicinity of Coopers Close prior to the implementation of a Northumbrian Water Ltd scheme to replace the sewerage installations.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

233. Burst Water Main – Former Colliery site

The Parish Clerk reported that a burst had been located on a pipe to the Pit Wheel area.

This had been repaired and in an attempt to eliminate further usage during the winter months the water supply had now been locked off by means of a security device and padlock.

Members were asked to note that the problems associated with water collecting on the footpath to the 5-a-side pitch may have been the result of this burst pipe. Now that the supply had been disconnected it was anticipated that standing water would drain away and the path would dry out.

Northumbrian Water had been contacted in an attempt to have the account reduced if possible

Resolved: That the information be noted.

234. Report of a Burst Water Main - Welfare Park

The Parish Clerk reported that following an increased account for water at this site investigations were carried out to locate a burst pipe. Pending repairs the water supply had been turned off.

It was further reported that the burst had been located and repaired and that Northumbrian Water had been contacted in an attempt to have the account reduced if possible.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

235. Report on Toxicity Ecotoxicity and the Environment

Stephen Hughes (M.E.P.) had forwarded a copy of the report on the possible effects of Electromagnetic Fields on human health to the Parish Council. As only one copy of the report was available any member wishing to review it should consult the Parish Clerk. Details would be forwarded to the Parish Council in the near future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

236. Planning Permission

The District of Easington had granted planning permission to ENTEC UK in respect of a Proposed Temporary Road Closure at Coopers Close Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

237. Playground Inspection Report

An inspection report of the District of Easington on the Playground Equipment dated 18th December 2001 had been received. In most cases the equipment has no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course by the District of Easington.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

238. Durham County Council Waste Management Local Plan

A copy of the Local Plan had been deposited with the Parish Clerk. As only one copy was available, any member wishing to view the document should contact the Parish Clerk.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

239. Wheatley Hill Doctors Surgery – Change in Practices

The Parish Clerk reported a meeting was held on Tuesday 8th January 2002 at the Wheatley Hill Surgery to address the concerns of residents about the proposed changes in obtaining repeat prescriptions from the doctors. Following a debate had been agreed that the changes would be implemented in accordance with the timetable previously published. Doctors and staff would monitor the situation and difficulties encountered by patients would be addressed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

240. District of Easington – Housing Conditions Survey

The District of Easington had advised that they are to carry out a Stock Condition and Housing Needs Survey in the near future. All residents affected have been informed. A postal survey is also to be sent to 12,000 households to determine the housing needs of the district.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

241. D.C.C. – Environment Award 2001

Applications were invited for an award for schemes/projects that can demonstrate sustainable development and are part of a local action plan or Local Agenda 21.

Schemes could include energy conservation, renewable energy, minimal use of scarce resources; reclamation schemes and other enhancements of the local environment e.g. tree planting and wildlife gardens.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

242. Finance report

A report of the Parish Clerk previously circulated to each member was considered.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle the accounts

243. Public Question and Answer Session

A resident requested information on the current position regarding the Coopers close Allotments.

The Parish Clerk responded by saying that he and the Chairman were to meet with representatives of the landowner on Friday 8th February 2002 in an attempt to make progress.

**HE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
WOODLAWN, THE VILLAS,
THORNLEY
ON
TUESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2002**

PRESENT

Councillor J Mawson, (Chair) Councillors J. Cairns, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. L Mawson, J. F. Ollett, Mrs. M. A. Ollett, Mrs. A Robson, T. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, Mrs. M. Wharrier, J. Williams G Wilson,

APOLOGIES

Mrs. P Madison, J Unsworth.

244. Purchase of Coopers Close Allotment Site.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 Sections 94/95, Councillor T. Unsworth, G. Wilson and J. Cairns declared an interest in this matter relinquished the Chair and took no part in the discussion or voting that ensued.

For the benefit of new members, the Parish Clerk reported verbally on the background of the possible purchase by the Council of the Coopers Close Allotment Site and the context of a meeting with T. Murry (Agent of Mrs. Kirk) that took place on 8th February 2002.

It was pointed out that if the Parish Council decided not purchase the land it would, under the terms of the original lease, have to be cleared at the Councils expense before being handed back to Mrs. Kirk This should be taken into account when deciding whether to purchase the land and if so what sum could be offered.

It was also pointed out that the valuation provided to Parish Council by Durham County Council was substantially lower than the price asked by Mrs. Kirk.

In order that the matter could be progressed the Parish Council must decide whether to purchase the Freehold from Mrs. Kirk and if so determine what sum it was prepared to offer.

Resolved: That the sum of £6000 be offered to Mrs. Kirk to purchase the Freehold of the Coopers Close Allotment Site.

245. 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.

246. Royal Garden Party

The Durham Association of Town & Parish Councils had advised that a nomination could be put forward to attend the Royal Garden Party.

Resolved: That the information be received.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
5TH MARCH 2002**

PRESENT.

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair) Councillors J. Cairns, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. P. Maddison, J. Mawson, Mrs. L. Mawson, J. Ollett, Mrs. M. Ollett, Mrs. A. Robson, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, Mrs. M. Wharrier, J. Williams, G. Wilson.

APOLOGIES.

Councillors Mrs. A Williams M. Nichols

247. Minutes of the previous meeting.

It was pointed out that Councillor J. Cairns had also signed the Declaration of Office.

It was pointed out that minute 19.2 should read applications forms for funding are being completed and will be submitted for the resource Centre.

Having noted these omissions and errors the minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2002, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record.

248. Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting.

It was pointed out that Councillors Mrs. M. Ollett and J. Williams had been nominated to attend the Queen's Garden Party.

Having noted this omission the minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2002, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record.

249. Police Report.

Sergeant Wray introduced himself and reported that there had been break-ins at Cooper Close and Greenwood Close. There had also been two instances of damage at the Library.

Five instances had been reported of damage caused to buses driving through Shinwell Crescent and a house window had been broken.

In Hartlepool Street a Stihl Saw had been stolen and two spotlights had been removed from a car in Gorehill Estate. The wheel trims from a second car in Dunelm Road had also been stolen.

A house had been entered while the residents were in a property in The Bungalows but the perpetrator had escaped without taking anything.

Funding is being sought to enable more police officers to be present in the village to address the numerous instances of vandalism being reported.

The Traffic Management Unit was to be advised that an additional presence may increase the effectiveness of the traffic calming measures recently installed in Dunelm Road.

Sergeant Wray asked that all crime is reported and that the name of the officer taking the call is noted down. If there is no response Sergeant Wray should be informed so that the appropriate action can be taken.

Resolved: That the report of Sergeant Wray be received and the Parish Clerk contacts Durham County Council in regarding the level of security lighting etc around the Library.

250. New Thornley.

Councillor Mrs. J. Unsworth reported that the Annual General Meeting had taken place and that she would report more fully at the next meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

251. Area Forum.

Councillor G. Wilson advised that the next meeting was due to take place on Wednesday 27th March 2002. Items for discussion should therefore be placed on the agenda.

It was reported that there had been a breakdown in communication recently between the District of Easington and the Parish Council that this should be raised at the meeting.

Concern was also expressed over the difficulties caused by parked cars in the village.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk request the District of Easington to place "Effective Communication" and "Parking Problems" on the agenda for discussion by the Area Forum.

252. Inter Parish Sport.

Councillor G. Wilson reported that a design for "T" shirts had now been agreed and planning for the event was progressing.

It was suggested that in line with previous years the Parish Council subsidise each member of its team £2 toward lunch-time refreshments in addition to vouchers for snacks etc.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that each entrant be subsidised £2 for lunchtime refreshments and vouchers for snacks.

253. Youll House.

The Parish Clerk reported that it would be necessary to have the roof on Youll House inspected for suspected "nail fatigue"

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk contacts the District of Easington to inspect the roof for signs of "nail fatigue"

254. District Councillor.

Councillor G. Wharrier reported that the tidying-up operation in the St. Bede's' area would be commence shortly.

Housing related matters were progressing with most residents being satisfied with the project. Staff from the District of Easington, Estates Department would be consulting with individuals on areas of concern.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

255. County Councillor.

The Parish Clerk read out a report prepared by Cllr. M. Nicholls in his absence. In relation to the Community Charge the figure used for calculations were based on the population and the number of pupils attending school. The County Council had been advised that this formula would change next year.

The problems caused by the cobbles at the rear of Hartlepool Street has been reported

Work in Albert Street, Collingwood Street, rear of Dunelm Road and Henry Street is to be brought forward.

Work is to continue with the replacement of electricity cables during the year.

The state of the land between Wheatley Hill & Thornley had been reported and it was hoped that with the aid of the County Council the area would be improved.

It was pointed out that some of the street lighting columns had been removed and not replaced. Although this had been reported on two occasions nothing had been done to rectify matters.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Clerk contact the Electricity Board requesting that all street lighting columns that had been removed should be replaced.

256. Durham Tidy Village Competition – 2002.

An application form had been received for the above mentioned, along with a request for a donation to help maintain the competition.

Resolved: That the information be received and the request for a donation be not exceeded to at this time.

257. County of Durham School Benevolent Fund. (Ref: 782)

The Trustees of the County of Durham Benevolent Fund had requested the Parish Council to make a donation to finance the purchase of shoes and winter clothes for needy children in County Durham.

Resolved: That the request for a donation be not exceeded to at this time

258. Local Heritage Initiative. (Ref: 795)

The Parish Clerk reported that applications had been invited for grants between £3,000 and £25,000 to help groups and organisations investigate, explain and care for their local landscape, landmarks, tradition and culture.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk obtains details for future consideration.

259. The Countryside Agency – Doorstep Green Grants Programme. (Ref: 796)

The agency had advised that grants could be given to a variety of applicants including Parish Council's for a planning and preparation phase so that a community consultation could be carried out and a costed design drawn up.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk obtains details for future consideration.

260. Invitation to Inspect Waste Transfer Station – Thornley Station. (Ref: 822)

The Parish Clerk reported that an invitation has been received from Durham County Recycling & Disposal division for members of Thornley, Wheatley Hill and Shotton Parish Councils' to inspect the new waste transfer station at Thornley Station. Dates and times to be arranged.

Resolved: That Councillors G. Wilson, J. Ollett and J. Williams be authorised to attend

261. Local Strategic Partnership. (Ref 832)

The District of Easington had invited two Members of the Parish Council and the Clerk to attend the next meeting of the partnership due to take place on in the Council Chamber 20th March 2002 at 6:00 p.m.

Resolved: That Councillors G. Wharrier Mrs. J. Unsworth and the Parish Clerk be authorised to attend.

262. Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils. (Ref: 835)

An invitation had been received for members to attend a meeting (to be arranged) after April 2002 with the Standards Board of England representatives.

Resolved: That Councillors T. Unsworth and J. Williams be authorised to attend.

263. Winged Fellowship Trust.

The Fellowship had requested a donation to support their work in providing specialized holiday for the disabled.

Resolved: That the information be received and the request for a donation be not exceeded to at this time.

264. Planning Application at Roseberry Bungalow.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

265. District of Easington's Standards Committee. (Ref 728/810)

The Parish Clerk reported that because Councillor Unsworth was also District Councillor he could not be nominated by the Parish Council to serve on the Standards Committee. It would therefore be necessary to nominate an alternative member.

In addition, the Easington Association of Town & Parish Councils had decided not to co-operate with the District Council in the operation of the Standards Committee at this time.

As a result it would not be possible to make a nomination directly to the district Council without going against the wishes of the Association.

Resolved: That Councillor Mrs. M. Wharrier be nominated to serve on the District Standards Committee pending further discussions between the Easington Association of Town and Parish Council's and the District of Easington.

266. Hartlepool Hospice. (Ref: 774)

A letter of thanks had been received from the Hospice for the recent donation it had made to their funds following the death of Councillor Race.

Resolved: That the letter be received.

267. Audit of Accounts. (Ref: 788)

The Parish Clerk reported that an outstanding invoice for the sum of £1925.03 in respect of the annual audit of accounts 1999/2000 has been waived as a gesture of goodwill by the audit Commission.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

268. Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils. (Ref: 790)

Copies of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 5th December 2001 were received.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

269. Public Rights of Way. (Ref: 790)

Durham County Council advised that County Durham was now classed as "Foot & Mouth Disease Free".

Restrictions remained on some individual farms that were infected. Once they are free from infection the restrictions would be lifted and County Durham would be able to open up rights of Way across the land.

It was planned to re-open many of the footpaths beginning 4th February 2002. Most of the remaining paths would be open by the end of May 2002.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

270. Thornley Health Forum. (Ref: 794)

The Health Forum was intending to organise a Fun Day for residents of Thornley & Wheatley Hill on Sunday 26th May 2002.

Resolved: Permission be granted to Thornley Health Forum to use the facility on Sunday 26th May 2002.

271. Playing Fields & Community Green Space Programme. (Ref: 800)

Members were asked to note that an application had been submitted to Sport England for £25,000 funding to improve amenities at the Welfare Park.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

272. Insurance Claim - Alleged Accident – Library Play Area. (Ref: 818)

The Parish Clerk reported that Eddows Waldron Solicitors acting for Master Darren Wall had made a claim against the Parish Council for negligence. The details of the claim have been passed to the Council's Insurance Company for attention.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

273. District of Easington Annual Report. (Ref: 829)

A copy of the Annual Report was received.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

274. Finance Report.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

275. 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.

276. Tidy T.E.D.

Councillor J. Williams reported that Dave Roberts (District of Easington) had been present at the last meeting and had given details of the maintenance operations to be undertaken by the District Council.

A request for a dog litter bin had been made but this had not been received.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

277. Bow Street – Landscaping.

A resident raised the question of landscaping needed in the Bow Street area. Both Councillor Mrs. J. Unsworth and G. Wharrier responded by stating that the works were already being investigated and that it was hoped the work would commence as soon as funding had been secured.

Councillor G. Wharrier also agreed to contact officers at the District of Easington regarding concerns over the possible construction of a car park.

Resolved: That the information be noted

278. Unauthorised Dumping on the Green.

A resident expressed concern over the dumping of a number of gas bottles on "The Green".

Councillor G. Wharrier agreed to bring this matter to the attention of the District of Easington.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

279. Press Article.

A resident raised the question of an article in the Press relating to the Parish Council and asked what action they intended to take.

The Chairman responded by stating that the Parish Council could not make any comment as the case had not come to court.

He pointed out that a statement had been prepared in the event that the press contacted the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

280. Coopers Close Allotments

A resident asked what progress had been made regarding the possible purchase, by the Parish Council of the allotment site.

The Parish Clerk responded stating that discussions were progressing well and it was hoped a meeting could be held with the Allotment Association in the very near future to gage their views.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

281. Problems with Moles.

A resident asked if the Parish Council could do anything to address the problem of moles in various locations in the village.

The Parish Clerk responded stating that he was aware of the problem, particularly in the cemetery and would be taking action to tackle the problem.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

282. Exclusion of the Press & Public

In accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 the press and public be excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 1 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

283. Personnel Report.

Resolved: That the information contained in the report be noted.

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