

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
6TH, MAY 2003**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair) D. W. Atkinson, Mrs. M. Brunskill, M. Burgin, Mrs. P. Maddison, W. Middleton, J. Ollett, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, G. Wilson.

Councillor B. Wilson – District of Easington

APOLOGIES

County Councillor M. Nichols

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st, April 2003, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record.

2. Matters Arising:

Councillor G. Wilson enquired if as a result of donations made to Neighbourhood Watch asked if any feedback could be obtained.

Resolved: That a representative from Neighbourhood Watch be invited to a future Parish Council meeting.

3. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed Sgt. Oxley & P.C. Olver to the meeting who reported as follows:-

In response to parish council concerns about motorists parking on double yellow lines, the traffic warden had visited the area and issued a number of parking tickets. This had greatly reduced the number of offences being committed.

Youths were still continuing to vandalise the library site and some damage had been caused. A case conference, at which possible solutions would be discussed, was to be held on Thursday 8th, May 2003. This would be attended by representatives of the Police, Durham County Council and the District of Easington.

The construction of a Youth Shelter somewhere in Thornley was also under consideration.

There had been a number of reports about motor cyclists using the "Pit Wheel" site and causing a nuisance. The police off-road vehicle team had been asked to patrol the area.

There were a number of "end of life" vehicles being used in the area and this was causing a number of problems for the police as they have no specific powers to deal with them. Vehicles without road tax discs were however being investigated and appropriate action would be taken.

“Test purchases” were still being carried out to address the problems of underage drinking in the village. Alcohol was confiscated from underage persons and their parents were contacted. Shopkeepers were also warned that their licence to sell alcohol could also be revoked.

A farm had been broken into and a rotovator had been stolen and two houses in Thornlaw North had been burgled. Cash, a mobile telephone and a car had been stolen.

Cars had been stolen from properties in Shinwell Crescent and Stanley Terrace and items from a car had been stolen in Gore Hill Estate.

A vacuum cleaner had been stolen from the Crossways Hotel.

Youths had damaged the widows of a bus driving through the village and the windows of a house in The Villas had been damaged by air gun pellets.

On the Coopers Close allotment site a greenhouse had been damaged and windows broken at a property in Ashwood Grange.

Sgt. Oxley gave an update on the new police structure for the area and suggested that the greater flexibility it gave would help reduce the number of offences being carried out.

Members highlighted the concern of residents in relation to the siting of a Youth Shelter and insisted that they be consulted on this matter before any firm decision was made.

It was suggested that the police may wish to make contact with Christine Hepple as she was working closely with the youths in the village.

Resolved: That the information be noted

4. Street Wardens Report

The street warden reported that over the last month there had been:

- 10 reports of anti social behaviour
- 2 relating to ball games
- 3 drink related incidents
- 5 incidents of criminal activity

The wardens were continuing with bus patrols and working with the police to address the problem of nuisance in the Greenwood cottages area.

Resolved: That the information be noted

5. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that meetings were well attended and that all projects were on target. A number of other schemes were in the pipeline and that to date approximately £780,000 had been raised by the partnership to regenerate the village.

She suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to the Partnership for their valuable work and their contribution to village regeneration.

Resolved: That the information be noted and a letter of thanks be sent to the Partnership.

6. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that housing developments were on schedule and that no major problems were being encountered.

The dog litter bins in the village had been relocated on a number of occasions by vandals and as a result he had requested the District of Easington to have them fixed in place. An additional bin had been requested in the vicinity of the Gore Hill play area.

There had been a number of comments relating to the cleanliness of the bus shelters and this matter had been taken up with the District of Easington. The shelters were cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis and graffiti would be removed when it became necessary.

As there were a number of motoring offences being committed in the St. Chad's , St. Cuthbert's and St. Bede areas of the village he suggested that Durham County Council be contacted to determine if any road humps could be installed to curtail speeding.

Resolved: That the information be noted and Durham County Council be asked to consider installing road humps in the affected areas.

7. County Councillor

The Chairman reported on behalf of Councillor Nichols who was not present at the meeting.

Because of the ongoing problems of vandalism at the library, a joint meeting with representatives from the County Council, District of Easington, Police and other related bodies was to be arranged in the near future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

8. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the Youll House operation was going very well and all activities were well attended.

The heating system need to be replaced and this would be undertaken as soon as finance could be earmarked.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

9. Village Christmas Tree.

Members were asked to recall that at the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th, February 2003 (minute 245 refers) it was resolved that the cost of erecting a Christmas Tree in the village be investigated.

A local supplier had indicated that depending on the size and type of tree required the cost could be £30 to £100.

In addition the Parish Council needed to purchase the festoon lighting to illuminate the tree. Exact costs could not be provided as this would depend on the size of tree purchased. It was suggested that for costing purposes a figure of £150 be used.

The tree would also need to be erected near an existing electricity outlet, such as a street lighting column and although an electrician would need to be employed to undertake the connection to the electricity supply, so as to comply with Health & Safety Regulations, it was anticipated that all other work could be carried out by Parish Council staff.

Resolved: That the tree be placed on either the village green or near the war memorial and festoon lighting be purchased.

10. C.A.B. Request for Donation (REF: 1655)

Members were reminded that this request was deferred at the meeting held on 4th, March 2003 in order that additional information could be provided. Minute 261 refers.

Donations made by neighbouring Parish & Town Councils in 2002 was as follows;

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Blackhall | £250 |
| Easington Colliery | £50 |
| Easington Village | £50 |
| Murton | £500 |
| Peterlee | £600 |
| Seaham | £500 |
| Shotton | £500 |
| South Hetton | £200 |
| Trimdon Colliery | £685 |
| Wingate | £550 |

Resolved: That £250 be donated to C.A.B.

11. Thornley Primary School Governing Body (REF: 1678)

The Parish Clerk reported that this item was discussed at the Parish Council meeting held on 4th March 2003 (minute 268 refers) when the vacancy had been left unfilled pending the Parish Council elections on 1st, May 2003.

Resolved: That Councillor M. Burgin be nominated to fill the vacancy.

12. Crimestoppers (REF: 1799)

The Parish Clerk reported that a request for a donation had been received from Crimestoppers.

Resolved: That £50 be donated to Crimestoppers.

13. Proposed Change of Use (REF: 1804)

The District of Easington advised that Ms. J. Hepworth had applied for a Proposed Change of Use from a shop to a dwelling & extensions to front, rear and first floor at 1& 2 East View Thornley.

Objections to this proposal should be forwarded to the District of Easington.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

14. Proposed Rear Extension (REF: 1815)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. Parker had applied for planning permission to extend the rear of the property at 22 Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

15. Coopers Close Allotments (REF: 1818))

Councillor's T. Unsworth, Mrs. J. Unsworth, Mrs. P. Maddison & G. Wilson declared a Pecuniary Interest in this matter and took no part in the vote that ensued.

Solicitors acting for the Parish Council provided the Deeds of Transfer relating to the purchase of Coopers Close Allotment site. To complete the deal these documents must be signed on behalf of the Council and witnessed.

Resolved: That the documents be signed by the Councillor G. Wilson and witnessed by the Parish Clerk.

16. Review of Local Government Structures (REF: 1821)

That Parish Clerk reported that The University of Birmingham has been commissioned by a consortium of District Councils' to undertake a review of the Structure of local government in County Durham.

If the Parish Council had any observations to make in relation to the existing two tier system, e.g. has it been working, would the parish aspire to take on the delivery of addition services and responsibilities in the future, they were asked to respond by 19th May 2003.

Resolved: That no action be taken.

17. Health & Safety Seminar (REF: 1822)

The Annual Local Council Advisory Service Seminar of Health & Safety was to be held in Peterlee (venue to be decided) on 17th, June 2003.

One free place was available to the Parish Council (because it is a member) and additional places are available for £30.

Resolved: That the item be deferred until the time of the event be made known.

18. Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils (REF: 1826)

The Association requested nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Auditor as well as Notices of Motions, be notified no later than 31st, May 2003.

Resolved: That no action be taken.

19. Casual Car Allowance (REF: 1827)

The National Employers' Organisation for Local Government Services advised that Casual Car Allowances had been increased for both Essential & Casual Users as from 1st April 2003.¹

Resolved: That payments be made in accordance with the revised schedule.

20. Request to Graze Horses

A verbal request was received from Mr. J. Barron & Ms. L. Wigham 52, Dunelm Road, Thornley that their permission to graze horses on Parish Council owned land at the rear of the Library be extended for a further 12 months.

Resolved: That permission be granted to Messer's Barron & Wigham to tether horses on Parish land at the rear of the Library subject to providing evidence of appropriate Personal Liability insurance cover.

21. Finance & Budgetary Control Report

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

22. Bank Mandate

A report of the Parish Clerk in relation to the matter was considered. It was suggested that the following be authorised signatories of the Parish Council.

Authorised signatory:-

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| <i>T. Unsworth</i> | <i>Chairman of the Thornley Parish Council</i> |
| <i>P. Maddison</i> | <i>Vice Chairman of Thornley Parish Council</i> |
| <i>Mrs. J. Unsworth</i> | <i>Parish Councillor</i> |
| <i>G. Wilson</i> | <i>Parish Councillor</i> |
| <i>W. Middleton</i> | <i>Parish Councillor</i> |
| <i>W.D. Moore</i> | <i>Parish Clerk</i> |

Resolved: That the bank mandate be changed to take into account the change in Councillors following the election held on 1st, May 2003.

¹ A copy of the schedule was available for members at the meeting.

23. P. Harrison - Request for Donation (REF 1830)

The Parish Clerk reported that Inspector P. Harrison of Peterlee Police had advised that he and a number of colleagues were to compete in a 175-mile cycle ride to raise funds for a number of worthy charities that served the district. They requested a donation from the Parish Council and would give recognition of the fact via the local press.

It was pointed out Inspector Harrison had never claimed a £50 donation made by the Parish Council in 2002/2003.

Resolved: That the original £50 and additional £50 be donated.

24. Playground Inspections (REF: 1835)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 22nd, April 2003. Only minor defects had been identified and these were being addressed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

25. Request to Purchase Land (REF: 1840) (A.O.B.)

A letter from Mr. Ivan Graham requesting the Parish Council to sell a parcel of land in Thornley was considered, although no specific details were provided.

Resolved: That this item be deferred to so that further information could be obtained.

26. Request to Graze Horses (REF: 1841) (A.O.B.)

A request was received from Miss K. Robson 27, Ruskin Avenue, Thornley asking that her permission to graze horses on Parish Council owned land at the rear of the Library be extended for a further 12 months.

Resolved: That permission be granted to Miss Robson to tether her pony on Parish land at the rear of the Library subject to providing evidence of appropriate Personal Liability insurance cover.

27. Public Question and Answer Session

Former Councillor Mrs. L. Mawson asked permission to make a short statement in which she thanked her former colleagues for their help and support whilst she had been in office and for their efforts in improving village for all residents. She hoped that the work would continue and wished the new council success in the future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

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PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
3RD JUNE, 2003**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

**D. W. Atkinson, Mrs. M. Brunskill, M. Burgin, Mrs. P. Maddison, W. Middleton,
J. Ollett, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, G. Wilson.**

28. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th May, 2003, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

29. Police Report

The Chairman gave the apologies of Inspector Ellis who was unable to attend and welcomed P.C. Olver to the meeting who reported as follows:-
Durham County Council had been approached to determine if they were prepared to offer any financial assistance to install additional security measures at the Library.

A meeting was to be arranged with a number of agencies to discuss the vandalism problems. Until all avenues had been explored the level of finance could not be determined.²

The proposed location of a Youth Shelter adjacent to the Children's Play area at the Library site was raised.³ It was suggested that residents be consulted and a public meeting be held, if necessary, before the Parish Council made a decision. P.C. Ayton was to canvass the views of the youths in Thornley and these would be reported back to the Parish Council.

Additional security measures for Youll House were being progressed in conjunction with the Parish Council and the Crime Prevention Officer. The District Council had also been approached to provide an estimate of cost involved.

There had been 73 reported incidents in Thornley since the 6th May 2003.

Two house burglaries in coopers Close & Thornlaw South

One vehicle had been stolen

Five incidents involving youths

Two incidents involving motorcycles

Two of criminal damage

² See also minute 50

³ See also minute 52

In liaison with the District of Easington and the DVLA the police now had the authority to remove “end of life” vehicles under the **Easington Response to Arson** initiative (ERTA). This was proving successful in removing certain types of vehicles from circulation.

The traffic warden was working with the D.V.L.A. in order to remove untaxed vehicles from the road, many of which had been abandoned.

Investigations were continuing into the recent spate of burned out vehicle in the village.

Members again expressed concern over police response times.

Responding P.C. Oliver stated that every effort was made by officers but it was not always possible to provide an instant response. This could be attributed to the number and priority of crimes reported and the resources available at the time. He was unable to comment on specific cases because he did not have the information available.

The Chairman thanked P.C. Olver for his report.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

30. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed Aidan Elliot to the meeting who gave a detailed report on the activities of the Street Wardens over the last month.⁴

The Chairman thanked Mr. Elliot for presenting his report.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

31. New Thornley

In the absence of Councillor Mrs. Unsworth⁵ the Chairman reported on events at the last Partnership meeting.

The two officers charged with raising funds and also progressing the development of the Resource Centre had resigned from the Resource Centre Sub Committee. This was due largely to the difficulties being encountered in resolving matters relating to the size of the proposed building and its amenities. No other member of the steering Group had yet volunteered to take on the task. It was pointed out that the Community Centre Management Committee had lately agreed to support the building of a larger centre and that they were to undertake feasibility study and progress the initiative.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

32. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that a number of problems were being encountered in the Thornlaw South area of the village relating to vandalism in void properties and nuisance caused by motorcyclists. These were being investigated by officers at the district council.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

⁴ A copy of the written report is on file for reference purposes.

⁵ Councillors Mrs. Unsworth & Mrs. Maddison arrived later in the meeting from another engagement.

33. County Councillor

Councillor Nichols reported that as a result of Government policy educational issues were being discussed. There were a number of surplus school places, in some areas of the county that could result in schools having to be closed. School Governors were being asked to comment on the situation.

A number of bus routes in the county had been revised by the bus operators without consultation with residents. The loss of services in some villages was causing concern. When further information was obtained it would be reported to the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

34. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting on 7th May, 2003 when the main topic of discussion has centred on the issue of the Wingate Beck and the potential health hazard caused by overflowing sewage.

There were addition items relating to the "Quality Parish Councils" initiative and the training available to Councillor's.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

35. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that a number of trips had been organised for the elderly over the coming months and that the operation of the centre was satisfactory.

36. Playground Inspection Reports

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 12th May, 2003. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

37. Health & Safety Seminar

Members were reminded that this item was deferred at the last meeting of the Parish Council until the time of the event was made known.

The event would take at Shotton Hall Peterlee on Tuesday 17th, June 2003 from 10.00 a.m. till 2.00 p.m. One free place was available and it was suggested that at least one member attends at a cost of £30.

Resolved: That Councillor Mrs. Unsworth or Councillor G. Wilson attend in addition to the Parish Clerk.

38. Request for Dog Litter Bin – Rear of Garden Terrace.

A verbal request was received from a resident of Garden Terrace for a Dog Litter Bin to be placed in the vicinity.

Members were reminded that the District Council dealt with these requests but that the Parish Council had the power to purchase additional items if they wished.

Resolved: That the item be deferred to allow the Parish Clerk to obtain information from the District of Easington on costs etc.

39. Christmas Carol Service

Members considered organising a Carol Service to accompany the switching on ceremony of the Christmas tree lights in the Village.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk investigate arrangements for an interdenominational church service.

40. Proposed Residential Development St. Aidan's Crescent (REF: 1815)

The District of Easington advised that Three Rivers Housing Group had applied for planning permission to Develop residential properties at St. Aidan's Crescent, Thornley.

Any objections to this proposal should be forwarded to the District of Easington.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

41. Cemetery Consecration (REF: 1855)

The Durham Diocesan Registry suggested three possible dates when it would be possible for the Bishop of Jarrow to conduct the consecration of the extension to Thornley cemetery.

Resolved: That the ceremony takes place on Tuesday 16th September 2003 at 10:30 a.m.

42. Maintenance of Public Rights of Way (REF: 1859)

Conservation & Countryside Services provided a cost estimate of £1337.00 for carrying out the works required to maintain the Public Rights of Way in Thornley.

Resolved: That the expenditure be approved and a grant application be submitted to Durham County Council.

43. Home Zone Launch (REF: 1860)

Groundwork East Durham advised that the launch of the Home Zone Project would take place on Thursday 5th, June 2003.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

44. Health & Safety – Risk Assessment (REF: 1862)

The Parish Clerk informed members that Zurich Municipal Insurance had produced a CD-ROM covering the requirements of Health & Safety at Work and Risk Assessment and suggested that a copy should be purchased at a cost of £70.00 (plus V.A.T.) as this would aid the council to fulfil its' responsibilities.

Resolved: That the C.D. be purchase at a cost of £70.

45. Letter of Thanks (REF: 1872)

A letter of thanks was received from Crimestoppers for the donation of £50.

Resolved: That the letter be received.

46. West Area Forum (REF: 1876)

The District of Easington advised that the next West Area Forum Meeting would take place at Wellfield Comprehensive School, Wellfield Road, Wingate on Wednesday, 18th June, 2003 commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

47. Easington Standards Committee (REF: 1877)

Members were reminded that the Standards Committee was unable to consider Parish & Town Councils issues unless one Parish & Town Council representative was present.

The two chosen representatives being elected at a collective meeting of all Parish & Town Councils normally convened by the Easington Association of Parish & Town Councils.

The current representatives were Councillor Bill Horsfield (Peterlee Town Council) and Councillor Mrs. Marina Goyns (Wheatley Hill Parish Council).

The district of Easington had requested nomination be received.

Resolved: That the Parish Council representative for the Easington Association for Parish & Town Councils' be mandated to use his own judgment when voting takes place.

48. Finance & Budgetary Control Report

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

49. Request for Donation (REF: 1883) (A.O.B.)

Age Concern Thornley requested a donation of up to £400 toward the installation cost of a new central heating system in Youll House.

Resolved: That a £400 donation be made to Age Concern.

50. Vandalism - Thornley Library (REF: 1884) (A.O.B.)

Durham County Council had invited representatives from the Parish Council to attend a meeting to discuss the issue of vandalism and anti social behaviour in Thornley.

The Parish Clerk reported that the meeting was to have taken place earlier in the day but had been cancelled and would be reconvened in the future.⁶

Resolved: That the information be noted.

⁶ See also minute 29

51. NALC Conference (REF: 1887) (A.O.B.)

The Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils advised that the NALC Annual National Conference would take place at Cardiff City Hall on 3rd – 5th October 2003. The fee per delegate was £110 and in addition the Parish Council would normally pay Travel and Subsistence allowance to members attending.

Resolved: That the information be received.

52. Youth Shelter

Peterlee Police suggested that a possible location for a Youth Shelter in Thornley would be adjacent to the play area in the Library site.⁷

Resolved: That the Parish Council support the idea in principal and await the findings of a residents' survey.

53. Easington Area Association of Parish & Town Councils (REF: 1890) (A.O.B.)

The Easington Area Association of Parish & Town Councils advised that the next meeting would take place on 5th June, 2003 in the Council Chamber, Seaside Lane Easington commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

54. Parish Consultative Meeting (REF: 1892) (A.O.B.)

The District of Easington advised that the next Parish Consultative Meeting would take place at the Council Offices on 19th June, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

55. Refusal of Planning Permission - Proposed Rear Extension (REF: 1894) (A.O.B.)

The District of Easington has advised that Mr. & Mrs. Parkers application for planning permission to extend the rear of the property at 22 Dunelm Road, Thornley has been refused.⁸

Resolved That the information be noted.

56. Letter of Thanks (REF: 1898) (A.O.B.)

A letter of thanks has been received from Easington & District Citizens Advice Bureau for the donation of £250.

Resolved: That the information be noted

57. Changes to Emergency Surgery Hours (REF: 1900) (A.O.B.)

Sedgefield Primary Care Trust advised that they have approved an application from Dr. Jones & Partners to relocate the Emergency Surgery Hours from Trimdon & Sedgefield to Fishburn.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

⁷ See also minute 29

⁸ See also minute 14.

58. Highway Diversion (REF: 1902) (A.O.B.)

Durham County Council advised that they were considering an application to divert public footpaths numbers 10 and 17 in the interests of safety and security.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

59. Windows Youll House. (A.O.B.)

The Parish Clerk reported that several windows in Youll House had been broken by vandals the previous evening. This had been reported to the police in order that a crime reference number could be obtained for insurance purposes.

Members were reminded that, on a previous occasion, consideration had been given to replacing the window frames with PVC double glazed units and roller-shutters to improve security.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk investigate the cost of replacing the window frames with PVC units and providing roller-shutters.

60. T.E.D. Meeting (REF: 1904) (A.O.B.)

The District of Easington advised that the next meeting would take place in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 11th June, 2003 at 6:00pm.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

61. Young Voices Project (A.O.B.)

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill asked why enquiries had been made into the operation of the proposed Young Voices Project to be held in Community Centred.

To clarify matters the Parish Clerk read out two letter⁹ provided by Councillor Mrs Brunskill which were self explanatory.

The Parish Clerk observed that the information provided in Mrs. Burbage's (Durham County Council- Education in the Community) response was not comprehensive and additional information still was required. He informed members that he would be seek further clarification and if necessary discuss the matter with the Director of Education.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

62. Open Space rear St Cuthbert's Road

Councillor Wharrier enquired if additional maintenance work could be undertaken to improve the visual aspect of the land and the unadopted road leading to the allotments site.

The Parish Clerk stated the area was generally considered to be an open meadow and therefore no regular maintenance was undertaken. Weeds and overgrown grass adjacent to the unadopted road was cut back periodically. The only other maintenance liability was to arrange for "fly-tipping" to be removed (at Parish Council expense) when necessary.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

⁹ From the Parish Clerk to Mrs Sue Burbage (Education in the Community) and her e-mailed response.

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PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
24TH JUNE, 2003**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

**D. W. Atkinson, Mrs. M. Brunskill, M. Burgin, Mrs. P. Maddison, W. Middleton,
J. Ollett, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier.**

APOLOGIES

Apologise were received from G. Wilson who had a meeting Partnership Resource Centre Sub Committee Meeting.

63. Land situated behind St. Cuthbert's Road, Thornley

For the benefit of those attending the Chairman stated the meeting had been called at the request of two Councillors to discuss matters relating to the present condition of the land and determine whether an environmental improvement project should be undertaken and also the historical arrangements, procedures, methods and financial transactions employed by the Parish Council when purchasing the site from Durham County Council.

Councillor Middleton reported that he had been approached by several residents, whose property overlooked the area, asking that the long grass etc be mown and the rubbish removed.

He referred to copies of two documents in his possession dated 20th April 1988. The "**Transfer of Part of the land from the British Coal Corporation**" and the "**Conveyance from Durham County**", both of these documents stated that the respective areas should (essentially) be maintained satisfactorily.¹⁰

Councillor Brunskill asked for clarification on matters relating to the procedures employed by the Parish Council following the transfer of the land to Parish Council ownership and on contract documentation, payments etc made to firms or individuals to bring the land up-to its' present condition.

The Parish Clerk stated that because of an ongoing Fraud Squad investigation, he and his predecessor had very little in the way of meaningful information on the council's affairs prior to the year 2000 and as a result he could not provide the information required.

He went on to point out that when any court proceedings were complete there was no guarantee that any of the documentation handed back to the Parish Council would relate to the item under discussion.

¹⁰ **The copies referred to were hand to the Parish Clerk at the end of the meeting for record purposes.**

Resolved: That immediate steps be taken to cut-back the overgrown vegetation along a 20 metre wide strip (approximately) at the rear of properties on St. Cuthbert's Road; That an environmental improvement project on the area be considered when the Parish Council's "Capital Program" is reviewed; That questions concerning the historical arrangements, procedures, methods and financial transactions employed by the Parish Council when purchasing the site from Durham County Council be deferred until such time as verifiable records come into the Parish Council possession.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
1ST JULY 2003**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

**D. W. Atkinson, Mrs. M. Brunskill, M. Burgin, Mrs. P. Maddison, W. Middleton,
J. Ollett, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, G. Wilson.**

Apologies

County Councillor Maurice Nichols.

64. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor Wharrier referred to minute 61 and pointed out that the **Resolution should have read** "The Parish Clerk investigate what additional maintenance operations could be undertaken on the area".

Councillor Middleton referred to minute 30 pointed out that the Community Centre Management Committee had never said that it would undertake a feasibility study.

Having noted these comments the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd June, 2003, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

65. Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 24th June 2003

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 24th June, 2003, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

66. Matters Arising

Councillor Wharrier requested that all members be provided with photocopies of the Conveyances which had recently come into the Parish Council's possession.

Councillor G. Wilson stated that although he had arrived late he had attended the previous meeting and requested that it be recorded in the minutes.

In addition he stated that recent newspaper articles it had purported that he was the Chairman of the Parish Council when the "land fill" operations had been carried out on the area in question. This was not the case and he requested that this also be recorded in the minutes.

Members noted that maintenance works had been carried out according to instructions and enquired what cost was involved.

The Parish Clerk stated that the nature of the work necessitated employing the services of the District of Easington on a day works rate. Actual costs would only be available once an invoice had been received.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

67. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Olver and P.C. Haydon (Anti Social Behaviour Unit) to the meeting who reported as follows:-

A case conference had been held on 3rd June 2003 to discuss security measures around Youll House. Plans had now been drawn and a local firm had provided an estimate for £2738 ¹¹ to undertake the work. An additional £50 to £100 was required to demolish a small wall. As Youll House was in the ownership of the Parish Council it would be necessary for them to apply for Planning Permission.¹²

Incidents reported in Thornley since the previous report included;

1 House burglary – Bogus Official

3 Burglary Other

6 Involving Youths

7 Criminal Damage

A meeting to discuss Vandalism around Thornley Library had taken place on 10th July 2003.

P.C. Haydon gave a brief outline of the role of the Anti Social Behaviour Unit and its' links with other agencies.

He gave details of the types of Youth Shelter that could be erected in the village to address the problems associated with youths and agreed that the initial costs would be financed by the A.S.B.U. via a funding application to the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. All long term liability would be the responsibility of the Parish Council.

He reported that a survey had been undertaken of the 19 homes in the vicinity of proposed siting of the Youth Shelter and stated that 13 were in favour, 2 were totally opposed and 4 had not responded.

In response to a number of concerns expressed by members P.C. Haydon stated that if, after a limited period, it was found that the shelter proving to be ineffective or causing additional problems it would be removed.

The Chairman thanked P.C. Olver for his report.

Resolved: That the Parish Council agree to the siting of a Youth Shelter adjacent to the Library Playground.

68. Street Wardens Report

The street warden reported that over the last month there had been:

4 alarm calls

1 report of harassment

7 incidents involving youths

14 cases of vandalism

1 incident nuisance by the playing of ball games

8 reports of criminal activity

13 reports of anti social behaviour

1 bonfire

¹¹ See also minute 107

¹² See also minute 106

2 incidents involving cars

The foot patrols were being maintained particularly in areas where there were a number of void properties.

Responding to members concerns about “fly tipping” the warden pointed out that unless individuals were seen (by the wardens) and hard evidence could be obtained or witnesses were prepared to give evidence in court very little could be done.

The District of Easington was now taking a hard line in respect of Dog Fouling and Littering in an effort to achieve results.

The Chairman thanked the warden for attending.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

69. New Thornley

Councillor Unsworth reported that the work of the partnership was proceeding normally.

An amount of up to £3,000 had been earmarked for a youth project on the village green.

Carol Jones from the District of Easington had been offered employment with a neighbouring authority and would no longer be attending meetings. A small token of appreciation had been presented to Carol for her support over the years.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill asked if more could be done to identify the role of the partnership as opposed to that of the Parish Council.

Mrs Unsworth responded saying as much as possible was being done. Residents could always attend partnership meetings in person if they required additional clarification.

Resolved: That the report be received.

70. District Councillor's

Councillor Wharrier reported that a number of initiatives with the police were ongoing.

Funding had been obtained for redevelopment in Thornlaw North and South and foundations were being laid in St. Aidan's Crescent.

Councillor Brian Wilson referred to proposals to site a Vodaphone Base Station at Thornley Hall Farm, Wheatley Hill.¹³

Resolved: That the information be noted.

71. County Councillor

As Councillor Nichols was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

¹³ See also minute 98

72. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported on the topics discussed at the previous meeting of the association.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

73. T.E.D.

Councillor Atkinson reported that he was not receiving notifications of meetings and asked that the Parish Clerk investigate.

Resolved: That the matter be taken up with the District of Easington.

74. Youll House

Councillor Wilson reported that the operation was going well and that annual maintenance would necessitate the building being closed in July.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

75. Residents Survey

The Parish Clerk produced a draft Residents Survey for consideration and sought the views of member on its' content.

He suggested that if it were to be adopted alteration and amendments be forwarded in order that a second draft could be produced.

Resolved: That the Residents Survey be agreed in principal and that a second draft be produced for further consideration.

76. 2002/2003 Annual Accounts

The Parish Clerk reported that the accounts for the period 1st April, 2002 to 31st March, 2003 had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Account & Audit Regulations 1996.

They had been subject to an Internal Audit and were ready for inspection by the External Auditor when required.

Copies of the Statement of Accounts were given to member along with the Internal Auditors report.

Resolved: That the accounts be accepted, the Statement be signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council and the internal auditor paid the sum of £300 in line with previous practice.

77. Letter of Thanks (REF: 1910)

A letter of thanks was received from Inspector Harrison in respect of the donation for £100.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

78. Training for Councillors on Ethical Standards Framework (REF: 1911)

Easington District Council advised that the County Durham Monitoring Officers' Group was currently preparing a training programme to ensure that all County, District, Parish and Town Councillors were trained in the requirements of the Ethical Standards Framework.

Date times and venues were yet to be decided but would be advised in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted

79. Proposed Tree Felling REF: 1918)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. P. Morton had applied for planning permission to fell a tree in the grounds of Thornley House, Thornley. Any objections to this proposal should be forwarded to the District of Easington.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

80. Local Strategic Partnership (REF: 1919)

The District of Easington invited applications for Service Improvement Proposals by 30th June, 2003.¹⁴

Resolved: That the information be received.

81. Victim Support - Request for Donation (REF: 1923)

The Easington & Durham Witness Service requested a donation from the Parish Council to maintain and expand its service and to ensure that everyone giving evidence benefits from their support.

Resolved: That a £50 donation be made to the Easington & Durham Witness Service

82. Traffic Calming Measures (REF: 1927)

The Parish Clerk reminded members that at the meeting held on 6th May 2003 (minute 5 refers) Durham County Council were to be asked if they would consider installing traffic calming measures in St. Cuthbert's Road, St. Chad's Square and St. Bede Crescent.

A response was received indicating that each County Councillor was allocated an annual budget to undertake minor schemes in his area. He is permitted to determine priorities from the requests he receives.

Resolved: That Councillor Nichols be asked to consider the installation of traffic calming measures in St. Cuthbert's Road, St. Chad's Square and St. Bede Crescent.

83. Maintenance Works (REF: 1931 & 1947)

The Parish Clerk reported that in order to improve security to the Library Allotment Site and improve safety on the adjacent children's play area, essential works were required. Durham County Council had agreed to carry out the works at estimated costs of £1830 and £1430 respectively.

¹⁴ Letter received 10/6/2003

The total cost was available from existing budgets (although some virement may be necessary) and although it did not contravene Standing Orders the matter had been discussed with and approved by the Chairman prior to works being commenced.

Resolved: That the Chairman's' action be endorsed.

84. Code of Conduct – Practice Video (REF: 1932)

The Standards Board for England provided a copy of “The Code in Practice Video” and workbook which introduces new Councillors to the Code of Conduct and provides clarification on some points that have been causing confusion.

The video and workbook had been produced as a training aid and it was suggested that in order to save time and maximise its usefulness it is viewed by all members simultaneously.

Resolved: That the training session take place on Tuesday 5th August 2003 in Youll House commencing 7:00 p.m.

85. Young People Bus Service (REF: 1934)

The East Durham Rural Transport Partnership advised that a Young People's Bus Project pilot scheme was to operate one evening a week for a period of eight weeks commencing 25th July 2003.

The 15 seater coach would have to be booked in advance and would operate between the villages of Thornley, Wheatley Hill, Wingate, Shotton, Peterlee, Horden, Blackhall and Blackhall Rocks.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

86. Use of Welfare Park Football Pitch (REF: 1944)

A request was received from The Secretary of Thornley Officials Football Club for permission to use the Welfare Park football pitch for all home games of both Thornley Officials F.C. and Thornley Celtics Over 40s team.

Resolved: That the Chairman and Parish Clerk be authorised meet with Football Club officials to discuss terms.

87. NERF Conference (REF: 1945)

The Countryside Agency advised that the “North East Rural Action Plan – One Year On” Conference would take place in the Council Chamber, Newcastle Civic Centre, Newcastle, on Thursday 17th July 2003 at 9:00 am.

Resolved: That the information be received.

88. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 1948)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 11th June, 2003. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

89. Request to Fence Grazing Land

Mr M. Crake made a verbal request to be permitted to erect a wire fence and gate on Parish Council land to prevent his horses and those of other residents (who have permission to graze horses on the area in question) straying onto plantation areas and causing damage. It was also suggested that it would prevent the animals coming into contact with each other and causing injury. When considering this request members were mindful of the insurance implication that may result if an incident occurred and that this land is for the use of all residents.

The Parish Clerk reported that documents that had recently come into his possession¹⁵ indicated that grazing of animals was not allowed on the area in question and that all permissions previously given by the Council may have to be revoked.¹⁶

He suggested that to allow time for the matter to be investigated the item be deferred and those individuals who had permission be advised accordingly.

Resolved: That the item be deferred until additional information is obtained.

90. Allotment Rents – Library Site.

Members were reminded that in agreeing terms with the Coopers Close Allotment Association to operate the newly acquired Coopers Close Allotment Site, it was agreed that the annual rent remain fixed at £10.00 for 2003/2004.

Members were requested to consider fixing the annual rent for the Library Allotment Site at the same rate so as to maintain parity.

Resolved: That the Library Allotment Site annual rent for 2003/2004 be £10.00.

91. Welfare Park – Grounds Maintenance

Members were reminded that an application had been made to Sport England for funding to install a new land drainage system in the Welfare Park.

This works program was in two phases:

Phase 1 - The initial installation of the new drainage system

Phase 2 - Initiate an annual maintenance contract for an initial period of 3 years.

Funding for the initial 3 years maintenance was being provided by Sport England and thereafter (as part of the funding criteria) by the Parish Council.

The Parish Clerk reported that Phase 1 was now complete and it was necessary for the Parish Council to seek Tenders for the long term maintenance of the playing surface.

Resolved: That Tenders be obtained in accordance with Standing Orders.

¹⁵ See Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 24th June 2003. Minute 63 refers.

¹⁶ See also minute 108

92. Finance & Budgetary Control Report

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

93. Request for Donation – Rural Transport Initiative (REF: 1952) (A.O.B.)

The Rural Transport Partnership is arranging a 52 seater coach to transport young people to attend an under 18s disco in Blackhall on one evening a month, the total cost of which is £80.00 per return journey.

Children using the coach will be asked to pay £1.00 each.

A similar request has been sent to Wheatley hill Parish Council as children from both communities will be eligible to use the service.

Resolved: That the matter be deferred to allow additional information to be obtained.

94. Proposed Planning Permission (REF: 1964) (A.O.B.)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. S. Hammond had applied for planning permission to construct a first floor extension at 16, Garden Terrace, Thornley. Any objections to this proposal should be forwarded to the District of Easington.

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

95. Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (REF: 1969) (A.O.B.)

The Parish Clerk provided details of the proposals being considered to allow Parish Council's to pay Members Allowances.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

96. Floral Displays (A.O.B.)

Councillor's T. Unsworth, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, Mrs. P. Maddison & G. Wilson declared a Pecuniary Interest in this matter and took no part in the vote that ensued.

The Parish Clerk reported that the New Thornley Partnership was to provide a number of "floral planters" in the village during the summer of 2004.

Whilst the initial cost of the planters, the floral arrangements and watering in the first year would be paid for by the Partnership they had verbally requested that the Parish Council cover the financial liability in future years.

Resolved: That the liability be agreed to in principal subject to cost.

97. Parish Consultative Meeting (REF: 1969) (A.O.B.)

The District of Easington advised that the next Parish Consultative Meeting would take place in the Council Chamber on 17th July 2003 at 2:00 p.m.

Resolved: That Councillor G. Wilson be authorised to attend.

98. Proposed Vodaphone Base Station (REF: 1980) (A.O.B.)

Daly International provided details of a proposed Vodaphone base station at Hall Farm, Wheatley Hill and requested comments prior to the submission of a formal planning application.¹⁷

Resolved: That the Parish Council support the views expressed (if any) by Wheatley Hill Parish Council in whose area the station will be erected.

99. Chairman's Civic Service (REF: 1977) (A.O.B.)

The Chairman of the District of Easington invited the Chairman of the Parish Council, the Parish Clerk and Partners to his Civic Service to be held at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Seaham on Wednesday 23rd July 2003 at 7: 00 p.m.

Resolved: That the Chairman and Parish Clerk be authorised to attend subject to prior engagements.

100. Easington Area Association of Parish & Town Council's (REF: 1969) (A.O.B.)

The next meeting of the association would take place in the District of Easington Council Chamber on Wednesday 2nd July 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

101. District of Easington Best Performance Plan 2003/2004 (REF: 1978) (A.O.B.)

The District of Easington provided a copy of the plan for member's attention.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

102. Local Government Review (REF: 1970) (A.O.B.)

The Boundary Committee for England provided information and a timetable for the review of the structure of local government in the two tier areas of the North East.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

103. Parish Paths Award Ceremony (REF: 1979) (A.O.B.)

Durham County Council invited representatives of the Parish Council to the P3 10 Year Anniversary Award Ceremony to be held in the Durham Room, County Hall on Wednesday 16th July 2003 at 6:00 p.m.

Resolved: That the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk be authorised to attend subject to prior commitments.

104. Letter of Thanks (REF: 1982) (A.O.B.)

A letter of thanks was received from Age Concern for the donation of £400

Resolved: That the information be noted.

¹⁷ See also minute 70

105. Request for Donation (REF: 1979) (A.O.B.)

The ThaiLamPang Thai Boxing Club requested a donation to in support of a Thai Boxing Competition to be held in Thornley Community Centre on 13th September 2003.

Resolved: That £100 be donated to the ThaiLamPang Thai Boxing Club.

106. Youll House Security (A.O.B.)

The Parish Clerk referred to previous discussions concerning the proposed security fence around Youll House¹⁸ and requested permission to submit a Planning Application to the District of Easington.

Resolved: That a planning application be submitted.

107. Youll House Security - Request for contribution toward costs. (A.O.B.)

The Police had informed the Parish Council that the estimated cost of providing security fencing around Youll house would be £2738¹⁹ and requested a contribution toward costs.

Resolved: That a contribution be agreed in principal subject to additional information be provided.

108. Tethering of Horses (A.O.B.)

A resident asked for clarification on the approvals given by the Parish Council to tether horses on Parish Land.

The Parish Clerk explained the procedure and referred to earlier discussion on the subject.²⁰

Resolved: That the information be noted.

109. Possible Contravention of Planning Permission (A.O.B.)

Councillor G. Wilson asked if there had been any progress in respect of the possible contravention of planning permission in respect of the housing development to the side of the Library Allotments site.

The Clerk reported that Councillor Wharrier had taken this matter up with the District of Easington but no response had been received at present.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

¹⁸ See also minute 67

¹⁹ See also minute 67

²⁰ See also minute 89

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
2ND SEPTEMBER 2003**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

D. W. Atkinson, Mrs. M. Brunskill, M. Burgin, W. Middleton, J. Ollett, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, G. Wilson.

County Councillor Maurice Nichols.

Apologies

Mrs. P. Maddison

110. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st, July, 2003, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

111. Matters Arising

Councillor Wharrier referred to the maintenance of the land at the rear of St. Cuthbert's Road and pointed out that part of the area was maintained by Durham County Council. To prevent inconsistency in standards of maintenance he requested that the Parish Clerk investigate what standard was required and report back to the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the required maintenance standard be obtained from Durham County Council.

Councillor Wilson referred to minute 108 and enquired if any information had been obtained from the District of Easington regarding contravention of planning permission.

Responding Councillor Wharrier stated that planning permission had not been infringed.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk investigate if under the circumstances the Parish Council had any obligation compensate the allotment holder affected by the development and the powers to do so.

112. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed Sgt. Dickinson to the meeting who reported as follows:-

Since the last meeting 3189 incidents had been dealt with by the division. Incidents reported in Thornley included:-

- 1 attempted burglary
- 6 burglary other
- 1 vehicle stolen
- 6 involving youths
- 4 criminal damage

Members expressed concerns over the amount of quad bikes causing nuisance in the village and incidence which were vehicle related.

The Chairman thanked Sgt. Dickinson for his report.

Resolved: That the police report be accepted.

113. Street Wardens Report

The street warden reported that over the last month there had been:

- 6 Youth related problems
- 3 noise related problems
- 6 cases of vandalism
- 2 drug related incidents
- 5 criminal behaviour
- 6 Anti social behaviour
- 1 fire
- 3 fly tipping

The wardens had monitored situations in the vicinity of the Gore Hill Play Area and Greenwood Cottages and been proactive with 9 to 14 year old children to provide diversionary activity.

The Chairman thanked the warden for his report.

Resolved: That the wardens report be accepted.

114. Neighbourhood Watch Presentation

The Chairman welcomed Ann Ward the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and Sharon Moore from East Lea.

Mrs Ward gave a general overview of Neighbourhood Watch and the benefits it provided residents in preventing criminal activity in areas where it operated.

Two initiatives were currently in operation. "Nominated Neighbour" - to help prevent problems of bogus callers preying on the elderly and "Operation Dark" – to combat burglary.

Mrs Moore said that the scheme in her area was working well and that the wardens responded quickly when requested. The police however were slow to respond on occasion.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Ward and Mrs Moore for attending.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

115. New Thornley

Joyce Unsworth provided information as follows:-

Health Forum - The Primary Care Trust will be managing grant awards in the future not the District of Easington and that there had been a change in the management structure.

Home Zone - a number of trees which had failed to develop were to be replanted in August.

The maintenance of the shrub beds would be carried out by the contractor for one year and would then be formally transferred to the Parish Council.

It had been reported that some of the “sets” used for the parking areas had failed a crush test and discussions between Groundwork Trust, Durham County Council and their suppliers were ongoing. Progress would be reported to the Steering Group when it became available.

In relation to the next phase, consultation with residents had already begun.

Employment Law – a speaker is being arranged to give a talk on employment law and two members of the partnership have been attending training sessions on this subject for several weeks.

Nature Reserve - details of a proposed Local Nature Reserve between Thornley and Wheatley Hill had been provided by the District of Easington.

Presentation – A gift and a letter of thanks had been received.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

116. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that Persimmon Homes had applied for planning permission to develop homes in the village.

If village regeneration was to continue the District of Easington must make progress on the issue of land sales.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

117. County Councillor

Councillor Nichols said that there was a £26million shortfall in budget provision for the health services in the County and that £600,000 had been sought for the west of the district to help alleviate problems suffered by people with mental health and heart disease.

Wheatley Hill and Thornley had been given priority to access “renaissance money” and partnerships from both villages would be consulted on which projects should be undertaken.

There was to be a meeting shortly to discuss road improvements at the “Crossways” junction.

In relation to educational matters (Minute 32 of the meeting held on 3rd June 2003,) 3 schools in the area had been classed as above average and may be affected by Government proposals.

Difficulties were still being encountered by the withdrawal by “Arriva” of bus services in the area.

The Parish Council must determine its priority for spending £2000 on traffic calming measures required in the village and notify Durham County Council accordingly.

Resolved: That the information be noted

118. Community Association

Councillor Middleton reported that the Community Centre had purchased a new snooker table which was being well used and a dance night held recently had been successful.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

119. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that he had been appointed Vice Chairman of the association at the last A.G.M. and gave a detailed report on the topics under discussion.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

120. T.E.D.

Councillor Atkinson advised that because of work commitments he would have to resign as the parish council's representative on this committee.

Resolved: Councillor Mrs Brunskill be appointed to attend future meetings.

121. Youll House

Councillor Wilson reported that a new central heating system will be installed in the near future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

122. Young People Bus Service (REF: 1934)

This item had been deferred at the last meeting. (Minute 84 refers).

The Parish Clerk reported that Wheatley Hill Parish Council had donated £50 to this initiative.

Resolved: That £50 be donated

123. Request for Donation – Rural Transport Initiative (REF: 1952)

This item had been deferred at the last meeting. (Minute 92 refers).

The Parish Clerk reported that Wheatley Hill Parish Council had donated £50 to this initiative.

Resolved: That £50 be donated.

124. Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils (REF: 1969)

The Durham Association requested payment of £139.70 for the affiliation fees 2003/4.

Resolved: That the subscription be renewed for 2003/2004 at a cost of £139.70

125. Inter Parish Sport (REF: 1993)

The District of Easington advised that it was in the process of reviewing the competition because of a loss of popularity with fewer and fewer Town/Parishes participating and many struggling to find competitors.

They asked for the views of the Parish Council on the continuation of the competition in its current form, or whether they would support the creation of a new community event.

Resolved: That the Parish Council support the creation of a new community event.

126. Proposed Extension to Garage & New Boundary Wall (REF: 2008)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. N. Stokoe had applied for planning permission to extend the garage and erect a boundary wall at "Highfield", Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Any objections to this proposal should be forwarded to the District of Easington.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

127. Victim Support - Letter of Thanks (REF: 2012)

A letter of Thanks was received from Victim Support for the Parish Councils donation of £50.

Resolved: That the letter be received.

128. L.A.C.S. Renewal (REF: 2022)

Zurich Municipal Insurance advised that the annual subscription to the Local Council Advisory Service was up for renewal in August 2003 at a cost of £135. plus V.A.T.

Resolved: That the subscription be renewed at a cost of £135.

129. Proposed Private Garage (REF: 2026)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. J. Regan had applied for planning permission to build a garage at 7, Hilltop Bungalows, Thornley.

Any objections to this proposal should be forwarded to the District of Easington.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

130. R.O.S.A.P. Playground Inspection Report (REF: 2034)

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (**R.o.S.P.A.**) provided their report on the condition of the Parish Council's children's playgrounds.

Although some minor faults were detected, many of which were suggestions rather than actual faults, all areas met the existing standards.

Resolved: That the information contained in the report be noted and minor repair works be carried out as soon as possible.

131. Request for Donation (REF: 2029)

The Thai Lam Pang Boxing Club requested a further donation from the Parish Council to assist the club to purchase equipment.

The Parish Clerk had requested additional information from the club to assist members in their deliberation nothing had been received.

Resolved: That £200 be donated and the Parish Council determines a "policy" for the allocation of Section 137 payments from April 2004.

132. Proposed Extension to garage new Boundary wall. (REF: 2043)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. & Mrs. N. Stokoe to extend the garage and erect a boundary wall at "Highfield", Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

133. Durham County Training Partnership (REF: 2051)

The North East Regional Employers Organisation enquired if the Parish Council required training on Quality Parish Council status.

Resolved: That obtaining Quality Status be agreed in principle and that additional information be waited.

134. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 2052)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 23rd July 2003. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

135. Seat on Village Green (REF: 2054)

The District of Easington advised that it intended replacing the seat on the village green following requests from residents.

Following installation it would be monitored by the Street Wardens to control any misuse and if any arose they will reconsider the situation.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

136. Village Companies East Durham (REF: 2060)

Councillor's G. Wharrier and Mrs. J. Unsworth declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the decision making process.

Groundwork East Durham made a request on behalf of Village Companies that the Parish Council take on the future maintenance liability for trees being planted at Greenwood Cottages and trees and limited planting around the sculpture in Dunelm Road.

Resolved: That future maintenance liability for the proposed trees and shrub planting be accepted.

137. Youll House Security Fence

P.C. Olver of Peterlee Police advised that they could provide £1000 of the total cost required to install the security fence at Youll House and asked if the Parish Council could find the balance of approximately £1700.²¹

The Parish Clerk pointed out that £3,000 has been earmarked in the Capital Program for Youll House security in the 2004/2005 annual budget.²²

²¹ See minute 106 of the meeting held on 1st July 2003

²² See also minute 146

It was also reported that Planning Permission had been applied for and the outcome should be made known shortly.²³

Resolved: That New Thornley Partnership be approached for a contribution and that viament within the existing budget be approved to meet the shortfall.

138. Objective 2 Seminar (REF: 2063)

The District of Easington invited representatives to two Monitoring & Evaluation Meetings to be held on Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th September 2003 at Wheatley Hill Community Centre from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Training in relation to ERDF & ESF Grant applications would be provided to those submitting or intending to apply for funding. Attendance was free of charge and lunch would be provided.

Members would be entitled to claim travel allowance but not attendance allowance.

Resolved: That Councillors' Mrs. J. Unsworth, Mrs. P. Madison and G. Wilson be authorised to attend.

139. Ethical Standards Roadshows (REF: 2068)

The North East Regional Employers' Organisation was to host an Ethical Standards Roadshow as follows:-

22/9/2003 Easington Council Chamber

9/10/2003 Shotton Hall Peterlee

13/11/2003 Glebe Centre Murton

The content was aimed at providing members with a consistent approach to understanding the standards which applied to their role as Councillors.

Attendance was free.

Resolved: That Councillor Mrs. M. Brunskill be authorised to attend the meeting on 9th October 2003.

140. Urban II Funding Event (REF: 2071)

The above mentioned event was to be held in the Glebe Centre Murton on 11th September 2003 from 10:30 am until 4:00 pm and would provide information on grants available to organisations.

Attendance was free of charge.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

141. Proposed Residential Development – Thornlaw North (REF: 2072)

The District of Easington advised that Persimmon Homes NE Ltd had applied for planning permission to build 111 houses at Thornlaw North, Thornley.

Any objections to this proposal should be forwarded to the District of Easington.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

²³ See minute 105 of the meeting held on 1st July 2003

142. Planning Permission (REF: 2080)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. Frampton to erect a garage at 66, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

143. Annual Audit of Accounts 2001/2002 (REF: 2081)

The Parish Clerk reported that HLB AV audit had approved the parish council's accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2001 and had provided an interim qualifying statement.²⁴

The statement highlighted the fact that the council's accounts for the years ended 31st March 1999, 2000, and 2001 had yet to be formally concluded (because of an outstanding court case) and as a consequence the audit for the year 2001- 2002 must remain open.

They were satisfied however that subject only to changes that may be required to the balances brought forward (from previous years) the accounts were in order.

The auditor pointed out that he could find no evidence in the accounts of any income being derived from Youll House or the Welfare Park and recommended that any potential rental income was charged on the assets.

A number of other recommendations were also made relating to administrative procedures aimed primarily at improving documentation and the recording of decisions made by the Council.

Resolved: That (a) the information be noted and the auditors' recommendations be implemented (b) Councillor's T. Unsworth (Chairman) Mrs. P. Maddison (Vice Chairman) G. Wilson, Mrs. M. Brunskill and the Parish Clerk meet with Age Concern the operation of Youll House.

144. Sexton's Report

The Sexton reported that since his last report on the 4th February 2003 there had been: -

14 internments

13 plots purchased

13 headstones erected

2 inscriptions added.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

²⁴ Copies were available to members.

145. Parish Council Port-a-Cabin

Members were made aware that the Council's port-a-cabin, which was used to store equipment etc., was located within a compound area belonging to Mr. Maurice Crake.

The Parish Clerk reported that Mr. Crake had advised that he intended selling his property and requested that the Parish Council take immediate steps to have the cabin removed.

Resolved: That expenditure be approved to appoint a suitable contractor to relocate the cabin.

146. Capital Works Program

The Parish Clerk's report on the capital works program was considered in order that the 2004/2005 budget could be calculated and the Parish Precept determined.

Resolved: That the item be deferred.

147. Finance & Budgetary Control Report

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

148. SRB & European Partnership Meeting (REF: 2091) (A.O.B.)

The District of Easington advised that the meeting will take place at South Hetton Community Centre on Thursday 4th September 2003 commencing 10:00 am.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

149. Planning Permission Youll House Security Fence (REF: 2093) (A.O.B.)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Thornley Parish Council to erect a security fence at the rear of Youll House Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

150. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 2094)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 14th August 2003. No defects have been identified.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

151. Parish Council Office Accommodation (A.O.B.)

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth suggested that the Parish Council investigate the possibility of obtaining from the District of Easington a vacant property in Greenwood Cottages for use as a Parish Office.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk investigate and report back.

152. Order of Business (A.O.B.)

Councillor Burgin suggested that Questions from the Public be considered at the beginning of future agendas rather than the end so that they did not have to sit through the whole of the business.

Resolved: That the Questions from the Public be considered earlier on future agendas.

153. Request to Graze Horses (A.O.B.)

Mr. S. Thomas 38, St. Aidan's Crescent, Thornley requested that he be given permission to graze horses on Parish Council owned land at the rear of the Pit Wheel.

Resolved: That permission be granted to Mr. S. Thomas to tether horses on Parish land at the rear of the Pit Wheel subject to providing evidence of appropriate Personal Liability insurance cover.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
7TH OCTOBER 2003**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

Mrs. M. Brunskill, M. Burgin, Mrs. P. Maddison W. Middleton, J. Ollett, G. Wilson.

Apologies

D. W. Atkinson, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, County Councillor Maurice Nichols.

154. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd, September, 2003, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

155. Matters Arising

The Chairman referred to minute 142 and pointed out that it had not been possible to arrange a meeting with age concern.

The Chairman referred to minute 144 and pointed out that Mr Crake had informed him that there was now no urgency that the port-a-cabin be relocated.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

156. Public Question and Answer Session

No members of the public present at the meeting.

157. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Wray to the meeting who reported as follows:-

1 house burglary in Shinwell Crescent

1 burglary other in St. Bede Crescent

A car had been stolen from Gore Hill

7 youth related incidents

6 reports of criminal damage

Funding for a youth inclusion program had not yet been approved and a number of related issues were being resolved.

Funding applications were being processed for the erection of a security fence at the rear of Youll House.

Members raised concerns over the rise in the number of fireworks being used throughout the village and the fact that complaints to the police were not being dealt with.

Responding Sgt. Wray pointed out that all calls were logged and if residents had concerns that they were not being provided with an adequate response he would investigate.

The Chairman thanked Sgt. Wray for attending.

Resolved: That the report be received.

158. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed Aidan Elliot to the meeting who reported the wardens had dealt with 119 incidents in the west of the district in the previous month 45 of which were in Thornley as follows:-

- 16 youths congregating
- 1 alarm call
- 1 vandalism report
- 9 drug related issues
- 9 criminal activity
- 6 anti social behaviour issues
- 3 bonfires

Problems were still being encountered around the library and it was hoped that the construction of a Youth Shelter would help ease the situation.

The Chairman thanked the Mr. Elliot for his report.

Resolved: That the report be received.

159. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. P. Maddison read out the content of a written report on behalf of Councillor Mrs. Unsworth.

Gary Shears (District of Easington) had attended the meeting and had provided details of a proposed Nature Reserve centred on Gore Burn between Thornley and Wheatley Hill.

It was anticipated that the project, which was part of the Durham County Action Plan, would become habitat for water voles and other species. Woodlands would also be planted. It was also anticipated that a "Friends of the Reserve" group could be established by enlisting the help of local volunteers etc., who could help to maintain the environment.

English Nature supported the initiative and the District Council was in the process of designating the area a protected reserve.

Consultation with residents had begun in relation to Phase II of the Eastern Gateway.

An arts project was being arranged by the Youth Group for the Village Green and consultation with residents would begin shortly.

The Partnership had donated £1,000 to fund the erection of a security fence at the rear of Youll House.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

160. District Councillor

The Parish Clerk read out a written report from Councillor Wharrier on a meeting of the District of Easington on Thornley Community Centre.²⁵

Resolved: That the information be noted.

161. County Councillor

The Chairman reported on behalf of Councillor M. Nichols as follows:-

Bus Service – Go Northern are experiencing severe problems in obtaining drivers for the 22 service.

It will cost £9,000 to operate the Arriva bus service to Durham and alternative forms of transport are being investigated.

Street Lights – A number of Street lighting columns have been repaired.

Regional Government/Unitary Authority – Talks are still ongoing.

Disturbances – the police are taking steps to alleviate the problems leading to the disturbances that took place on Sunday 28th September 2003.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

162. Community Association

Councillor Middleton reported that the centre was operating well and that the recently held Thai Boxing event had been very successful. Various other entertainments were being planned over the coming months.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

163. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that the meeting of the association had been hastily re-arranged and was taking place at the same time as the Parish Council meeting and therefore he was unable to attend.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

164. School Governors

Councillor Burgin reported that he had attended the meeting held on 29th September 2003 when the School Inspection was discussed.

There had been a marked improvement in reading and writing standards and various other initiative were under consideration e.g. Buddy System to address bullying.

Planning for the OFSTED report was underway and the Capital Works Program was under discussion.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

²⁵ **The report is on file for inspection.**

165. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the Secretary had had to resign for health reasons and that Mr. M. Wigham would undertake the duties in the interim. The centre was being closed for one week to allow re-decoration to take place. The Wednesday Club had to fold because of lack of support.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

166. C.A.B. Annual General Meeting REF: 2100)

C.A.B. invited representatives to their A.G.M. which is to be held in Shotton Hall Peterlee on 15th October 2003 commencing 12:45 p.m.

Resolved: That Councillor G. Wilson be appointed to attend.

167. Annual Audit of Accounts Ending 31st March 2003 (REF: 2110)

The External Auditor (HLB AV audit plc) advised that the annual audit of the 2002/2003 accounts would take place on 8th December 2003.

The Parish Clerk reported that arrangements were in hand to inform residents of their rights to inspect the accounts etc. in accordance with the statutory regulations from 10th November to 5th December 2003.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

168. Insurance Claim (REF: 2129)

Cornhill Insurance advised that they were not prepared to offer compensation in respect of a claim made by Master Darren Wall and that as a result proceedings may be issued against the Council.

The Parish Clerk reported that if this occurred the situation would be dealt with by the Council's insurance company.

Resolved: That the information be noted

169. Switching on Ceremony of Christmas Lights

The Parish Clerk reported that arrangements were in hand to have a Christmas tree erected on the village green as previously agreed by the Parish Council.(Meeting held on 6th May 2003 minute 8 refers)

It was now necessary for the Council to decide what colour lights should be installed to decorate the tree and make arrangements for the switching on ceremony.

Resolved: That the lights be white in colour; the ceremony takes place on Monday 1st. December 2003 at 6:00 pm and the Parish Clerk advertises this as appropriate.

170. Capital Works Program

A report of the Parish Clerk in connection with this item was considered. Members prioritised the projects put forward and agreed how they should be financed over the coming years in order that the precept for 2004/2005 could be calculated.

| Existing Priority | Project | Estimated Total Fund Required <small>26</small> | Amount Reserved to 31/3/04 | Amount Reserved 2004 | Amount Reserved 2005 | Amount Reserved 2006 | Amount Reserved 2007 | Amount Reserved 2008 | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Reinstate Footpaths – Pit Site | £25,000 | £5,000 | £5,000 | £5,000 | £5,000 | £5,000 | Works to be done in 2007 | £25,000 |
| 2 | Youll House Security | £5,000 | Nil | £5,000 | Works to be done in 2004 | | | | £5,000 |
| 3 | Youll House Roof | £12,500 | £1,000 | £11,500 | Works to be done in 2004 | | | | £12,500 |
| 4 | Replace Playground Equipment | £10,000 | Nil | Nil | £5,000 | £5,000 | Works to be done in 2006 | | £10,000 |
| 5 | Contribution to Resource Centre | £25,000 | £3,500 | £7,000 | £7,000 | £7,500 | | | £25,000 |
| 6 | Provision of Recreational Facilities | £10,000 | Nil | Nil | £3,500 | £3,500 | £3,000 | Works to be done in 2007 | £10,000 |
| 7 | Welfare Park Fence | £25,000 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | £10,000 | £15,000 | £25,000 |
| | Total | £112,500 | £9,500 | £28,500 | £20,500 | £21,000 | £18,000 | £15,000 | £112,500 |

²⁶ Subject to revision

Resolved: That subject to revision if required the projects as detailed form the basis of a five years capital program and finance be reserved accordingly.

171. Finance & Budgetary Control Report (See Green Sheets Attached)

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

172. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 2156)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 12th September 2003. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts are required these had been ordered and will be fitted in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

173. Planning Permission 16 Garden Terrace (REF: 2151)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. S. Hammond to carry out an extension to the first floor of the above mentioned property.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

174. Proposed side and rear extension 6 Emmerson Square Thornley (REF: 2158)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. Mrs. D Wilkinson had applied for planning permission to carry out the above mentioned works.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

175. Parish Consultative Meeting (REF: 2161)

The District of Easington advised that the next Parish Consultative Meeting would take place at the Council Offices on 16th October, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

176. Consultation Event. (REF: 2170)

Durham County Council invited representatives to attend a Consultative Meeting to engage with Parish and Town Councils on ways to improve service delivery.

The event would to take place at the Glebe Centre, Murton on Friday 14th October 2003 from 5:00 pm until 7:30 pm.

Resolved: That Councillors T. Unsworth & G. Wilson be authorised to attend.

177. Easington Area Association of Parish & Town Councils. (REF: 2175)

Easington Area Association of Parish & Town Councils advised that the next meeting of the association would to take place on 7th October 2003 in the Council Chamber, Easington at 6:30 p.m.²⁷

Resolved: That the information be noted.

178. Quality Parish Councils – Conference. (REF: 2178)

The Society of Local Clerks advised that it was to hold a one day conference at The Bridge Hotel, Wetherby on Friday 21st, November 2003. Tickets were £25 and £20 for each additional representative.

Resolved: That Councillor G. Wilson and the Parish Clerk be authorised to attend.

179. Easington Primary Care Trust (REF: 2181)

The Easington Primary Care Trust provided a copy of their Annual Report.

Resolved: That the information be received.

180. Action for Life (REF: 2182)

The Easington Primary Care Trust provided a copy of their 5 year strategy aimed at improving healthcare and wellbeing for the people of Easington District.

Resolved: That the information be received.

181. Remembrance Day Service (A.O.B.)

Councillor W. Middleton reported that due to the recent closure of St. Bartholomew's Church he had had to arrange the annual Remembrance Day service to take place at the Cenotaph.

He requested that on this occasion the Parish Council assist him by sending invitations to the appropriate organisations.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk send invitations as requested.

182. Graffiti (A.O.B.)

Councillor J. Ollett requested a letter be sent to the District of Easington asking that they take steps to remove graffiti that had appeared on walls and buildings in various locations in the village.

Resolved: That the matter be brought to the attention of the district council.

183. Former Parish Clerk (A.O.B.)

Councillor W. Middleton reported that he had received notification that a verdict of not guilty had been recorded in the case brought by the police against a former clerk of the parish council.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Clerk obtains confirmation from the Durham Constabulary.

²⁷ See also minute 163

184. Parish Paths (A.O.B.) (REF: 2188)

Durham County Council invited representatives on a walk around Middleton to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Parish Paths Award.

Resolved: That the information be received.

185. D.C.C. Progress Report (A.O.B.) (REF: 2189)

Durham County Council provided a copy of the annual progress report on Local Transport.

Resolved: That the information be received.

186. Community Highways Worker (A.O.B.) (REF: 2137)

Durham County Council provided outlined proposals for a partnership arrangement for employing a worker in Thornley.

Resolved: That an officer of Durham County Council be invited to a future meeting to provide additional information.

187. N.R.F. Access for All (A.O.B.) (REF: 2138)

Durham County Council provided details of the proposed locations for dropped kerbs in Thornley for which funding was being sought.
The Parish Council was asked to approve the sites.

Resolved: That the proposed locations for dropped kerbs be approved.

188. Village Companies East Durham (A.O.B.)

On behalf of Councillor Mrs. J. Unsworth the Parish Clerk reported on the possibility of additional labour being made available to the five parish council's (on a shared basis) via village Companies East Durham at an annual estimated cost of £5,000.²⁸

Resolved: That the idea be approved in principal and finance be allocated from within the capital works budget if the scheme is sanctioned.

189. Thornley Cemetery (A.O.B.)

On behalf of Councillor Mrs. J. Unsworth the Parish Clerk reported on the number of graves in Thornley Cemetery where relatives of the deceased had erected stone borders contrary to Cemetery Regulations.²⁹

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk enforces Cemetery Regulations that came into effect on 1st April 2003.

²⁸ Report on file for reference.

²⁹ Report on file for reference.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
4TH NOVEMBER 2003**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

D. W. Atkinson, Mrs. M. Brunskill, M. Burgin, Mrs. P. Maddison W. Middleton, J. Ollett, G. Wharrier, G. Wilson.

County Councillor Maurice Nichols.

Apologies

Mrs. J. Unsworth,

190. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th October, 2003, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

191. Matters Arising

The Chairman referred to minute 154 and reported that a meeting with Age Concern would take place on Friday 7th November 2003.

Councillor Ollett referred to minute 163 and asked what progress had been made in relation to the switching on of the Christmas Tree lights.

The Parish Clerk stated that a Carol Concert was being arranged subject to the availability of a brass band to accompany the singing.

Both the Chairman and Councillor G. Wilson referred to minute 175 and stated that neither had been able to attend the meeting at the Glebe Centre because of conflicts with other meetings.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

192. Public Question and Answer Session

A representative from the Thai Lam Pang Thai Boxing Club thanked the Parish Council for the donations given on a previous occasion and for the support given. She pointed out that the Boxing club did not have a bank account in its name and as a result it could not cash the cheques presented by the Council. She therefore requested that the cheques be cancelled and be re-issued in the name of the club organiser Stuart Lowther.

Resolved: That the donations for the Thai Lam Pang Boxing Club be re-issued in the name of Stuart Lowther.

193. Police Report

The chairman welcomed PC. Kevin Olver to the meeting who reported as follows:-

Across the division there had been 3070 reported incidents and from Thornley,
2 houses burgled
2 burglaries other
18 youths causing nuisance
2 use of quad bikes
1 car stolen
3 involving cars damaged
1 window broken

The application for funding the erection of a security fence at the rear of Youll House was being progressed and all future correspondence would now be passed directly to the Parish Council as owners of the property.

Funding which had been identified for the provision of a youth shelter in Thornley was no longer available but other sources were being investigated in an attempt to progress the initiative.

The chairman thanked PC Olver for his attendance.

Resolved: That the report be received.

194. Street Wardens Report

No Wardens were in attendance.

Resolved: That the information be noted

195. New Thornley

In the absence of Councillor Mrs. Unsworth the Parish Clerk reported that an arts project being organised and funded by the Youth Project and the Partnership was progressing. A preferred sculpture had been identified and consultation with residents would begin shortly.

Phase II of the Eastern Gateway was also progressing and discussions with the residents involved in the design was being arranged by Groundwork East Durham.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

196. District Councillor

The District of Easington was progressing the housing initiatives in the village and problems encountered by residents in the Bede Street area were being investigated.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

197. County Councillor

The implementation of Government proposals in relation to surplus places would have a significant effect in the coming years and should give rise to improvements in education. This would be monitored by Durham County Council.

The budget process and setting of the County Council Precept was underway. Because of the way in which Central Government allocated funding to Public Authorities it was anticipated that there would need to be a substantial rise in the County precept to fund initiatives in Social Services etc.

A special meeting to discuss bus services is being arranged. All parties involved are to be invited. It was suggested that the Parish Council notify the County Council of its concerns so that they could be raised with service operators.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Council contacts the County Council in relation to village bus services.

198. Area Forum

Councillor G. Wilson reported on matters discussed at the recent West Area Forum.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

199. Community Association

Councillor Middleton reported that the Community Centre had been a venue for the District of Easington Music Festival and that a number of dances had been held. The Thai Boxing Club had unfortunately moved to another venue but it was hoped that it would return in the future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

200. Consultative Meeting

Councillor G. Wilson gave a comprehensive report on the issues discussed at the meeting and requested permission to approach the District of Easington in relation to planning permission granted by them for a building development on Thornley. ³⁰

Resolved: That the information be noted and Councillor Wilson be authorised to approach the District of Easington.

201. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that he had not been able attend the meeting of the Association because it conflicted with a meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

202. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill gave a comprehensive report on issues discussed at the Tidy Easington District meeting.

A proposal to merge the Consultative and T.E.D. meetings had also been discussed but this had received little support from representatives.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

³⁰ Meetings held on 1st July minute 109 and 2nd September minute 111 refer.

203. Planning Permission (Ref: 2197)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. & Mrs. D. Wilkinson to construct rear and side extensions at 6, Emmerson Square Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

204. Proposed Planning Permission (REF: 2198)

The District of Easington advised that B. & R. Parker had applied for planning permission to construct a conservatory at 19, Kenton Crescent, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

205. Request for Donation (REF: 2210)

St. John's Ambulance requested a donation from the Parish Council to aid them in the purchase of 4 new vehicles for the "Wheel's for Life" Appeal.

Resolved: That £25 be donated to St. John's Ambulance.

206. Former Parish Clerk – Court Case (REF: 2214)

Durham Constabulary advised that a former clerk and another employee of the Parish Council appeared before the Durham Crown Court on 22nd September 2003. No evidence was offered by the prosecution and that not guilty verdicts were recorded.

The decision was reached because of an adverse medical assessment on the former clerk where it was felt that a trial would be detrimental to her health.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Council record its dissatisfaction.

207. Finance & Budgetary Control Report

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

208. Remembrance Day Service (A.O.B.)

Councillor Middleton suggested that in view of the uncertainty surrounding the future of St. Bartholomew's Church and the fact that there was no longer an active branch of the British Legion in the village, the Parish Council takes responsibility for arranging the annual Remembrance Day Service.

Councillor Wharrier referred to a letter he had received from the Diocese of Durham stating that emergency finance had been made available to deal with the instability of the church in the short term.³¹

³¹ Letter reference 2243

It was pointed out that each of the three church denominations in the village were served by church leaders from surrounding villages. Church services were therefore performed on a rotational basis and this made it difficult to ensure that someone from the church was available on Remembrance Day.

Resolved: That the Parish Council liaise with the church leaders to investigate the possibility of arranging future Remembrance Day Services.

209. Ethical Standards Roadshows (A.O.B.)

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that she had attended the Roadshow held at Shotton Hall Peterlee on 9th October 2003. Information and training previously provided by the Parish Clerk had proven useful and given an insight into what was discussed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

210. 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 involved the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 1 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

211. Increase in Hourly Rates of Pay

The report of the Parish Clerk was considered.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk acts in accordance with the instructions given.

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PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
15TH DECEMBER 2003**

PRESENT

Mrs. P. Maddison (Chair)

D. W. Atkinson, Mrs. M. Brunskill, M. Burgin, J. Ollett, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, G. Wilson.

Apologies

Members were asked to note that all apologies should be notified to the Parish Clerk in advance of the meeting by the person concerned. They would then be presented at the commencement of the meeting for approval or rejection and recorded as appropriate.

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

| <u>Councillor</u> | <u>Reason for Absence</u> | <u>Resolved</u> |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>W. Middleton</i> | <i>Resource Centre Meeting</i> | <i>Approved</i> |
| <i>T. Unsworth</i> | <i>College Attendance</i> | <i>Approved</i> |
| <i>County Councillor Maurice Nichols</i> | <i>Resource Centre Meeting</i> | <i>Approved</i> |

212. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th November, 2003, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

213. Public Question and Answer Session

No members of the public were present

214. Police Report

The chairman welcomed PC. Kevin Olver to the meeting who reported that across the division there had been 4213 reported incidents across the division. The following were from Thornley,

- 1 burglary other*
- 21 youths causing nuisance*
- 2 cars vehicles*
- 2 thefts from vehicles*
- 5 windows broken*
- 1 report of theft*

There had been a 60% reduction in theft from dwellings and a 54% reduction in burglary other.

Members expressed concern that quad bike owners were causing extensive damage to the grassed areas in the village and that a police presence in the Gore Hill estate had helped reduce anti social behavioural problems.

The chairman thanked PC Olver for his attendance.

Resolved: That the report be received.

215. Street Wardens Report

No Street warden was present at the meeting to present a report.

The Parish Clerk reported that Stephanie Gardener (Senior Warden) had now found alternative employment and until such time as a new appointment was made further reports may not be available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

216. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that the partnership was continuing to address the environmental and other projects determined in the Thornley appraisal.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

217. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that discussions had been held with residents of St. Bede's and St. Cuthbert's Road concerning the redevelopment of the area. Most residents were in favour it seemed although there were some issues still to be resolved.

The District of Easington was to consider using an Arms Length Management Organisations (A.L.M.O.) to undertake management of the housing stock in the future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

218. County Councillor

As County Councillor Nicholls was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

219. Community Association

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the Community Centre operation was running smoothly and no difficulties were being encountered.

Resolved: That the report be received.

220. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill gave a comprehensive report on topics discussed at the last meeting.

Resolved: That the report be received.

221. School Governors

Councillor Burgin reported that whilst there had been no meeting of the School Governors recently it was worth recording that Thornley Primary School had topped the County League Table for improvements in education.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

222. Youll House

No report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

223. Age Concern - Youll House Income

The Parish Clerk reported on the meeting held recently with representatives of Youll House Age Concern.

The Chairman had detailed why the meeting had been become necessary and gave an indication of the amounts of expenditure which the Parish Council would need to commit in the near future if the building was to remain open.³²

Age Concerns' representatives had asserted that they were only able to meet existing costs and that they could not generate any additional income needed to pay the Parish Council for the use of the premises.

As a result it had not been possible to reach agreement.

Resolved: That the matter be deferred until the views of Durham Age Concern could be obtained.

224. Hire of Football Facilities Welfare Park

In accordance with minute 85 of the meeting held on 1st July 2003, the Chairman and the Parish Clerk met with Mr. Kevin Ord (football team representative) on Friday 5th December 2003, to discuss the hire fees for the use of the Welfare Park.

The Chairman had detailed why the meeting had been requested and gave an indication of the amounts of expenditure which the Parish Council had committed recently to improve the Welfare Park. He also outlined what additional works were being considered for continued improvement in future years.

Following discussion on the various issues, Mr. Ord proposed that a fee of £125 per team would be acceptable to both of the teams using the Welfare Park as a "Home Ground" for their football fixtures during 2003/2004.

Resolved: That each team be charged £125 to use the Welfare Park for home fixtures during the 2003/2004 season.

225. Staff Christmas Bonus

The Parish Clerk reported that at this time of year it had been the practice of the Parish Council to consider awarding staff a Christmas Bonus in recognition of their work during the previous 12 months.

³² **Roof repairs/replacement, Window replacement and Additional Security measures.**

Resolved: That a Christmas bonus of £20 be paid to each of the manual staff.

226. Planning Permission (REF: 2256)

The District of Easington advised that Persimmon Homes have been granted planning permission to build 111 houses on Thornlaw North.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

227. Sale of Land (REF: 2265 & 1840)

Members were asked to recall that this item had been deferred at the meeting held on 6th May (minute 24 refers) in order that additional information could be obtained.

Mr. Ivan Graham made a request to purchase a parcel of land that formed part of an area transferred from Durham County Council & British Coal Corporation on 20th April 1988.

Durham County Council had now advised that they reserved the right to any financial benefit from increases in land values for a period of 21 years.

If the Parish Council agreed to the sale of any of the land specified in the Conveyance before 20th April 2009, it would have to notify the County Council and they would receive the income derived from the land sale.

There may be circumstances however that would allow for a variation of the covenant and consideration of a share of the financial benefits that early disposal may release.

Members were asked to determine if they wished to proceed with the possible sale of the area of land in question to Mr. Graham.

Resolved: That the sale of the land be agreed subject to agreement with the purchaser that he bears all costs attributable to the Parish Council.

228. Land at the Rear of St. Cuthbert's Road (REF: 2265)

At the meeting held on 2nd September 2003 (minute 110 refers) the Parish Clerk was asked to investigate what standard of maintenance Durham County Council required.

Durham County Council advised that although the exact standard to be achieved was not defined in the Conveyance it should be maintained in a condition that did not cause concern. They had further advised that the Parish Council should address any shortcomings that could be identified.

Members were asked to reaffirm that the area should be maintained as an open meadow³³ and that no regular maintenance should be undertaken. Weeds and overgrown grass adjacent to the unadopted road would be cut back periodically and "fly-tipping" removed when necessary.

Resolved: That the area be maintained as open meadow.

229. Local Government Review (REF: 2266)

Durham County Council invited representatives to discuss service provision and key issues concerning local areas as part of their submission to the Boundary Committee review on local government in the County.

³³ Meeting held on 3rd June 2003 minute 61 refers.

The meeting to take place at the Riverside Cricket Ground, Chester le Street on Monday 24th November 2003 at 10:00 am.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

230. Maintenance Liability (REF: 2271)

Groundwork East Durham requested the Parish Council to consider taking the maintenance liability for a proposed Stone Sculpture/Young Persons Art Project on the Village Green commissioned through New Thornley Partnership.

Resolved: That the maintenance liability be agreed in principal subject to confirmation that it was not to be undertaken by the District of Easington.

231. Request for Donation (REF: 2272)

Peterlee Women's Refuge requested a gift or donation to aid the charity in providing a comfortable and pleasant environment at Christmas for women & children who have suffered domestic violence.

Resolved: That £25 be donated to Peterlee Women's Refuge.

232. Letter of Thanks (REF: 2273)

A Letter of thanks was received from St. John's Ambulance for the Parish Council's donation.

Resolved: That the letter be received.

233. Planning Permission (REF: 2282)

The District of Easington advised that Planning Permission had been granted to B. & R. Parker to erect a conservatory at 19, Kenton Crescent Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted

234. Chairman's Allowance

The Parish Clerk reported that in line with previous policy (Meeting 2nd April 2002 minute 261 refers) the Chairman had been reimbursed the sum of £60 for expenditure incurred in the proper execution of his office over the previous twelve months.

It was conceivable that this situation would continue and it was suggested that a similar sum be set aside for payments in future years.

Resolved: That the Chairman be reimbursed £75 annually in respect of telephone calls made on Council business over a twelve month period.

235. Members Allowances (REF: 2283& 2305)

Members considered information provided by the District of Easington Standards Committee on the proposed rates for members' allowances.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that the Parish Council not pay Members allowances for the present term of office.

236. Planning Permission (REF: 2293)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. P. Lamb to erect a boundary fence at Ashford Grove Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

237. Subscription Renewal Society of Clerks (Ref: 2298)

In line with previous practice, members were asked to consider renewing the annual subscription for the Society of Clerks for 2004 at a cost of £80.

Resolved: That the subscription be renewed.

238. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 2301)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 20th November, 2003. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts are required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

239. Proposed Planning Permission (REF: 2307)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. Smith of Glenside, Thornley had applied for planning permission to fell and prune trees at the property.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

240. Youll House Windows (REF: 2310)

Members were asked to recall that at the meeting held on 3rd June 2003 (Minute 58 refers) quotations were to be obtained to replace the windows in Youll House and for fitting security grids. Durham County Council had now provided a quotation for works at a cost of £12,320.96.

Resolved: That a decision to undertake the proposed works be deferred until the long term future of Youll House was determined.

241. New Equality Legislation (REF: 2312)

County Durham & Cleveland County Training Partnership was to hold an evening seminar on "New Equality Legislation" at County Hall Durham on 11th December 2003 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Resolved: That the information be received.

242. Landscape Design Plans (REF: 2313)

Members considered landscape designs for Thornley Cemetery and the War Memorial.

Resolved: That the designs be approved and works proceed as soon as possible.

243. Parish Consultative Meeting (REF: 2336)

The District of Easington advised that the next meeting would take place at the Council Offices on 18th December 2003 at 2:00 pm.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

244. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

245. Parish Precept 2003/2004

Members considered the Budget Estimates prepared by the Parish Clerk for the next financial year in order that the Parish Precept for 2004/2005 could be determined.

Resolved: That the Parish Precept for 2004/2005 be set at £89,640 and the District of Easington be advised accordingly.

246. Date and time of next meeting

It was suggested that in view of the forthcoming Christmas and New Year holiday period members consider cancelling the meeting due to take place on 6th January 2004 and holding the next meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 3rd February 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

Resolved: That the January 2004 meeting be cancelled.

247. Audit of Accounts 2002/2003

The Parish Clerk reported that the external auditor had requested additional information to be added to the Annual Return Form in relation to Fixed Assets. This alteration must be sanctioned by the Parish Council and recorded in the minutes.

Permission was sought for the Chairman to initial the changes.

Resolved: That the additional information be added to the Annual Return Form and it be signed by the Chairman.

248. Repairs to Kubota Lawnmower

The Parish Clerk reported that in order to prepare for the next grasscutting season it had been necessary for the Kubota lawnmower to undergo a winter overhaul. Unfortunately there had been a number of faults, some major that had had to be repaired at a cost of £1583.97.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

249. West Area Forum

The District of Easington advised that the next meeting would take place on 7th January 2004 in the Community Centre Trimdon at 6:00 p.m.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

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PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
3RD FEBRUARY 2004**

PRESENT

T. Unsworth (Chair) D. W. Atkinson, Mrs. M. Brunskill, M. Burgin, W. Middleton, J. Ollett, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, G. Wilson.

Apologies

Members were asked to note that all apologies should be notified to the Parish Clerk in advance of the meeting by the person concerned. They would then be presented at the commencement of the meeting for approval or rejection and recorded as appropriate.

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

| <u>Councillor</u> | <u>Reason for Absence</u> | <u>Resolved</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Mrs. P. Maddison | Death In Family | Approved |
| County Councillor Maurice Nichols | Conflict of Meetings | Approved |

250. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor G. Wilson referred to minute 227 and pointed out that not all of the land at the rear of St. Cuthbert's Road was in the ownership of the Parish Council.

The Parish Clerk informed members that only the land identified on the conveyance would be maintained by the Parish Council.

Councillor G. Wharrier asked if it had been determined that Easington District Council would maintain the proposed sculpture on the village green.

The Parish Clerk informed members that confirmation was awaited from Groundwork East Durham who were instigating the project.

Having noted these observations, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th December, 2003, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

251. Public Question and Answer Session – Housing Development at Ashwood Grove Thornley

Mr. Brian Burnham, a Parish Council allotment tenant asked what action the Parish Council could or was prepared take in regard to the housing development at Ashwood Grove which had disrupted his hobby i.e. racing pigeons. He alleged that planning permission, issued by the District of Easington had been infringed and that the builders and certain home owners were depositing rubbish on the site which could cause vermin to breed if left unchecked.

The Parish Clerk pointed out that although the Parish Council had offered no objection to the overall development,³⁴ individuals affected also had the opportunity to object directly to the district council at the time planning permission was being considered.

Members acknowledged that the flight path of Mr. Burnham's pigeons may have been disrupted by the development but the Parish Council could not be held responsible.

Councillor G. Wilson suggested that if the Parish Council was responsible it had an obligation to Mr. Burnham to relocate the "loft" to another allotment.

Resolved: That the a site meeting be arranged with the District of Easington to determine the facts and that costs for relocation of the pigeon loft be obtained for consideration by the Parish Council.

252. Public Question and Answer Session – Petition from Residents

Mr. M. Wigham representing residents of St. Bede's Crescent asked if the Parish Council would support them in fighting to save their homes from redevelopment.

The Chairman noted that this matter was to be discussed as an agenda item.³⁵

Resolved: That the item be discussed as part of the normal agenda.

253. Police Report

The chairman welcomed PC. Kevin Olver to the meeting who reported that across the division there had been 3105 reported incidents. The following were from Thornley,

- Burglary 1
- Vehicle damage 1
- Theft of Vehicles 1
- Criminal Damage 4
- Response to Arson 1
- Motor Cycles 2
- Theft 2

The application for funding to erect a fence at the rear of Youll House had been mislaid and as a result finance was no longer available. A second application had been submitted to another agency and it was hoped this would be successful.

Funding for the erection of a Youth Shelter had also been lost and again an alternative provider has had to be found. A design has now been selected and it was anticipated that this would be installed by 1st April 2004.

The Chairman thanked P.C. Olver for his attendance.

Resolved: That the report be received.

³⁴ Copy of the application was received by the Parish Council in December 2000

³⁵ See Minute 272

254. Street Wardens Report

No Street Wardens were in attendance to present the report.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

255. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that the Eastern Gateway project was underway and this would improve the southern entrance to the village.

Resolved: That the report be received.

256. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that officers of the Arms Length Management Company (A.L.M.O.) had now been appointed and funding to operate the new housing management system was awaited. It was likely that the transfer from the District of Easington to A.L.M.O. would commence on 1st April 2004.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

257. County Councillor

On behalf of Councillor Nicholls the Chairman reported that finance for the installation of dropped kerbs Dunelm Road and St. Bede Crescent and Greenwood Cottages had been agreed by Durham County Council and work should commence in the near future.

Discussions are ongoing to minimise Council Tax rises in 2004/5.

Problems still persist with the operation by Arriva of the Number 22 and 213 services. Councillor Nicholls has raised the issue with the bus company.

The parking of cars outside Fleming's shop which was causing some problems had been addressed and the vehicles are to be removed in the near future.

The Parish Clerk reported that a limited amount of funding had now been received from Durham County Council to provide traffic calming measures in St. Cuthbert's Road, St. Chad's Square and St. Bede Crescent.(meeting held on 6th May 2003 minute 5 refers).

Since the housing redevelopment in these areas was not complete members were asked to nominate alternative locations.

Resolved: That Councillor Nichols' report be received and that traffic calming measures be installed in Coopers Terrace and Gore Lane when finance allowed.

258. Community Association

Councillor Middleton reported that the operation of the Community Centre was going well and that a number of new initiatives and functions were now being held.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

259. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs Brunskill reported that the Tidy Easington District meeting had been cancelled.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

260. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that although no meetings had been held recently member authorities had expressed concerns over the operation and organisation of the association.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

261. Inter Parish Sport

Councillor Wilson reported that the event had been cancelled indefinitely and that the item could be removed from subsequent agendas.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

262. School Governors

Councillor Burgin reported that no meeting had been held recently although he had been asked to attend a training course.

He also highlighted the risk being caused to children by the number of parents who insisted on parking their cars outside the school. If the practice could not be stopped it was considered highly likely that a child would be involved in an accident.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

263. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that a number of functions and outings had been arranged and that in an effort to increase balances it had been necessary to increase prices. The balance of the account was £1027

Resolved: That the information be noted.

264. Possible Future Development - Former Colliery Land

The Parish Clerk summarised the current position and referred to the proposed development of a Resource Centre on the area. Members were invited to consider what additional facilities they may like to see developed on the land and how this could be achieved.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk investigate the available options and report back.

265. Land Drainage Contract – Welfare Park

Members were reminded that in order to obtain the grant for the installation of land drains at the Welfare Park it was necessary to comply with criteria specified by Sport England.

Under normal circumstances, the letting of contracts by the Parish Council where the anticipated level of expenditure exceeds £2,500 is governed by the Standing Order 36. In this instance the contact was arranged by the Sports Turf Research Institute in conjunction with Sport England and did not involve the direct expenditure of Parish Council funds.

Although it was not considered strictly necessary to do so it had been pointed out by the Internal Auditor that it would be appropriate that the circumstances were recorded and the Parish Council waive Standing Order 36 in this instance.

Resolved: That Standing Order 36 be waived.

266. Internal Audit - Half Yearly Accounts to 30/9/2003

The Parish Clerk reported that the Internal Audit of accounts from 1st April to 30th September 2003 had been completed by W.J. Smith. No irregularities had been identified and the accounts were in order.³⁶

Mr. Smith had conducted the audit on a "time spent" basis and had forwarded an invoice for £300.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that Mr Smith be paid the sum of £300.

267. Planning Permission (REF: 2359)

The District of Easington advised that Planning Permission had been granted to Mr. Smith "Glendale" The Villas Thornley to undertake tree work on the property.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

268. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 2360)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 9th December 2003. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

269. £1 Activity Bus (REF: 2368)

The Parish Clerk reported that the £1 Youth Bus (pilot scheme) operated by the Youth Project was to end in March 2004.

It had proven to be well used and was an asset to improving relationships with the youngsters in both Thornley and Wheatley Hill.

In an effort to maintain the service it was suggested that both Thornley and Wheatley Hill Parish Council's could apply for a Community Transport Grant.

If approved each Parish Council would need to commit £225 in matched funding.

Stephen Metcalf (East Durham Transport Partnership) would administer the application.

Resolved: That a Parish Transport Grant be applied for and £225 in matched funding be approved.

270. Letter of Thanks (REF: 2373)

A letter of thanks was received from Peterlee Women's Refuge for the Parish Council's donation of £25.00

Resolved: That the information be noted.

³⁶ A copy of the Auditors report was made available to every Councillor for reference

271. Land Registration (REF: 2382)

HM Land Registry Office advised the Parish Council that Ashwood Housing Developments had applied to register the freehold interest in a small piece of land forming part of Plot 11 Ashwood Grange that adjoins Parish Land. The Parish Clerk reported that he had inspected the area and suggested that no objections be raised to the registration being granted.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

272. St. Bede's Crescent Redevelopment (REF: 2387)

Councillor G. Wharrier declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion or subsequent decision making. Fourteen residents of St. Bede's Crescent petitioned the Parish Council's support to save their homes from redevelopment.

Resolved: That the Parish Council supports the residents of St. Bede's Crescent and the District of Easington be advised accordingly.

273. Durham Association of Parish & Town Council's (REF: 2389)

The association requested payment of £158.85 subscription fees for 15 editions of the Local Council Review publication commencing winter 2003.

Resolved: That the subscription be renewed.

274. Disposal of Equipment (REF: 2401)

J.M. Raine Ltd. advised the Parish Council that a McCulloch Elite Strimmer was beyond economical repair and should be disposed of.

Resolved: That J.M. Raine be authorised to dispose of this item of equipment.

275. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

276. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 2427)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 14th January 2004. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where maintenance was required it would be attended to in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

277. Primary Health Care – Teesside Review (REF: 2428)

The Parish Council was invited to attend a meeting to be held at Shotton Hall Peterlee on 4th February 2004 to discuss transport issues. Councillor G. Wilson reported that he was to attend the meeting on behalf of the Health Forum. It would not therefore be necessary for the Parish Council to send another delegate unless they wished.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

278. Proposed Planning Permission (REF: 2431)

The District of Easington advised that Mrs. D. Ramsey had applied for planning permission to build a conservatory at 2, Cedar Court, Thornley.

Any objections to this proposal should be forwarded to the District of Easington.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

279. County Durham Land

Groundwork East Durham advised that in order to commence work on the Eastern Gateway Improvement scheme on behalf of New Thornley Partnership it was necessary for the affected landowners to accept the long term maintenance liability. In this connection Durham County Council had been approached with regard to trees that were to be planted on their land adjacent to the highway verge. Regrettably they had declined to maintain the trees but had indicated that they may be prepared to transfer the land in question to the Parish Council.

Groundwork enquired if the Parish Council would be prepared to have the land transferred into their ownership and accept the maintenance responsibility for the trees in the future.

Resolved: That Durham County Council be requested to transfer the land in question to the Parish Council.

280. Flats in Coopers Terrace

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill asked if the Parish Council could enquire what the District of Easington intended doing with the flats in Coopers Terrace as many were empty and were being vandalised.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk contacts the District of Easington to obtain information.

281. Commemorative Seat in Cemetery

Councillor W. Middleton reported that he had received an enquiry regarding the cost of installing a seat in the cemetery.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk provides the information direct to Councillor Middleton.

282. Cemetery Toilet Facility

Councillor Ollett enquired what progress had been made regarding the construction of a toilet in the cemetery grounds.

The Parish Clerk reported that plans had been obtained in an effort to determine the best location and estimated costs. Further information would be provided as soon as it became available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

283. Durham County Environmental Award 2003 (REF: 2394)

Durham County Council advised that nominations for awards can be made for environmental schemes carried out during 2003. Successful projects will be recognised in publicity material and could be eligible for a cash sum.

Resolved: That the Home Zone project undertaken by New Thornley Partnership be nominated.

284. Theft of Gate

The Parish Clerk reported that a gate allowing access to maintain the Football Pitch adjacent to the Library had been stolen. It had been reported to the police but it was unlikely that the culprit would be apprehended.

Resolved: That arrangements be made to have the gate replaced.

285. Tethering of Horses

The Parish Clerk reported that one of the licensees with permission to tether horses on Parish Council land had damaged a hedgerow and a significant number of tree saplings either by driving a motor vehicle on the land or by allowing a horse to roam untethered.

Resolved: That the licensee be advised that a further occurrence may result in his licence being revoked.

286. Damage to Culvert

The Parish Clerk reported that the culvert in the beck in the "Gassy Gutter" had collapsed. The matter had been reported to Durham County Council as it was suspected that one of their licensees (tethering horses on adjacent land) may have caused the damage by driving a motor vehicle over the area.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
2ND MARCH 2004**

PRESENT

T. Unsworth (Chair) D. W. Atkinson, Mrs. M. Brunskill, M. Burgin, W. Middleton, J. Ollett, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, G. Wilson.

Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

| <u>Councillor</u> | <u>Reason for Absence</u> | <u>Resolved</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| County Councillor Maurice Nichols | Conflict of Meetings | Approved |

287. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd February, 2004, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

288. Public Question and Answer Session

Councillor G. Wharrier declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the decision making process.

Mr. B. Burnham asked if any progress had been made regarding his assertion that Planning Permission for Ashwood Developments had been infringed and that the Parish Council relocate his pigeon loft.³⁷

The Parish Clerk reported that officers at the District of Easington were investigating the planning application and that a site meeting was being arranged.

The estimates for the relocation of the pigeon loft were to be discussed as Item 14 on the agenda. (Minute 302 refers)

289. Police Report

The chairman welcomed PC. Kevin Olver to the meeting who reported that across the division there had been 2843 reported incidents. The following were from Thornley,

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| <i>Burglary</i> | 1 |
| <i>Theft of Vehicle</i> | 1 |
| <i>Theft from Vehicles</i> | 1 |
| <i>Criminal Damage</i> | 2 |

³⁷ Meeting held on 3rd February 2004 minute 251 refers.

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Response to Arson | 1 |
| Complaint of Motor Cycles | 3 |
| Anti social Behaviour | 5 |

The application for funding the erection of fencing at the rear of Youll House had been submitted and acknowledged by Community Safety and they would be contacting the Parish Council in due course.

Councillor Mrs. P. Maddison reported that she could no longer attend the Anti Social Behaviour meetings and asked that the Parish Council nominate another representative.

The Chairman thanked P.C. Olver for attending.

Resolved: That the report be received and Councillor Mrs. M. Brunskill represent the Parish Council future Anti Social Behaviour meetings.

290. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed Mel Hayter and Gavin Milne to the meeting who reported that the Street Warden had been called to 163 incidents in the previous month, 18 of which were in Thornley. Particular problems were being encountered because of the number of void properties in the village.

The delivery and installation of the Youth Shelter was still awaited but it was felt that matters would improve once it was available for use.

Councillor Middleton pointed out that when the wardens were requested to attend the incidents at the Community Centre they invariably visited Youll House and therefore the problems at the Community Centre were not being dealt with. He asked if the wardens would note the situation and attend the correct location when incidents occurred in the future.

The Chairman thanked the wardens for attending.

Resolved: That the report be received.

291. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. J. Unsworth reported that the Annual General Meeting had taken place on 17th February 2004 and that with the exception of the Chairman, who had to stand down because of ill health, all officers had been re-elected.

A Community Chest Grant Scheme had been launched for groups operating in the village that required small amounts of funding and the Web Site was under development. Both projects would be advertised in the forthcoming edition of the Partnership Newsletter.

Phase II of the Eastern Gateway had commenced and the environmental plan had recently been updated.

Permission had also been sought from Durham County Council to allow the placement of a number of floral displays throughout the village in the spring and summer.

Resolved: That the report be received.

292. District Councillor

Councillor G. Wharrier reported that a response was still awaited from Persimmon Homes relating to housing redevelopment in Thornley.

Three Rivers Housing had applied to build 12 houses and were awaiting a decision on funding.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

293. County Councillor

On behalf of Councillor Nicholls the Chairman reported that Durham County Council had increased the Council Tax by 4.6% which had been a tremendous reduction from the previous year.

The county council were to expend £16.7 million pounds on key priorities over the next financial year.

The police have been requested to target motorists speeding in the village, particularly in the vicinity of The Villas and past the library.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

294. Community Association

Councillor Middleton reported that several new groups were utilising the Community Centre and the operation was going well.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

295. Consultative Meeting

Councillor G. Wilson gave a comprehensive report on the topics discussed at the meeting held on Thursday 19th February 2004.

The next meeting was to take place on 18th March 2004.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

296. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that despite a request from a number of delegates no meetings had been arranged.

Resolved: That the Association be advised of the Council's concern.

297. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. M. Brunskill gave a comprehensive report on the topics discussed at the meeting held recently.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

298. School Governors

Councillor M. Burgin gave a comprehensive report on the topics discussed at the meeting held on 23rd February 2004

Resolved: That the information be noted.

299. Local Government Review (REF: 2435)

The District of Easington invited the Parish Council to attend a discussion on the Boundary Committee's proposals for new unitary authorities in County Durham at the Council Offices on Friday 13th February 2004 at 3:00 p.m.

Resolved: That the information be received.

300. Urban Capacity (REF: 2443)

The District of Easington provided details of potential sources of housing capacity in the district, some of which is located in Thornley.³⁸

Resolved: That the information be received.

301. Planning Permission (REF: 2445)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. & Mrs. Smith to erect a private garage at 17, Dunelm Road Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

302. Royal Garden Party (REF: 2452)

The Durham Association of Parish & Town Council's requested the Parish Council to submit names of Councillors that would like to be nominated to attend the Queen's Royal Garden Party in July 2004.

Resolved: That the letter be received.

303. Estimates for the Relocation of Pigeon Loft (REF: 2457 & 2458)

Members considered two estimates that had been obtained for relocating a pigeon loft on the Library Allotments site as discussed at the meeting held on 3rd February 2004.

Resolved: That the item be deferred until a site meeting had taken place.

304. AQA Certification (REF: 2460)

The County Training Partnership advised that they were to host two seminars to assist councils achieve quality status. The first was to be held at the D.C.C. Cricket Club on Saturday 20th March 2004 from 10:00 am until 1:30 pm. The Clerk and one Councillor were invited to attend. The second, at Shotton Hall Peterlee on Friday 26th March 2004 from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm was for clerks only. Costs were £13.50 and £49.50 per delegate respectively.

Resolved: That Councillor G. Wilson and the Parish Clerk attend as appropriate.

305. Durham Constabulary - Council Assets (REF: 2462)

Durham Constabulary advised that they still hold an Austin Montego, registration number L864 FON, computer equipment and documents following criminal proceedings against former Parish Council employees.

They asked for confirmation that the Parish Council wished to contest the ownership of the property under Section 1(1) of the Police (Property) Act 1897.

³⁸ **The information will be made available for members to view at the meeting.**

The Parish Clerk informed members that in view of the concerns expressed by members in the past and in order to progress matters he had confirmed that the Parish Council would contest this issue.

He went on to report that he had subsequently been informed by the police that the other parties involved were not now contesting ownership and that arrangements were being made to have the property returned to the parish council.

Members were mindful that because the motor vehicle had not been used for some considerable time it may not be cost effective to bring it back to roadworthy condition.

Resolved: That the action of the Parish Clerk be endorsed and that the Chairman be authorised to determine if the vehicle should be scrapped after inspection.

306. Code of Conduct (REF: 2468)

The Standards Board for England advised that Parish Councillors must declare membership of the "Freemasons" or "political party council associations" under paragraph 15 (c) or 15(d) respectively of the Code of Conduct.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

307. Planning Permission (REF: 2470)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mrs. D. Ramsey to construct a conservatory at 2 Cedar Court Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

308. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 2481)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 17th February 2004. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

309. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

310. Audit of Accounts 2002/2003

The Parish Clerk reported that the external auditor, HLB AV audit, had requested that changes be made to the Annual Return Form in relation to risk assessments. This alteration must be sanctioned by the Parish Council and recorded in the minutes.

Permission was sought for the Chairman to initial the changes.

Resolved: That the changes be made to the Annual Return Form and it be signed by the Chairman.

311. Staff Review/Restructure

Councillor Mrs. J. Unsworth requested that this item be placed on the agenda of the next meeting for discussion.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

312. Road side Paths

Councillor Mrs J. Unsworth requested that the Parish Clerk contact Durham County Council in relation to the poorly maintained footpaths on the B1271 Thornley to Ludworth.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
6TH APRIL 2004**

PRESENT

T. Unsworth (Chair) D. W. Atkinson, Mrs. M. Brunskill, M. Burgin, Mrs. P. Maddison, W. Middleton, J. Ollett, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wilson.

Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

| <u>Councillor</u> | <u>Reason for Absence</u> | <u>Resolved</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| G. Wharrier | Annual Holiday | Approved |
| County Councillor Maurice Nichols | Ill health | Approved |

313. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd March, 2004, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were considered.

Councillor Burgin referred to minute 310 and highlighted the fact that the item had not been placed on the agenda. The Parish Clerk apologised for the omission.

Councillor J. Ollett referred to minute 302 and asked if a site meeting had taken place. The Parish Clerk stated that the District of Easington had requested additional information before a meeting could be arranged.

Having noted these points the minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

314. Public Question and Answer Session

A member of the public asked what the Parish Council could do to prevent disturbances caused by people attending fairground shows in the village.

The Chairman stated that it was the District of Easington that granted licences for the fairgrounds and that the Parish Council was not consulted.

The police reported that they had been requested to attend the first of the events and no disturbances were reported. The police had not been notified of the second event however and therefore no officers were present on that occasion when trouble arose.

Resolved: That the District of Easington be advised of the Parish Councils' concerns and request that it be consulted before licences are approved in future.

315. Police Report

The chairman welcomed Sgt. Wray and PC. Kevin Olver to the meeting who reported that across the division there had been 3445 reported incidents since the previous report. The following were from Thornley,

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Crimes Other | 2 |
| Theft from Vehicles | 1 |
| Criminal Damage | 4 |
| Possession of drugs | 1 |
| Complaint of Motor Cycles | 2 |
| Anti social Behaviour | 23 |

The application for funding the erection of fencing at the rear of Youll House had been refused. Another application was being submitted to an alternative agency.

The erection of the Youth Shelter on the Library play area was behind schedule but it had been ordered and it was anticipated that this project would be complete shortly.

The police had noticed a marked increase in youth disorder and would be more proactive in addressing the issue.

Members expressed concern over the amount of underage drinking that was taking place in the village and asked if the police could take further steps to prevent it.

The Chairman thanked P.C. Olver for attending.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

316. Street Wardens Report

The Wardens had apologised for not being able to be present to present a report.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

317. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. J. Unsworth reported that a number of projects e.g. floral displays, sculpture, were being undertaken aimed at improving the visual aspects of the village and that the Eastern Gateway Phases II had commenced.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

318. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier was not present at the meeting

Resolved: That the information be noted.

319. County Councillor

Councillor Nicholls was not present at the meeting

Resolved: That the information be noted.

320. Community Association

Councillor Middleton reported that the Community Centre was performing well. He felt obliged however to resign his position as representative of the Parish Council on the Association in view of comments made by members when he had reported on previous occasions.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that Councillor Mrs Brunskill present the report in future.

321. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill gave a comprehensive report on the subjects discussed at the previous meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

322. Youll House

Councillor Wilson reported that the group was performing well and that a number of events were being planned.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

323. Relocation of Site Port-a-Cabin

The Parish clerk reported that Mr. M. Crake had informed the Parish Council that he had sold his property and that the new owner would not allow the council's port-a-cabin to remain on the property.

Sones Landscape Ltd had been contacted and they were prepared to level the new site, at the side of the community centre, and relocate the cabin at a cost of £400.00.

To facilitate this work as soon as possible the Chairman had been consulted and he approved the expenditure.

Members were asked to endorse the Chairman's action.

Resolved: That the Chairman's action be endorsed.

324. Council Assets.

Pursuant to minute 304 of the meeting held on 2nd March 2004, the (Councils) Austin Montego had been inspected and it was determined that the estimated cost of making it roadworthy would be in the region of £1500.

The Chairman had been consulted and he had decided that in view of its age and current market value it would not be a cost effective proposition to make it roadworthy. He therefore issued instructions to dispose of this vehicle.

Resolved: That the Chairman's action be endorsed.

325. Staff Review

Members highlighted the fact that the current staff structure was no longer suitable to meet the needs of the council and that a review should be undertaken to take into account increased workloads and more flexible working arrangements.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk undertake a review of the staff structure for consideration by the Parish Council.

326. Request for Donation (REF: 2507)

Councillors' Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. P. Maddison and J. Ollett declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the decision making process.

A request was received from Mrs. T. Parker seeking sponsorship for her son who had been invited to Thailand on 1st May 2004 to compete in a Thai Boxing Competition.

The amount required was £1000 for 12 months sponsorship or £500 for 6 months sponsorship.

Resolved: That the request be refused.

327. Planning Permission (REF: 2511 & 2534)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. C. Richardson had applied for a Certificate of Lawfulness for Motor Vehicle Repairs at Village Inn Garage, Hartlepool Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objects be raised.

328. Ashwood Developments - Offsite Protection Strip (REF: 2517)

Solicitors acting for Ashwood Housing Developments Ltd advised the Parish Council that Northumbrian Water require an "Offsite Protection Strip Agreement" to be entered into to cover the area over which the installation of drainage works between the housing development and the adopted sewer drainage system had taken place.

The area in question was shown on Title DU135478 and is in the ownership of the Parish Council.³⁹

The Parish Clerk reported that the proposed draft Deed that Northumbrian Water were in order and members are asked to approve the document and grant permission for the Chairman and the Parish Clerk to sign it on completion.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

329. Proposed Building Development (REF: 2540)

The District of Easington advised that Three Rivers Housing had applied for planning permission to construct 8 bungalows and 6 houses in Kenton & Laurel Crescent Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised

330. Thornley Gateway (REF: 2552)

Groundwork East Durham advised that the liability period for the maintenance of the shrub beds around the entrance stones would conclude on the 16th April 2004 and that after that date the Parish Council would become responsible for maintenance as previously agreed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

³⁹ **The former Pit Site at the rear of Thornley Library.**

331. Audit of Accounts 2002/2003 (REF: 2553)

HLB AV audit, requested that an adjustment of £7.00 be made to the reserve figure to reflect changes highlighted by the former District Audit when signing off the Parish Council's accounts for previous years.

These changes to the Annual Return Form must be sanctioned by the Parish Council and recorded in the minutes.

Resolved: That the Chairman be authorised to initial the changes.

332. County Durham Local Transport Plan (REF: 2556)

The Parish Council was invited to a meeting at Shotton Hall, Peterlee on 28th April 2004 at 7:00 pm to participate in discussions on the preparation of a successor plan for local transport.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

333. Request for Donation (REF: 2558)

The Winged Fellowship Trust requested a donation to support their efforts to provide holiday breaks for carers of disabled people.

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.

334. Invitation (REF: 2568)

Thornley Working Men's Club invited members of the Parish Council to attend the 100th anniversary of the founding of the premises on Saturday 15th May 2004 at 7:30pm.

Resolved: That the Councillors T. Unsworth and G. Wilson attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

335. Alteration to the Queens Head Public House (REF: 2569)

The Parish Clerk advised that an application for consent to structural alterations would be made to Durham Magistrates Court's Licensing Session on 13th April 2004.

Resolved: That the information be noted and no objection be raised.

336. Cemetery Rates (REF: 2571)

Durham City Council advised that the annual non-domestic rates for the Cemetery 2004/2005 would be £420.17.

Members were asked to note that this account would be paid by Direct Debit from the Bank Account.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

337. Coopers Close Allotment Security (REF: 2572)

The Parish Clerk reported that following the acquisition of the Coopers Close allotment site an estimate of £1275.60 for the provision of two security/entrance gates had been obtained. If installed would aid security and help prevent unauthorised access to the site.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred pending discussions with the Coopers Close Allotments Association.

338. Redevelopment of St. Bede Crescent Thornley (REF: 2577)

The District of Easington advised that following consultation with residents St. Bede Crescent it would not be included in the current demolition scheme. The exceptions being numbers 21 to 24.

The Parish Council's request for copies of the inspection reports on the effected properties was refused but individual residents could obtain details if they wish.⁴⁰

Resolved: That the information be noted.

339. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 2578)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 23rd March 2004. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where maintenance was required it would be attended to in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

340. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

341. Amendment of Standing Orders of Council

The Parish Clerk reported that because of changes in the Account and Audit Regulations it was necessary to amend the council standing orders to take into account the requirement to carry out risk assessments and the need for internal audit of accounts.

Resolved: That Standing Orders be amended as required.

342. Trade Refuse Contract (REF: 2595)

The District of Easington advised that the cost of the Trade Refuse Collection Service for 2004/2005 would be £105.75.

Resolved: That the contract be entered into.

⁴⁰ Meeting held on 3rd February 2004 minute 272 refers.

343. Training Event (REF: 2594)

The County Durham & Cleveland Training Partnership advised that a training event entitled “**The Role of Parish & Town Councils**” would be held at County Hall, Durham on Thursday 13th May 2004 from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm. At a cost of £10.50 plus V.A.T. per delegate.

Resolved: That Councillors T. Unsworth, G. Wilson and the Parish Clerk be authorised to attend.

344. Proposed Planning Permission (REF: 2591)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. G. Smith had applied for planning permission to construct a first floor bathroom and conservatory at Station House, Hartlepool Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

345. Heritage Trail

Councillor J. Ollett requested that the County Council be requested to carry out maintenance work on the heritage trail as it was becoming overgrown with vegetation.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk bring the situation to the attention of Durham County Council.

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