

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
4TH MAY 2004**

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

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

Councillor	Reason for Absence	Resolved
County Councillor Maurice Nicholls	Ill health	Approved

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Parish Clerk referred to minute 333 and pointed out that the month should read May and not March.

Having noted this error 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. Public Question and Answer Session

There were no questions.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

3. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed PC. Olver to the meeting who reported that since the 6th April 2004, 2905 incidents had been reported to the police, 57 of which were in Thornley.

Crime – House Burglary	1
Crime – Other	1
Theft of Vehicles	1
Theft from Vehicles	3
Criminal Damage	1
Youths	7
Complaints about vehicles	1

In order that the Youth Shelter could be installed in the correct location for a six month trial period, a site meeting was requested.

Members requested that arrangements be made to monitor traffic that was speeding through the village.



Resolved: That the information be noted and Councillor Wharrier attend the site meeting.

4. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed Mel Hayter and Mary Cartwright to the meeting who reported that in March 23 incidents had been dealt with in Thornley.

Distressing behaviour	6
Youths causing nuisance	3
Vandalism	8
Anti social Behaviour	2
Motoring	2
Noise	1
Horses	1

A village litter pick involving young people had been successful and this had helped to reduce incidents in the village.

Underage drinking was seen to be a particular problem in Thornley and ways to combat it were being investigated with the help of the police.

Resolved: That the information be noted

5. New Thornley

Councillor Unsworth reported that the Partnership had awarded grants to the value of £250 to six groups operating in the village. A heritage group had been formed and work on the Eastern Gateway Phase II was underway.

It was proposed to hold an "Open Day" during the summer in order that the action plan could be updated and residents had an opportunity to participate in the future redevelopment of the village.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

6. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that "Home Zone" had been successfully nominated to receive an Environmental Award from Durham County Council. Concerns over parking outside the school and works required under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 had been brought to the attention of the Durham County Council.

The District of Easington had embarked on a house painting scheme but it was not known when this would commence in Thornley.

A number of complaints had been received concerning the recycling bins used throughout the district.

With the closure of St. Bartholomew's church because of structural decay, there were proposals to unify the parishes of Haswell and Thornley. A decision was expected to be made by the Bishop of Durham in the near future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.



7. County Councillor

In the absence of Councillor Nicholls no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

8. Community Association

Councillor Mrs Brunskill reported that an "Aim High" project involving people with learning difficulties had been held in the centre and that it had been a success.

There had been a break-in and a number of pair's boxing gloves had been stolen.

A large screen cinema had been purchased and this was available for hire at a cost of £25 plus the film at £75.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

9. Youll House

Councillor Wilson reported that the AGM had recently been held and all officers had been re-elected.

Three trips were being organised for members in the summer period to various locations.

The treasurer had reported that during April the finances were:

Income £707

Expenditure £1074

Bank account 1 £1154

Bank account2 £1200

A summer fair was to be held in July and Youll House would be closed from 25th July to the 9th August 2004.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

10. Consultative Meeting

Councillor Wilson gave a brief report on the items discussed at the previous meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

11. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that the organisation was going through a period of transition and that whilst no formal meetings had been held a discussion on the future of the organisation was taking place on the 4th May 2004, i.e. the same time as this Parish Council meeting and therefore the Chairman was unable to attend.

Resolved: That the information be noted.



12. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill distributed a report detailing topics discussed at the previous meeting for member's attention.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

13. Request for Donation (REF: 2599)

A request for a donation was received from Crimestoppers.

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.

14. Proposed Planning Permission (REF: 2605)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. T. Jasper had applied for planning permission to construct a Kitchen extension at the Queens Head Public House Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

15. Tender for the Maintenance of the Welfare Park (REF: 2606)

The Parish Clerk reported that pursuant to minute 90 of the meeting held on 1st July 2003 and in accordance with Standing Orders for Contracts, a tender for a three year maintenance contract to maintain the Welfare Park Football Pitch had been advertised in the Hartlepool Mail.

Only one firm "Gardenshape" returned the tender documents for an amount totalling £23,000 for the three year period.

Members were informed that the total tender sum was greater than that estimated by Sport England and the Parish Council when the grant application had been approved and that the shortfall of £11,000 would therefore need to be funded by the Parish Council unless a reduced specification could be negotiated.

Members were requested to award the contact to Gardenshape in order that the balance of the grant funding could be reclaimed from Sport England.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the contract be awarded to Gardenshape.

16. Training Event (REF: 2621)

The County Durham & Cleveland Training Partnership advised that a training event entitled "Introduction to the Law of Parish & Town Councils" would be held at Horden Parish Council Offices on Thursday 17th June 2004 from 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm. At a cost of £27.00 plus V.A.T. per delegate.

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

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17. 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 make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.

18. Quality Parish Councils (REF: 2631)

The District of Easington invited the Parish to attend a seminar on the subject of Quality Parish Councils at the Council Offices on Tuesday 4th May 2004 at 10:00am.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

19. Proposed Planning Permission (REF: 2632)

The District of Easington advised that Ms. M. Collingwood had applied for planning permission to erect a conservatory at 12, Hawthorne View, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

20. Proposed Planning Permission (REF: 2633)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. A. Muir had applied for planning permission to extend The Bungalow, Albert Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

21. Letter of Thanks (REF: 2635)

A letter of thanks was received from The Winged Fellowship Trust for the Parish Council's donation of £50.

Resolved: That the letter be noted.

22. Community Allotment (REF: 2636)

Groundwork East Durham advised that they were in the process of developing Health, Exercise and Community Allotments and enquired if the council would allocate a vacant allotment to them to develop for this purpose.

Resolved: That the project be endorsed and an allotment be made available on the Library Allotment site.

23. Community Safety Audit (REF: 2642)

The District of Easington Community Safety Partnership advised that they were to carry out an audit on Crime and Disorder in the District and requested comments from the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk provide the information requested.



24. The Gables Garage Site (REF: 2657)

The Parish Clerk reported that a number of residents had requested the Parish Council to investigate the status of the garage site as it was alleged that at least one garage may have been erected without permission. In addition it was being used as a car park and a dumping ground for rubbish.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk obtain the views of the District Council.

25. Floral Displays

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 referred to the meeting held on 1st July 2003, minute 95 and informed members that New Thornley Partnership had recently ordered floral decorations for display in the village.

In order that maintenance could be undertaken by the Parish Council he suggested that a water bowser be purchased at a cost of £504.

Resolved: That a suitable water bowser be purchased.

26. Public Rights of Way

Councillor Burgin reported that a public right of way in the vicinity of "Falco's Farm" near Ludworth had been blocked and walkers could no longer use the designated route.

Resolved: That the matter be brought to the attention of Durham County Council.

27. Relocation of Sculpture

Councillor Middleton highlighted the damage being caused by vandals to the "pony" located on the roundabout on the B181 and suggested that if agreement could be obtained from Wheatley Hill Parish Council, Deaf Hill Parish Council and Durham County Council the sculpture be relocated adjacent to the Heritage Centre within Wheatley Hill Cemetery.

Resolved: That the Parish Council would offer no objection to the relocation of the "pony" sculpture.

THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
AT
YOULL HOUSE, THE VILLAS, THORNLEY
ON
1ST JUNE 2004

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>J. Ollett</i>	<i>Work Commitments</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>County Councillor Maurice Nicholls</i>	<i>Ill health</i>	<i>Approved</i>

28. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor Burgin referred to minute 26 and pointed out that it should read "Fat Close Farm".

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth referred to minute 15 and enquired if discussions had taken place in an attempt to reduce the cost of maintenance at the Welfare Park.

The Parish Clerk stated that the contractor had not confirmed when a meeting could take place.

Having noted these points the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th May 2004, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record.

29. Youll House Security Fence

Mr. Wigham highlighted the concern of the elderly residents in the vicinity of Youll House relation to the disturbance caused by youths on a regular basis and enquired why the proposed security fence had not been erected.

It was explained that the funding application made by the police (who were co-ordinating the project) had been rejected because of issues surrounding the matching finance being provided by both the Parish Council and New Thornley Partnership. It was anticipated that these difficulties had now been resolved and that the funding for the project would be reconsidered in the near future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

*** A HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY: A HISTORY OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL 1900-2000 ***



30. Youll House – Toilet Facilities

Mr. Wigham referred to a letter he had received from the Health Department of the District of Easington highlighting the need for hot water to be provided in the toilets facilities in Youll House.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk arranges installation as soon as possible.

31. Library Allotment Site

Several residents of Ashwood Grove submitted letters to the Parish Council concerning incident of anti social behaviour on the part of certain tenants on the library allotment site.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk investigate the complaint and reports back.

32. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed Sgt. Wray to the meeting who reported that in the previous month 50 incidents had been dealt with in Thornley.

Theft of Vehicles	1
Anti social Behaviour	10
Windows broken	1
Complaints of Motor cycles	2

In association with the D.V.L.A. a three day initiative had been undertaken targeting vehicle offences. This had resulted in 5 vehicles from Thornley being impounded and £3000 in fines being issued. It was pointed out that this would be an ongoing scheme that would take place approximately every three months. The community policing program would continue with the assistance of residents.

The Chairman thanked Sgt. Wray for attending.

Resolved: That the report be received.

33. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed G. Leather and M. Fincken to the meeting who reported that because the monthly had not been compiled he was unable to provide details of incidents dealt with by the wardens over the previous month. They were however still dealing with anti social behavioural problems and youths congregating.

A particular problem that had been reported was the theft of roadside drainage covers. This was being investigated by the police and the District of Easington. Members were concerned at the potential number of accident that this may cause and suggested that the matter should be highlighted in the local newspapers.

Resolved: That the report be received and press be notified of the Parish Councils concern.



34. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that the partnership had produced a newsletter that would be distributed to every household in the very near future. A number of hanging baskets had been ordered for erection on some lamp posts and floral displays around the war memorial.

A resident's consultation event was being planned for later in the year and it was suggested that the Parish Council participate.

Resolved: That the report be received and that the content of a "Residents Survey" be discussed at the next meeting.

35. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that the issue of stolen grates on the roadside verges was being investigated by the district council and that the demolition of houses in Thornlaw North was still under discussion.

Resolved: That the report be received.

36. County Councillor

In the absence of Councillor Nicholls no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

37. Community Association

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that a new sign had been erected at the Community Centre with the aid of "Aim High".

A presentation event held recently had been successful and that the association was performing well.

The blood transfusion service was to hold an event in the near future and dances and other events were being arranged.

Resolved: That the report be received.

38. Consultative Meeting

As Councillor G. Wilson was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

39. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that restructuring of the association was still under discussion and that as a result no meetings had been held recently.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

40. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the main topic under discussion was the issue of £25 fines being issued to schoolchildren for depositing litter.

The possible use of cameras for recording trespass etc. was also discussed.

Resolved: That the report be received.

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41. School Governors

Councillor Burgin reported that public access issues and safe routes to school had been discussed and that OFSTED had been impressed with a number of topics addressed by the school.

A school management plan was also under review.

Resolved: That the report be received.

42. West Area Forum

As Councillor G. Wilson was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

43. Youll House

As Councillor G. Wilson was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

44. Proposed Planning Permission (REF: 2660)

The District of Easington advised that Mr & Mrs. O'Neill had applied for planning permission to erect a front porch extension at 15, Galt Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

45. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 2661)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 20th April, 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.

46. Alleged Contravention of Planning Permission (REF: 2663)

Following allegations by Mr. Burnip that there had been a contravention of the planning application at Ashwood Grange, Thornley,¹ a site meeting was requested with officers from the District of Easington.

Whilst the district council did not agree to a site meeting taking place they had investigated the allegations and advised that no contravention had taken place. Officers from the environmental department had also visited the site and no evidence of rodent infestation was found.

Mr. Burnip had now rented an additional allotment on the Library site from which he now raced pigeons and therefore the original concerns would appear to have been resolved.

The Parish Clerk was investigating if the owner of a particular property on Ashwood Grange had erected his boundary on Parish Council owned land. If this proved to be correct the Parish Council would need to decide if further action was required.

¹ Meeting held on 3rd February 2004 minute 250 refers.



Resolved: That the information be noted.

47. Planning Permission (REF: 2667)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. T. Jasper for a kitchen extension at the Queens Public House Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

48. Proposed Planning Permission (REF: 2677)

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

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

49. Proposed Planning Permission (REF: 2678)

The District of Easington advised that Mrs J. Burgin had applied for planning permission to build a bungalow on land at the rear of Dunelm Road & St. Bede Crescent, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

50. Traffic Conditions – C95 Ludworth (REF: 2689)

Groundwork East Durham advised that Durham County Council had suggested that yellow backed bend signs with Reduce Speed now be placed on both sides of the road and that in addition two chevron boards be mounted in the verge facing the oncoming traffic to further delineate the curvature of the bend. The provision of the signage would be added to the main scheme list for implementation later in the year.

Members suggested that in addition to these measures, traffic calming projects should be progressed on Gore Lane, St. Leonard's, St. Bede's and East Lea.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Clerk advises the County Council accordingly.

51. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports

The Parish clerk reported that because the financial records were with the internal auditor it had not been possible for to produce the financial & budgetary reports in time for the meeting. All income and expenditure would be provided at the meeting to be held on 6th July 2004.

Resolved: That the information be noted.



52. Audit for the Year Ended 31 March 2003 (REF: 2695)

The Parish Clerk reported that HLB AV audit had completed the audit of the Parish Council's accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2003 and had provided details of the issues that the council should address.²

Resolved: That the information be noted and the issues identified by HLB AV be implemented where appropriate.

53. Crimestoppers – Letter of Thanks (REF: 2697)

A letter of thanks was received from Crimestoppers for the Parish Council's donation of £50.

Resolved: That the letter be received.

54. Planning Permission (REF: 2711)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. A. Muir to construct a roof extension at The Bungalow Albert Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

55. Planning Permission (REF: 2712)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mrs. M. Collingwood to construct a conservatory at 12, Hawthorne View, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

56. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 2713)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 20th May 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.

57. Identity Card for Councillors

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill suggested that Councillors be issued with some form of identity card.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk makes arrangements for them to be issued to each councillor.

² Copy distributed to each member for reference.



THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
AT
YOULL HOUSE, THE VILLAS, THORNLEY
ON
6TH JULY 2004

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Mrs M. Brunskill</i>	<i>Illness in Family</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. P. Maddison</i>	<i>Annual Holiday</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>County Councillor Maurice Nicholls</i>	<i>Ill health</i>	<i>Approved</i>

58. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st June 2004, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record.

59. Complaint - Allotment Garden

Several members of the public sought an assurance from the Parish Council that they would take appropriate action against an allotment tenant who was infringing his agreement by keeping a dog on the garden and not cultivating the land.

The Parish Clerk read out three letters of complaint and advised the members on the terms of the allotment agreement and the courses of action open to the council.

Resolved: That the tenant be advised that the dog should be removed from the allotment garden within 14 to 21 days. Failure to do so would result in a Notice to Quit being served.

60. Lock on Library Entrance Gate

Residents requested that the lock on the entrance to the library allotments site be replaced and keys be provided to allotment tenants.

Resolved: That arrangements be made to replace the lock and keys be provided to designated persons.



61. Traffic Calming

Residents highlighted the danger being posed by motorists speeding along Hartlepool Street and requested that traffic calming measures be installed. It was pointed out that the police had monitored the situation recently in an effort to catch offenders.

Resolved: That the situation be reported to the Chief Constable and the installation of traffic calming measures be investigated. In addition, Durham County Council be requested to reinstate the double yellow no parking lines in vicinity of Stanley Terrace.

62. Under Age Drinking

Residents highlighted their concern at the number of under age youths drinking alcohol in various parts of the village and the escalation in abuse and trouble being caused as a result. This was despite regular assurances by the police that the situation would be brought under control.

Resolved: That the situation be reported to the Chief Constable.

63. Police Report

In the absence of the police no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

64. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed Jacqueline Morton to the meeting who explained that she had only recently been appointed as Senior Street Warden at the District of Easington.

In June 2004 the wardens had attended 36 incidents in Thornley mainly do with youths causing nuisance and vandalism.

The void properties in Thornlaw North were still causing concern as was the theft of manhole covers in the village.

Members expressed concern that the wardens hours of duty did not lend themselves to addressing many of the problems which occurred late in the evening, particularly under age drinking.

It was suggested that the more wardens were required and that the lack of decisive action on the part of the police was not helping the situation.

Resolved: That the Parish Council's concern be brought to the attention of the Chief Constable

65. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that a number of floral displays had recently been installed in the village and the latest edition of the Newsletter had been distributed to every household.

The Eastern Gateway project was progressing well with only minor difficulties being encountered.

An Open Day was planned to take place in Youll House on Monday 23rd August 2004 to obtain resident's views on the future redevelopment of the village.

J. Thomsen.

Consideration was also being given to developing a project in commemoration of 2nd Lt. John Scott Youll V.C.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

66. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that the increasing problems of vandalism in Thornlaw North and South had been discussed by the District of Easington and raised with the police.

He also pointed out that the recent increases in land values had caused some delay in trying to resolve the future redevelopment on the estates.

The District of Easington was refusing to release "self build plots" which was not helping village regeneration.

The level of anti social behaviour centred on the newly installed youth shelter had been raised at a recent Anti Social Behaviour meeting.

The Wheatley Hill clinic was to close in the near future and closure of the clinic in Thornley was being discussed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

67. County Councillor

In the absence of Councillor Nicholls no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

68. Community Association

Because of the absence of Councillor Mrs. Brunskill no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

69. Consultative Meeting

Councillor G. Wilson gave a comprehensive report on the topics discussed at the last meeting.

In relation to partnership working arrangements, £150,000 was available across the district to fund various projects.

The wording and directional signs for Thornley located in the Wingate area had also been raised.

It was suggested that application be made to increase the number of parking bays outside Youll House and to install bollards adjacent to the Post Office.

Resolved: That the information be noted and an application be made to the District of Easington for funding if the criteria could be met.

70. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that no meeting had taken place.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

71. School Governors

Councillor Burgin reported on the topics discussed at the meeting held on the 12th June 2004.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

72. West Area Forum

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the next meeting was to take place on 7th July 2004.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

73. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that a summer fayre had raised £500.

The accounts stood at:-

Current account £1463

High Interest Account £1665

The building would be closed from 29th July 2004 until 9th August 2004

Resolved: That the information be noted.

74. Residents Survey

The content of a Residents Survey first discussed at the Parish Council meeting held on 1st July 2003 was considered. (Minute 75 refers)

Resolved: That the survey be amended to reflect members' observations.

75. Planning Application (REF: 2741)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. I. Graham had applied for planning permission to construct a house at Hartlepool Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

76. Planning Application (REF: 2744)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. Purvis had applied for planning permission to construct a house at 7, Bow Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

77. Planning Permission (REF: 2744)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. & Mrs O'Neill to construct a front extension at 15, Galt Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

78. Planning Application (REF: 2759)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. Beresford had applied for planning permission to construct a residential development at Gore Hill Farm, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.



79. Planning Application (REF: 2760)

The District of Easington advised that R. & Mrs. Fleming had applied for planning permission to construct a lounge & porch extension at 52, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

80. 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 free of charge 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.

81. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 2778)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 16th June 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.

82. Planning Permission (REF: 2779)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mrs. J. Burgin to construct a bungalow at land rear of Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

83. Planning Application (REF: 2780)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. F. Frost had applied for planning permission to construct a dinning room extension at 21, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

84. 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 make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.

85. Summer Recess

The Parish Clerk reminded members that it was normal practice to have a recess in summer.

Resolved: That the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held in Youll House, The Villas, Thornley on Tuesday 7th September 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

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86. Additional Urgent Items of Business

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) Act, 1985, section 100B (4)(b), the Chair following consultation with the Proper Officer, agreed that the following items of business. Not shown on the agenda, be considered as a matter of urgency.

87. Annual Audit of Accounts Ending 31st March 2004 (REF: 2788)

The External Auditor (HLB AV audit plc) advised that the annual audit of the 2003/2004 accounts would take place on 13th September 2004.³

The Parish Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had been commissioned to undertake the required risk assessments and that arrangements were in hand to inform residents of their rights to inspect the accounts etc. in accordance with the statutory regulations from 16th August until 10th September 2004.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

88. Youll House Security Fence

Councillor Wharrier referred to previous discussions relating to the lack of progress in establishing a security fence at the rear of Youll House and suggested that the Parish Council fund the works.⁴ Alternatively, the work could be undertaken in association with New Thornley Partnership.

Resolved: That the Parish Council totally fund the installation of the fence if no contribution can be obtained from New Thornley Partnership.

89. Planning Permission (REF: 2755)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. & Mrs. O'Neill to construct a front porch extension at 15, Galt Street Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

90. Request for Donation (REF: 2817)

A request for a donation was received from Victim Support.

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.

³ As accepted at the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council held on 4th May 2004.

⁴ Meeting held on 1st June 2004 minute 29 refers.

* A number of names have been omitted from this list as they are not relevant to the current meeting. The names of the members of the Council who were present at the meeting are listed in the minutes of the meeting.



91. Planning Permission (REF: 2818)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. & Mrs. Fleming to construct a lounge & porch extension at 52, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

92. Planning Permission (REF: 2819)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. Parker to construct a rear extension at 22, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.



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J. Howard

THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
AT
YOULL HOUSE, THE VILLAS, THORNLEY
ON
7TH SEPTEMBER 2004

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

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
County Councillor Maurice Nicholls	Ill health	Approved

93. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th July 2004, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record. Referring to minute 60, the Parish Clerk reported following the expiry of the Notice to Quit the allotment had been cleared ready for occupancy by a new tenant.

Councillor G. Wilson referred to minute 62 and asked what action had been taken. The Parish Clerk reported that the Chief Constable had been advised of the councils concerns and the matter was being investigated. In relation to the re-instatement of the Yellow Parking lines, Durham County Council had advised that this was also being investigated with a view to having them re-instated in the near future.⁵

94. Public Question and Answer Session

There were no members of the public present.

95. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Steve Rider to the meeting who reported that in the previous month 61 incidents had been dealt with in Thornley.

Theft of or from Vehicles	1
Anti social Behaviour	11
Windows broken	1

⁵ Ref: 2894 &2895



Complaints of Motor cycles	4
Vehicle Damage	1
Burglary Other	1
Domestic incidents	1
Complaints involving horses	2

With the onset of winter the police would again be conducting "Operation Dark" to combat burglaries and drug dealing/abuse. Any information notified to the police (in strictest confidence) would be collated and used to target the most vulnerable area.

Members again raised the problems of under age drinking and the resulting anti social behaviour.

P.C. Rider informed members that a letter received from the Parish Clerk relating to a number of issues (including under age drinking and anti social behaviour) was currently being dealt with by senior police officers and would be responded too in the near future.

The Chairman thanked P.C. Rider for attending.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

96. Street Wardens Report

No wardens were present to present a report.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

97. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that that a "Residents Open Day" held in Youll house had been a success with between 80 and 100 people attending. Suggestions for new projects and other comments received were being analysed and collated and would form the basis of an ongoing program of regeneration in the village.

Officers from Durham County Council and Groundwork East Durham had provided details of the Renaissance Funding Program which would allocate approximately £200,000 to regeneration projects in Thornley. The Partnership had been asked to identify suitable projects that would form the basis for a wider consultation with all residents. It was hoped that this Durham County Council would commence the consultation in Youll House in late September 2004.

The Autumn/Winter edition of the Newsletter was currently being compiled. If the Parish Council wanted to purchase advertising space this could be arranged via the Partnership Secretary or administrator.

Although the Web site was now operational, the inclusion of service links and additional information were being investigated to improve its usefulness to residents and users.

Resolved: That the information be noted.



98. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that the District of Easington had completed the sale of land at Thornlaw North and that work had commenced in clearing properties on Thornlaw South. Remaining areas would also be developed. A number of complaints had been received concerning horses and the recent "event" in the village attended by travellers. The Chief Executive at the District of Easington had been contacted to ensure that the people involved were asked to leave the village as soon as possible.

Resolved: That the Parish Council's concerns be brought to the attention of the Police, Durham County Council and the District of Easington.

99. County Councillor

In the absence of Councillor Nicholls, no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

100. Community Association

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the Durham Mining Museum and the Horden Banner Society were to utilise the community centre on a long term basis.

A number of successful functions had also been held recently and others were planned for later in the year.

Councillor Wharrier asked if the Community Association had held an Annual General Meeting and, if so could a copy of the Audited Accounts be provided to the Parish Council.

Concern was also expressed that the venue was being used for serving refreshments to "travellers" attending an event held in the village recently and that this may only encourage them to return.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Clerk obtain a copy of the Community Association's Annual Audited Accounts for 2004/5.

101. Planning Application (REF: 2803)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. J. Barron had applied for planning permission to construct a first floor rear extension at 58, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

102. Planning Application (REF: 2808)

The District of Easington advised that M.A. Race had applied for planning permission to construct a proposed two story side & single storey rear extension at 17, Kenton Crescent, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.



103. Planning Application (REF: 2809)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. Nuttall had applied for planning permission to construct a proposed conservatory at 6, East View, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

104. NALC Annual Conference (REF: 2824)

The National Association of Local Council's advised that the annual conference would be held at Scarborough Spa Complex on 1st to 3rd October 2004.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

105. R.O.S.A.P. Playground Inspection Report (REF: 2833)

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 be noted.

106. Planning Permission (REF: 2834)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr & Mrs. F. Purvis to construct a house at 7, Bow Street Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

107. Planning Application (REF: 2841)

The District of Easington advised that Mrs. Symons had applied for planning permission to construct a proposed sitting room extension at Thornley Moor House Farm, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

108. Planning Permission (REF: 2842)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been refused to Mr. & Mrs. Beresford to construct a proposed residential development (outline) at Gore Hill Farm, Gore Lane, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

109. Planning Application (REF: 2854)

The District of Easington advised that Mrs. D. Harrison had applied for planning permission to construct a proposed house adjacent to fish shop, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

110. Planning Permission (REF: 2858)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to M. A. Race to construct a two storey side extension at 17, Kenton Crescent, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

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111. Planning Permission (REF: 2867)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. & Mrs. Nuttall to construct a proposed conservatory at 6, East View, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

112. Communities in Partnership (REF: 2870)

The District of Easington invited the Parish Council to send two delegates to the above mentioned event to be held at the Glebe Centre, Murton on 6th October 2004 between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

113. Development of a Local Charter (REF: 2872)

Durham County Council invited the Parish Council to send delegates to three meetings to discuss the above mentioned charter. Although no venue had been determined the events would take place on 23rd August, 2nd September, and 14th September all commence at 2:00 pm.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

114. Review of Cemetery Charges

The Parish Clerk advised that it was appropriate that the Scale of Charges for Burials and other services in Thornley Cemetery be reviewed. The last review by the Parish Council being at the meeting held on 3rd September 2002.⁶

Resolved: That the scale of charges remain unchanged for the next twelve months.

115. Hire of Welfare Park (REF: 2831)

Thornley Officials F.C. requested the hire of the Welfare Park Football pitch and changing facilities for all their home matches for the forthcoming season. The fee for the 2003/4 was £125.00

Resolved: That the request be approved at a cost of £125 per team.

116. Chairman's Civic Service

The Chairman of the District of Easington invited the Chairman of the Parish Council to attend a Civic Service to take place at The Church of St. John the Evangelist on Wednesday 2nd September 2004 at 7:00pm.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

⁶ Minute 110 refers.



117. Planning Permission (REF: 2883)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mrs. Symons to construct a sitting room extension at Thornley Moor House Farm Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

118. Age Concern - Youll House Income

The Parish Clerk advised Members that this item had been deferred at the meeting held on 1st December 2003 in order that additional information could be obtained. ⁷

Age Concern Durham had now informed the Parish Council that they were not in a position to offer any financial aid to Thornley Age Concern in regard to the operational costs of Youll House.

Although it could be perceived that Age Concern Durham was a “parent company” this was not the case as each branch functioned independently, raising funds by whatever methods are available to it.

The Parish Clerk explained that no form of contract or hire agreement existed between the Parish Council and Age Concern and that this was essential in order that areas of responsibility and usage could be clarified. The need for extensive structural repairs was also highlighted.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk draw up a hire agreement for consideration by the Parish Council and Thornley Age Concern.

119. Maintenance of Grass Verge – Adjacent to Lynton’s Garage

Councillor Mrs. P. Maddison, Mrs. J. Unsworth, T. Unsworth, G. Wharrier and G. Wilson declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.

A verbal request was received from Groundwork East Durham for the Parish Council to undertake the maintenance of the grass verges adjacent to Lynton’s garage on the approach to Thornley in the event that the landowners failed to maintain it following completion of an environmental project currently taking place.

Resolved: That the Parish Council undertake the maintenance if required.

120. Tethering of Horses

A verbal request was received from Donald J. Burgin for permission to tether horses on land owned by the Parish Council.

The Parish Clerk advised Members that that there are already several licences in operation and that as far as possible tenants were allocated a general area of land so that individual horses did not come into contact with each other.

All tenants are asked to produce a copy of valid insurance documentation.

⁷ Minute 223 refers.



Resolved: That permission be granted to Mr. Burgin on receipt of a copy of valid insurance documentation.

121. Sexton's Report

The Sexton reported that since his last report on the 2nd September 2003 there had been: -

- 21 internments – including 4 cremated remains
- 15 plots purchased – including 5 cremated remains
- 21 headstones erected or inscriptions added.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

122. 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 2005/2006 could be calculated.

Existing Priority	Project	Estimated Total Fund Required ⁸	Amount Reserved 2002	Amount Reserved 2003	Amount Reserved 2004	Amount Reserved 2005	Amount Reserved 2006	Amount Reserved 2007
1	Reinstate Footpaths - Pit Site	£25,000	Nil	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
2	Youll House Security	£3,000	Nil	Nil	£3,000	Works to be done in 2004		
3	Youll House Roof	£12,500	£1,000	Nil	£11,500	Works to be done in 2004		
4	Replace Playground Equipment	£10,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	£5,000	£5,000	Works to be done in 2005
5	Contribution to Resource Centre	£25,000	Nil	£3,500	£7,000	£7,000	£7,500	

⁸ Subject to revision

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6	Provision of Recreational Facilities	£10,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	£3,500	£3,500	£3,000	£25,000
7	Major Maintenance	Ongoing	Nil	£5,000	£5,000	£5000	5,000	£5,000	£25,000
	Total	£85,500	£1,000	£13,500	£31,500	£25,500	£26,000	£13,000	£125,500

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.

123. 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 make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.

124. Additional Urgent Items of Business

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) Act, 1985, section 100B (4)(b), the Chair following consultation with the Proper Officer, agreed that the following items of business. Not shown on the agenda, be considered as a matter of urgency.

125. Land situated behind St. Cuthbert's Road. Thornley

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that recent maintenance operations carried out by the District of Easington had failed to remove the overgrown weeds and grass adjacent to the fence lines.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk arrange for remedial work to be undertaken.

126. Notice to Quit – B8 Coopers Close Allotments

The Parish Clerk reported that the tenant of Coopers Close Allotment B8 had failed to comply with the terms and conditions of his allotment tenancy agreement.

Two separate warnings had been given over a period of approximately two months but the tenant had failed to take any remedial action.

Resolved: That Notice to Quit be served on the tenant and arrangements be made to offer the garden to the next person on the waiting list.



127. Resignation of Parish Councillor

Councillor Mrs. P. Maddison offered her resignation as a Parish Councillor with immediate effect.

On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman thanked Mrs Maddison for her efforts and commitment whilst serving the parish and its residents and wished her well for the future.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk notifies the District of Easington that a vacancy exists and arrangements are made to call an election.

128. Water Consumption – Coopers Close Allotments

The Parish Clerk reported that following a burst water main at Coopers Close Allotments Site investigations revealed that an unauthorised connection had been made to the Parish Council supply by contractor appointed by Northumbrian Water.

As a result of representations made to Northumbrian Water the Parish Council were to receive a refund of approximately £500 for unauthorised water consumption.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

129. Tethering of Horses

Mr. S. Thomas 38, St. Aidan's Crescent, Thornley made a verbal application to tether horses on land owned by the Parish Council.

The Parish Clerk advised Members that that there are already several licences in operation and that as far as possible tenants were allocated a general area of land so that individual horses did not come into contact with each other.

All tenants are asked to produce a copy of valid insurance documentation.

Resolved: That permission be granted to Mr. Burgin on receipt of a copy of valid insurance documentation.

130. Exclusion of the Press & Public

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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132. Staff Review

A report of the Parish Clerk in connection with this item was considered.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk produces a staff structure for consideration by the Parish Council.



THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
AT
YOULL HOUSE, THE VILLAS, THORNLEY
ON
5TH OCTOBER 2004

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

Councillor	Reason for Absence	Resolved
County Councillor Maurice Nicholls	Ill health	Approved

133. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th September 2004, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record.

134. Garage Site Gables Terrace

A member of the public highlighted her concern at the amount of rubbish deposited on the site and suggested that that at least one garage had been erected without permission.

The Parish Clerk reported that the garage site was owned and operated by the District of Easington and that the issue had been raised with them on a number of occasions.

Resolved: That Councillor Wharrier (in his capacity as District Councillor) would investigate the matter with officers at the district council.

135. Youll House

The Chairman of Age Concern, Thornley asked if the Parish Council had arrived at a decision concerning the Youll House operation and highlighted a number of relevant issues.

Resolved: That the information provided be taken into account when rent reviews are to be determined.

136. Traffic Calming

A member of the public raised concerns at the speed at which some vehicles travelled along Hartlepool Street and the potential for accidents if this was allowed to continue unchecked.



The Parish Clerk reminded members that the issue had been discussed in previous council meetings and the Chief Constable had been asked to investigate the methods of controlling the problem.

Sergeant Wray of Durham Constabulary acknowledged the concerns and advised that the matter was currently in the hands of the traffic management division at Aykley Heads who were addressing the matter.

Councillor Wharrier reported that Durham County Council was also investigating the possibility of erecting speed detection devices to help curb the problem in Thornley and surrounding villages.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

137. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed Sgt. Wray to the meeting who reported that in the previous month 51 incidents had been dealt with in Thornley.

Burglary	1
Theft of Vehicles	3
Anti social Behaviour	4
Criminal Damage	4
Complaints of Motor cycles	10
Theft	2

The police were currently investigating the number of reported incidents involving motor cycles and officers of the anti social behaviour unit were considering issuing orders to certain individuals.

With the onset of winter, operation "Farthing" aimed at addressing the use of fireworks and operation "Dark" were underway.

An application had been made for funding an additional P.C.S.O. position for the Thornley area. It was anticipated that if the application was successful, the officer would commence duties in March 2005.

P.C. Kevin Olver who had been responsible for policing activities in Thornley had now been transferred to other duties. The vacancy had been advertised and it was anticipated that his replacement would be in post in the near future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

138. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed Jacqueline Morton and Mel Hayter to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the wardens had dealt with 25 incidents in Thornley, 14 of which were youth related.

It was reported that a number of the youths in the village considered the recently installed "Youth Shelter" to be unsuitable as it provided very little protection from the elements. As a result it was not being used and was subject to a degree of vandalism.

Resolved: That the information be noted.



139. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that the various projects instigated by the partnership were progressing well.

The fence at the rear of Youll House had now been erected with the aid of a £2000.00 donation from partnership funds.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

140. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that construction of new homes on Thornlaw North was progressing slowly but this was due to the timescales defined by the Developer.

Redevelopment of Thornlaw South was progressing well and many of the new properties were nearing completion. A developer was being sought for the areas around St. Cuthbert's.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

141. County Councillor

On behalf of Councillor Nicholls, Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that Durham County Council had a budget of approximately £4,000 available for traffic calming measures in Thornley. In order that the works can be programmed, the Parish Council's priorities should be forwarded to the County Council.

There was growing concern at the deteriorating bus services provided by Arriva in Thornley and Wheatley Hill. Councillor Nicholls requested the support of the Parish Council to address the problem which, if allowed to continue, could jeopardise the employment of residents who rely on this form of transport to get to work.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that the Parish Council supports Councillor Nicholls in his efforts to improve the bus services in Thornley and Wheatley Hill.

142. Community Association

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the operation of the community centre was going well. A number of successful functions had been held and additional events were scheduled to take place in the coming weeks.⁹

Resolved: That the report be received.

143. Consultative Meeting

Councillor Wilson reported that he had been unable to attend the meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

⁹ A copy of the Audited Accounts for 2003/2004 was made available to all members.



144. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the previous meeting had been abandoned as no senior officers from the District of Easington were present.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

145. Youll House

Councillor Wilson reported that Age Concern was operating successfully, particularly the luncheon club which had 18 members.

Resolved: That the report be received.

146. Resignation of Parish Councillor (REF: 2955)

The Parish Clerk reported that on Wednesday 8th September 2004, Councillor D. Atkinson offered his resignation as a Parish Councillor.

As a vacancy already existed following the resignation of Councillor Mrs. Maddison the situation was reported to the Chairman. It was agreed that the vacancy be notified to the District of Easington immediately in order that both positions could be advertised at the same time in order to minimise the costs incurred if an election became necessary.

Resolved: That the action of the Parish Clerk be endorsed.

147. Parish Records

Durham Constabulary advised that the former Parish Clerk had made no further attempts to lay claim to various documents held by the police in relation to an earlier fraud investigation.

As a result arrangements were in hand to collect the documents as soon as possible.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

148. Remembrance Day Service. (REF: 2923)

The Parish Clerk reported that pursuant to the Parish Council meeting held on 4th November 2003, minute 208, the various churches in the villages had been contacted to determine what arrangements were being made in relation to the Remembrance Day Services to be held later this year.

A response was received from Mrs. Brenda Seed indicating the United Benefice of Shotton, Thornley and Haswell were to induct a new vicar into the Benefice on 10th October 2004.

Although it may be possible for Mrs Seed to conduct a service (ecumenical) similar to the previous year, arrangements could not be confirmed until she had had the opportunity to discuss matters with the new vicar.

No other responses had been received.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that Parish Council purchase a wreath for the ceremony.

149. Planning Application (REF: 2900)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs Truby had applied for planning permission to construct a private garage & workshop at The Willows, Gore Lane, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

150. Planning Application (REF: 2901)

The District of Easington advised that Persimmon Homes Teesside Ltd had applied for planning permission to construct 110 residential properties at Thornlaw North, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

151. West Area Forum (REF: 2902)

The District of Easington advised that the next forum meeting would take place at Hesleden Community Centre, Front Street, Hesleden on 20/10/2004 at 6:00 pm.

Items to be placed on the agenda should be notified in advance.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

152. Planning Application (REF: 2903)

The District of Easington advised that Ms. L. Evans had applied for planning permission to construct a front & rear extensions & private garage at 54, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

153. 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 make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.

154. Additional Urgent Items of Business

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) Act, 1985, section 100B (4)(b), the Chair following consultation with the Proper Officer, agreed that the following items of business. Not shown on the agenda, be considered as a matter of urgency.

155. Planning Application (REF: 2926)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. G. Halliwell had applied for planning permission to construct a first floor & rear extension at 5, Galt Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.



156. Planning Application (REF: 2927)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. J. Oaks had applied for planning permission to construct a two storey rear extension at Dalton House, Percy Street Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

157. Planning Application (REF: 2929)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. Raine had applied for planning permission to construct a conservatory at 7, Cedar Court, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

158. Quality Councils (REF: 2930)

The District of Easington invited representatives to attend a meeting at the council offices on Friday 8th October 2004 to discuss a Proposed Charter of Devolution of Functions.

Resolved: That Councillor Wilson be authorised to attend.

159. Election to Fill Vacancies (REF: 2931)

The District of Easington advised that 10 electors had requested that an election be held to fill the two vacancies that exist on the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

160. D.R.C.C. (REF: 2943)

Durham Rural Community Council invited representatives to attend their A.G.M. to be held in The Store, Dipton on Thursday 14th October 2004 at 10:15 am.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

161. Donation

Councillor's Mrs. Brunskill, W. Middleton & J. Ollett declared a Pecuniary Interest in this matter and took no part in the vote that ensued.

A request was received from the Karen Mullender School of Disco Dancing requesting a donation to assist them in their fund raising efforts.

Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £100.00.



THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
AT
YOULL HOUSE, THE VILLAS, THORNLEY
ON
2ND NOVEMBER 2004

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

Councillor	Reason for Absence	Resolved
County Councillor Maurice Nicholls	Ill health	Approved

162. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor Wharrier referred to minutes 138 & 139 and pointed out that his suggestion that the Parish Council investigate the possibility of resurrecting the "Youth Project" had been omitted from the minutes.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th October 2004, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record.

163. Matters Arising

Councillor Wharrier referred to minute 135 and reported that he was awaiting a response from the District of Easington regarding the Gables Garage Site.

164. Public Question and Answer Session

Several members of the public asked why there had been little or no response from the Street Wardens and the Police when reports of a fire and other disturbances involving young people had been made to them on the night of 31st October 2004. They pointed out that the Fire Brigade had responded and as a result severe damage to the Library had been averted.

The Street Wardens stated that they had limited staff resources and regrettably on this occasion they were supervising a children's disco in Peterlee.

The police stated that they had not received a call and therefore could not attend. It was pointed out that the police did not always attend incidents being dealt with by the Fire Service.

Parish Councillors agreed that the increasing number of incidents in Thornley involving young people was extremely disconcerting and that the various agencies should be brought together in order to discuss the situation.



Resolved: That Durham County Council, the District of Easington and other appropriate agencies be contacted to arrange a joint meeting in an attempt to find workable solution to the problem.

165. Police Report

Sgt. Wray introduced P.C. David Thompson the new beat officer for Thornley replacing P.C. Kevin Olver.

P.C. Thompson who reported that 2728 incidents had been reported to the police, The following were in Thornley.

Burglary	1
Theft of Vehicles	1
Criminal Damage	2
Youths	12
Complaints about vehicles	3
Theft	3

Maxine Stubbs (Durham Police) was continuing to investigate problems relating to speeding through Thornley and requested more detailed information in order that resources could be targeted more efficiently.

In an attempt to reduce the sale of alcohol to the underage, the police were working in close liaison with the Licensing Unit and "Operation Dark" was continuing.

P.C. Thompson stated that he would be focusing on providing a high visibility police presence in Thornley and will target patrols to address the problems faced in the village.

Councillor Wharrier enquired if the costs for altering or replacing the Youth Shelter could be made available to the Parish Council in order that funding sources could be investigated.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

166. Street Wardens Report

The Street Wardens reported that they had attended 24 incidents in Thornley since the last meeting.

An additional number of wardens would be operational in the run-up to 5th November 2004.

In conjunction with the D.V.L.A. untaxed and abandoned cars were to be removed as they presented a particular hazard at this time of the year as they were seen as potential fire risks.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

167. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that the latest edition of the newsletter was being edited prior to printing and distribution to all households.

Durham County Council was to hold a "Residents Open Day" in Youll House on Monday 22nd November 2004 to gauge opinion on the proposed scheme to regenerate the village using renaissance funding.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

168. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that no major issues concerning Thornley were being actively considered by the District of Easington at present pending a decision on regional government and unitary authority status.

Reference was made to the condition of the bungalows in Coopers Close and that efforts were being made to resolve the problems.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

169. County Councillor

In the absence of Councillor Nicholls no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

170. Community Association

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the Community Association was operating successfully and that in particular a number of dances had been very well attended.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

171. Consultative Meeting

Councillor G. Wilson reported that little progress was being made on a number of issues. Of particular concern to Thornley was that the lengthsman had not been replaced.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

172. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that no meetings had been called in recent months.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

173. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill distributed a written report detailing the topics discussed at the last Tidy Easington District meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.



174. School Governors

Councillor Burgin reported that he had not been able to attend the previous meeting but had been advised that as the findings of a school inspections reports were extremely favourable, a degree of funding had now been withdrawn and this may effect the future operation of the school.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

175. West Area Forum

Councillor G. Wilson reported that he had been unable to attend the last meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

176. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that Age Concern was operating well and that the number of people attending had risen in recent weeks.

A breakfast club was to commence in the near future to assess demand.

Youll House would be closed for the Christmas period from 17th December 2004 until 4th January 2005.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

177. Funding Roadshow (REF: 2976)

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust invited the Parish Council to attend a 'Funding Roadshow' to be held at Shotton Hall, Peterlee on Monday 15th November 2004 commencing 9:30 am.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk be authorised to attend.

178. Request for Donation (REF: 2977)

St. Godric's R.C. Primary School, Thornley requested a donation to fund set up costs for a gardening club for children attending the school.

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

179. 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.

Resolved: That in line with previous practice employees receive a £20 Christmas bonus.



180. Christmas Decorations 2004 (REF: 2983)

Durham County Council advised that the provision of a Christmas tree and protective fence for the festive season would be £1,134.47.

It was suggested that if a band could be arranged and if local schools would participate, a carol service be held to accompany the switching on ceremony on Wednesday 1st December 2004 at 7:00pm.

Resolved: That expenditure for the Christmas decorations be approved and other arrangements be made if possible.

181. 5 Day Project (REF: 2987)

Easington Primary Health Care Trust invited a member of the Parish Council to attend the 2nd year launch day to be held at Shotton Hall, Peterlee, on Tuesday 30th November 2004 from 9:00am until 1:00 pm.

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

182. Parish Precept 2004/2005

The Parish Clerk informed members that on advice from the District of Easington the budget had been increased in line with inflation at 3.5% but this would leave little by way of contingency funds.

Resolved: That the precept for 2004/5 be an increase by 4% to £93,226.

183. Durham Association of P&TC (REF: 2986)

The Association advised that the date of the Annual General Meeting would take place at County Hall on 27th November 2004. The agenda and supporting papers would be forwarded at a later date.

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

184. Annual Audit of Accounts 2003/2004 (REF: 2978)

HLB AV audit, requested minor amendments be made to the Annual Return Form to reflect the date of acceptance of the financial balances and other issues.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk be authorised make the appropriate amendments and initial the changes.

185. Planning Application (REF: 2979)

The District of Easington advised that Mrs. G. Ismail had applied for planning permission to construct a private garage at 60, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

186. Planning Application (REF: 3003)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. T. Granville had applied for planning permission to construct a bay window at 18, Kenton Crescent, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

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187. Planning Application (REF: 3004)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. Cooper had applied for planning permission to construct a kitchen extension at 6, School Green, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

188. Planning Permission (REF: 2980)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Ms. L. Evans to construct a front & rear extensions & private garage at 54, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

189. Planning Permission (REF: 2996)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Jason Oakes to construct a two storey rear extension at Dalton House, Percy Street West, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

190. Planning Permission (REF: 3007)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. & Mrs. Truby to construct a private garage & workshop at The Willows, Gore Lane, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

191. 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 make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.

192. Additional Urgent Items of Business

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) Act, 1985, section 100B (4)(b), the Chair following consultation with the Proper Officer, agreed that the following items of business. Not shown on the agenda, be considered as a matter of urgency.

193. Planning Application (REF: 3009)

The District of Easington advised that Three Rivers Housing Association had applied for planning permission to construct six houses and six bungalows at land south of Hartlepool Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.



194. Planning Application (REF: 3010)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. S. Cooper had applied for planning permission to construct a kitchen & bathroom extension at 20, Shinwell Crescent, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

195. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 3011)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 11th October. 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.

196. £1 Bus – Monitoring Report

The Rural Transport Partnership provided copies of the project monitoring form and statement of income and expenditure.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

197. Date and time of next meeting

The Parish Clerk reported that he would be unable to attend the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council due to take place on the 7th December 2004. In addition it had be practice for the Parish Council to cancel the meeting normally held in the first week of January each year because the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Resolved: That the next meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 1st February 2005 at 7:00 p.m.



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THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
AT
YOULL HOUSE, THE VILLAS, THORNLEY
ON
1ST FEBRUARY 2005

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair) Mrs. M. Brunskill, M. Burgin, W. Middleton, J. Ollett, T. Smith, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, G. Wilson, I. Worthington, County Councillor M. Nicholls.

198. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor Wharrier referred to minute 165 and stated that he had requested that the situation be raised at the Anti Social Behaviour meeting.

Councillor Wharrier referred to minute 175 and stated that he had requested that Thornley Primary School be requested to provide the Parish Council with a copy of a report that highlighted the need for disability access to the premises to be improved.

Having noted these items, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd November 2004, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record.

199. Election of Vice Chairman of the Parish Council

The Parish Clerk advised that with the resignation of Mrs. P. Maddison and the election of two new members to the Parish Council it would be necessary to elect a Vice Chairman to serve until May 2005.

Resolved: That Councillor I. Worthington be elected Vice Chairman until the Annual General Meeting.

200. Public Question and Answer Session

A member of the public requested that in future the main entrance of Youll House be utilised to gain entrance to Parish Council meetings.

The Chairman suggested that this was not practical because of the potential for nuisance and disturbance by youths. To allay concerns, a notice would be placed on the main entrance in future diverting residents wishing to attend meetings to another entrance.

201. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Thomson and Andrew Bailey to the meeting who reported that in the previous 3 months 169 incidents had been dealt with in Thornley including:-

Anti social Behaviour 8



Criminal Damage 6
Complaints of Motor cycles 5
Recovery of Stolen Car 1
Drug warrant issued 1

In addition the parking of vehicles on Dunelm Road and issues around Greenwood Cottages had been addressed.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the removal of hedges in Greenwood Cottages be referred to the Anti Social Behaviour Unit.

202. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed Jacqueline Morton to the meeting who reported that in December 2004 the street wardens had dealt with 15 incidents in Thornley mainly involving youths congregating in the vicinity of Youll House/Greenwood Cottages.

The mobile cinema provided by the team had been successful and it was hoped that this could be continued in the future if finance could be identified.

Councillor Nicholls reported that the County Council were in the process of commissioning street lights in the area of Youll House and that this may help to eradicate some of the problems in the area.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

203. Anti Social Behaviour (REF: 3171)10

The Chairman welcomed Geoff Lodge (District of Easington) to the meeting who reported that the district council was working in close liaison with other agencies to address the growing problem of anti social behaviour and related difficulties.

The district council was also working on a Youth Strategy (S.O.R.T.E.D.) that would identify increased youth provision and means by which young people would be encouraged to participate various activities.

Concerted efforts must also be made to identify the youths causing nuisance in order that other measures can be put in place to alleviate problems.

Mr. Lodge went on to explain that whilst the district council was actively pursuing initiatives to reduce the fear of crime it may not be providing adequate feedback to its partners on results. Methods of improving the situation were being investigated.

Councillor Nicholls reported that the County Council were also investigating means to obtain funding to secure Youth Workers on 5 year contracts to aid the process.

It was suggested that the most suitable forum for expressing the Parish Council's concerns would be the Parish Consultative Meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

¹⁰ Geoff Lodge from the District of Easington will be in attendance to provide further details.



204. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that the latest newsletter was being distributed to all households in the village.

Existing projects were on target and two new projects relating to sport and heritage were now underway.

The annual general meeting of the partnership was to take place on Tuesday 15th February 2005.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

205. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that housing redevelopment was progressing very slowly because of legal difficulties. Matters were now in the hands of the solicitors.

Contracts had been agreed on new developments and it was hoped that these could commence in the near future.

There had been no agreement with 3 Rivers Housing in relation to development on Hartlepool Street.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

206. County Councillor

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Nicholls to the meeting after his recent illness and expressed the Parish Council's best wishes on his continued recovery.

Councillor Nicholls reported that the construction of the new by-pass linking the A19 to the A1 had been delayed because of court proceedings and appeals to mine coal in the area proposed.

The County Council is to consider funding measures in order to improve safety on the Wheatley Hill and Thornley bypass in the vicinity of the Crossways Hotel. Estimates are being prepared to install traffic calming measures in St. Bede Crescent and the paths in Shinwell Crescent are to be improved.

The poor bus service provided by ARRIVA was still causing difficulties for residents and Councillor Nicholls asked if the Parish Council would encourage residents to support a petition being planned to raise concern.

The County Council was endeavouring to limit increases in the council tax to 4.6% but this did not take into account funding required by the police and fire brigade.

The county council were to budget for £300.000 to finance community centres across the county.

Details of a proposed landfill site in the Wingate area were discussed. The site, which if constructed, would be the largest in the country, would impact on all villages in the area with up to 17 wagons every day entering the site.

Councillor Nicholls requested that the Parish Council write to the planning department to object to the proposal.



Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Council object to the proposed landfill site.

207. Community Association

Councillor Brunskill reported that events held recently in aid of the Tsunami Appeal had raised £550.

Existing activities were well attended and additional activities/events/displays were being encouraged to use the centre.

An application for £2,500 in funding had enabled the Management Committee to refurbish various aspects of the centre.

A mining heritage museum was to open in the centre on 5th June 2005.

The Annual General Meeting was to be held on 21st March 2005.

Councillor Wharrier explained that use of the community centre in the long term had implications on the Parish Council and enquired if the management committee were in favour of a new resource centre being constructed in the village.

Councillor Middleton stated that the resource centre, as proposed, was not large enough and it would be unlikely that in its present form would be uneconomical.

The District of Easington was to initiate an independent structural survey on the community centre in the near future.

Resolved: That the information be noted and to enable the structural survey be awaited.

208. Consultative Meeting

Councillor Wilson gave a detailed report on the items discussed at the previous meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

209. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

No report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

210. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill gave a detailed report on the items discussed at the last meeting of Tidy Easington District and pointed out that attendance was poor and little positive action was taken by officers of the district council to address the concerns of delegates.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

211. School Governors

Whilst no report was available Councillor Burgin reported that there had been a police presence at the school recently in an effort to raise concerns over parking outside the school.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

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212. West Area Forum

No report was available

Resolved: That the information be noted.

213. Youll House

Councillor Wilson reported that the new “breakfast club” was a success and 25 children regularly attended.

Links between Age Concern and TESCO may attract a degree of funding later in the year.

A series of trips and other events for members was currently being planned.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

214. Planning Application (REF: 3031)

The District of Easington advised that Mrs. L. Smith had applied for planning permission to construct a house at Slaughter House/Stables, Bow Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

215. Planning Application (REF: 3051)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. G. Lowther had applied for planning permission to construct a first floor & side extension at 11, Emmerson Square, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

216. Planning Application (REF: 3067)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. J. & L. Baron had applied for planning permission to construct a front extension at 58, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

217. Planning Application (REF: 3069)

The District of Easington advised that Ms. C. Myers had applied for planning permission to construct a two story rear extension at 92, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

218. Planning Application (REF: 3075)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. O. Dunning had applied for planning permission to construct a two storey side extension at 30, Shinwell Crescent, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.



219. Planning Application (REF: 3105)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. Raine had applied for planning permission to construct a conservatory at 7, Cedar Court, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

220. Planning Application (REF: 3168)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. Gott had applied for planning permission to construct a private double garage at Garden Lodge, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

221. Planning Application (REF: 3170)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. P & C McCoy had applied for planning permission to construct a first floor rear extension at 61, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

222. Planning Application (REF: 3180)

The District of Easington advised that Mrs. Todd had applied for planning permission to construct a rear conservatory at 42, Eastlea, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

223. Transfer of Land (REF: 3179)

The Parish Clerk advised that at the meeting held on 3rd February 2004 (minute 279 refers) Groundwork East Durham reported 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 the County Council 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.

Durham County Council now advised that they were prepared to transfer the land to the Parish Council for £1 and provided details of the proposed Terms & Conditions to be attached to the transfer.

Resolved: That the item be deferred until the terms and conditions be clarified.



224. Request for Donation (REF: 3048)

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

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

225. Christmas Decorations

The Parish Clerk reported that the Christmas tree erected by the Parish Council over the festive season had been vandalised on a number of occasions.

Member expressed their disappointment but agreed that the facility be continued in 2005 and beyond.

It was suggested that the cost of a "live" tree be investigated for planting in the village green.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk obtain estimates for planting a Christmas tree on the village green.

226. Library Playground Equipment

The Parish Clerk reported that estimates for the replacement of the timber play equipment in the library playground, damaged by vandals in 2004, was approximately £3000 including installation. Approximately only half this amount i.e. the material cost, could be recovered from the council's insurance company if it was decided not to redevelop the site.

An option would be to redevelop the site using metal equipment, for durability, but the difference in cost would need to be met by the council.

Resolved: That the timber equipment be purchased and installed at the library playground.

227. £1 Bus Scheme

Members were reminded that the £1 bus scheme operated as a joint venture between Thornley a Wheatley Hill Parish Councils to provide transport to organised groups of children wishing to visit local places of interest.

Recent monitoring reports highlighted the fact that little use was being made of the bus and a request had been made by Durham County Transport Partnership to the Countryside Commission to consider extending the scheme to other groups e.g. Age Concern.

If approved by the Countryside Commission the both Thornley and Wheatley Hill Parish Councils would also need to agree extending the facility to other users.

Resolved: That the information be noted.



228. Allotment Rents 2005/2006

The Chairman Councillor T. Unsworth and Councillor Mrs. J. Unsworth declared a pecuniary interest in this matter and left the meeting. The Vice Chairman Councillor I. Worthington took the Chair.

The Parish Clerk advised that Parish Council's needed to consider whether the allotments rents should be increased.

Resolved: That the rents remain unchanged for 2005/2006.

229. Allotment Agreements/Conditions

The Chairman Councillor T. Unsworth and Councillor Mrs. J. Unsworth declared a pecuniary interest in this matter and left the meeting. The Vice Chairman Councillor I. Worthington took the Chair.

Councillor T. Smith sought clarification on the status of vacant allotments and suggested that new tenants be offered two years free rent if they demolished the building(s) erected on the gardens.

The Parish Clerk reported that it was the aim of the council to improve the visual appearance of the whole allotment site and in order to do so buildings on vacated plots needed to be removed. This would then allow the council to approve the designs and dimensions of any building proposed by a new tenant in accordance with the Terms & Conditions. There was also no guarantee that any new tenant would carry out the work in a timely manner.

The Parish Clerk also reported that in the interest of safety, a contractor had been appointed to undertake the demolition the following day.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that estimates be obtained for the provision of a perimeter fence and security gates.

230. Hire of Welfare Park Football Facilities 2005/2006

The Parish Clerk advised that Parish Council's needed to consider if fees charged to home teams for use of the Welfare Park should be increased.

Resolved: That the charge be increased to £150 per team in 2005/2006.

231. Cemetery Regulations/Maintenance – Councillor Mrs. Unsworth.

Councillor Mrs Unsworth highlighted that a number of the graves in the “Garden of Remembrance” were not being maintained by the relatives of the deceased and that as a result the area was becoming untidy.

The Parish Clerk reported that whilst it was the responsibility of relatives to maintain the grave space the Parish Council staff could do so if required, it being understood that if any damage was caused to the headstones etc the cost of repair may fall on the council.

Resolved: That the Parish Council staff maintain graves in the Garden of Remembrance to improve the visual appearance of the entryway to the Cemetery.

J. Tharion.

232. Health Walks/GP Referral Scheme (REF: 3129)

The Parish Clerk reported that Durham County Council were to investigate the construction of additional footpaths in the village to encourage healthier lifestyles.

It was suggested that these could link up with other pathways proposed by the Parish Council as part of the "Capital Works" program.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

233. 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 make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.

234. Highways Member Area Panel (REF: 3155)

Durham County Council invited the Parish Council send a representative to the next meeting being held at Seaton Holme, Easington Village on Tuesday 1st March 2005 from 6:30pm.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

235. Consultation Event (REF: 3167)

The North East Regional Assembly invited the Parish Council to send a representative to the event being held at County Hall on 27th January 2005.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

236. Planning Permission (REF: 3027)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mrs. G. Ismail to construct a private garage at 60, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

237. Planning Permission (REF: 3028)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mrs. D. Harrison to construct a house on land adjacent to the fish shop, Hartlepool Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

238. Refusal of Planning Permission (REF: 3055)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been refused to Mr. & Mrs. Raine to construct a conservatory at 7, Cedar Court, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.



239. Planning Permission (REF: 3070)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. & Mrs. T. Granville to construct a bay window at 18, Kenton Crescent, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

240. Planning Permission (REF: 3071)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. Cooper to construct a kitchen extension at 6, School Green, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

241. Planning Permission (REF: 3106)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Three Rivers Housing Association to construct 6 houses and 6 bungalows at land south of Hartlepool Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

242. Planning Permission (REF: 3134)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. & Mrs. J. & L. Baron to construct a front extension at 58, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

243. Planning Permission (REF: 3150)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Lillian Smith to construct a house (outline) at the Slaughter House/Stables, Elliot Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

244. Refusal of Planning Permission (REF: 3103)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been refused to Mr. & Mrs. G. Lowther to construct a first floor & side extension at 11, Emmerson Square, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

245. Refusal of Planning Permission (REF: 3169)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Ms. Claire Myers to construct a two story extension & detached garage at 92, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.



246. Letter of Thanks (REF: 3043)

A letter of thanks was received from St. Godric's R.C.V.A. Primary School for the donation to aid a gardening club.

Resolved: That the letter be received.

247. Subscription Renewal – Local Council Update (Ref: 3089)

A subscription renewal notice was received from Plus Publishing for providing 12 copies of the Local Council Update.

Resolved: That the subscription fee of £60.00 be renewed.

248. Subscription Renewal Society of Clerks (Ref: 3097)

Members are asked to consider renewing the annual subscription for the Society of Clerks for 2005 at a cost of £105.00.

Resolved: That the subscription fee of £105.00 be renewed.

249. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 3099)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 11th November 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.

250. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 3149)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 22nd December 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.

251. L.A.C.S. Renewal (REF: 3115)

Zurich Municipal Insurance advised that the annual subscription to the Local Council Advisory Service should be renewed at a cost of £135.00 plus V.A.T.

Resolved: That the subscription be renewed.

252. Proposed Stopping Up of Highways at Thornlaw North (REF: 3138)

G.O.N.E. provided details of a proposed stopping up of the footpaths and highways on Thornlaw North in line with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Section 247

Resolved: That the information be noted.



253. Internal Audit - Half Yearly Accounts to 30/9/2004 (REF: 3161)

The Parish Clerk advised that the Internal Audit of accounts from 1st April to 30th September 2004 had been completed by W.J. Smith. No irregularities had been identified and the accounts were in order. ¹¹

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

254. Transfer of Liquor Licence (REF: 3176)

Solicitors acting for Khurshied Alam notified the Parish Council that he had applied to the Durham Magistrates Court to be held on 8th March 2005 to transfer the liquor licence held by Khursheed Alam into his name.

Members expressed the opinion that much of the alcohol consumed by under age youths in the village may be being purchased from the premises owned/managed by Khursheed Alam.

Resolved: That the Parish Council advise the Magistrate of their concerns and if possible object to the transfer of the licence.

255. Additional Urgent Items of Business

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) Act, 1985, section 100B (4)(b), the Chair following consultation with the Proper Officer, agreed that the following items of business. Not shown on the agenda, be considered as a matter of urgency.

256. Planning Permission (REF: 3186)

The District of Easington has advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. O. Dunning to construct a two story side extension at 30, Shinwell Crescent, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

257. War Memorial –Inscriptions

Research carried out by Thornley residents, F. Bromilow and O. Rowlands revealed that the names of twenty men who lost there lives serving in the armed forces during both the first and second World Wars, are missing from the roll of honour on the war memorial.

The Parish Clerk advised that council had the authority under the **War Memorials (Local Authorities Powers) Act 1923** to incur the expenditure to add the names to the existing memorial or have a new plaque inscribed.

Resolved: That the item be deferred to allow estimates to be obtained.

¹¹ A copy of the Auditors report is available for reference.



258. Application for Transfer of Liquor Licence (REF: 3187)

Solicitors acting for Pamela White notified the Parish Council that she had applied to the Durham Magistrates Court to be held on 8th March 2005 to transfer the liquor licence held by Nicholas Cook into her name.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

259. County Durham Training Partnership (REF: 3188)

The partnership advised that it had organised a training course entitled “The Role & Procedures of a Parish or Town Council” to be held at County Hall on Wednesday 9th March 2005 from 5:00pm until 8:00pm. It was targeted at elected members who were new to post or existing members wishing to refresh their knowledge.

Cost was £27.00 (plus V.A.T.) per delegate.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

260. Rental of land St. Chad's Square (3190)

The Parish Clerk reported that the District of Easington had submitted an invoice for the rental of land in St. Chad's Square, Thornley used by the Parish Council for use as a children's play area.

Members were reminded that the play equipment had been removed from the site some time ago because it was not up to modern safety standards. In addition it was envisaged that a new playground would be developed in the area as part of the housing redevelopment.

Resolved: That the invoice be paid and the lease maintained until such time as it had been decided where the new playground equipment should be located.

261. Council TAX Base Rates (REF: 3192)

The District of Easington provided details of the amounts calculated for the individual parishes throughout the district.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

262. Parking Restrictions

Councillor Ollett pointed out that work to reinstate the yellow parking lines on Hartlepool Street, promised by Durham County Council, had still not been undertaken.

Resolved: That the matter be brought to the attention of the County Council.

263. Cemetery Toilet

Councillor Ollett requested an update on the reconstruction of the public toilet facility in the Ludworth Road Cemetery

The Parish Clerk reported that there had been some delay because of the nature of the proposed location. The matter was still under investigation.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

J. Tharion.

264. Public Rights of Way

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the public right of way was in Gore Hill area was being used by “off road” motorised vehicles and as a result pedestrians were in danger.

The Parish Clerk reported that a survey of all Public Footpaths in the Parish boundary was currently underway.

Identified problems would be highlighted in the report and measures would be taken under Durham County Councils “Parish Paths (P3) Program” to repair damage and prevent access by vehicles.

Resolved: That the information be noted.



THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
AT
YOULL HOUSE, THE VILLAS, THORNLEY
ON
1ST MARCH 2005

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair) Mrs. M. Brunskill, M. Burgin, W. Middleton, J. Ollett, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, G. Wilson, I. Worthington, County Councillor M. Nicholls.

APOLOGIES

No apologies were submitted by Councillor Smith.

265. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The previous meeting held on 1st February 2005, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record.

266. Public Question and Answer Session

A member of the public requested information concerning the cost of reinstating the grass verge adjacent to 33 Morris Crescent.

It was pointed out that this was not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Councillor Wharrier, in his capacity as a District Councillor agreed to investigate and report directly back to the resident.

267. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Ian Appleyard to the meeting who reported that in the previous month 56 incidents had been dealt with in Thornley including:-

Vehicle Theft 1

Anti Social Behaviour 16

Criminal Damage 6

Vehicle Nuisance 2

Theft from Property 1

In addition a number of arrests had been made in connection with drink driving offences.

268. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed Mel Haytor to the meeting who reported that the Street Wardens had been called to 17 incidents in Thornley in the previous month.

Youths causing nuisance 6

Harassment 2

Anti Social Behaviour 5

Motor Vehicles 1



Meetings 1
Fly Tipping 1

Anti social behaviour was still a priority for the wardens and the mobile cinema operating in the Community Centre was still proving a success. A decrease in the number of incidents involving underage youths consuming alcohol had been noted since the closure of a shop in the Coopers Close area.

269. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that the A.G.M. had taken place and all officers had been re-elected. A presentation on the design of the proposed memorial to 2nd Lt John Scott Youll VC had been given.

Following a presentation by Mr. Lez Baxter of Regen Northern Ltd. there was also a discussion on potential methods that could be employed to assist the regeneration of Coopers Close and other areas of Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

270. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that the "Future of the North East" was one of the main issues being considered by the District of Easington at present.

No progress was being made on either the Thornlaw North or Hartlepool Street developments.

The theft of manholes in various locations was still of concern and this had been raised with officers at the district council.

The District Council had undertaken a structural survey of the Thornley Community Centre which indicated that approximately £43,000 would need to be expended on the building over the next 3 years and something in the region of £250,000 over ten years.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

271. County Councillor

As Councillor Nicholls was not present a report was unavailable.

Members raised the question of litter being allowed to build up in the vicinity of the library and suggested this be brought to the attention of Councillor Nicholls as it detracted from the visual aspect of the area.

Resolved: That the issue be reported to Councillor Nicholls.

272. Community Association

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that three new projects had been undertaken within the community centre.

Over one hundred and twenty people had attended a dance to raise funds for the recent Tsunami disaster.

Resolved: That the information be noted.



273. Consultative Meeting

As no meeting had been held a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

274. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's Report

The Chairman reported that difficulties within the Association's administrative procedure were now being resolved and it was anticipated that a meeting would take place in the near future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

275. T.E.D. Report

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

Particular emphasis had been given to the concern of many local councils on the proposed landfill site in the Wingate area.

It was suggested that the Parish Council offer their support to Wingate Parish Council in an effort to stop the development.

Member raised concern over the poor service being provided by Premier Waste Management in relation to the “Kerb It Scheme”

Resolved: That the Parish Council support Wingate Parish Council in their efforts and a letter be sent to Premier Waste concerning their standard of service.

276. School Governors Report

Councillor Burgin reported that the School Governors meeting had been postponed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

277. West Area Forum Report

As no meeting had been held a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

278. Youll House Report

As no meeting had been held a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

279. Donations Policy

Members considered the need to determine a **policy** in respect of S137 Donations to avoid possible duplication of donations or misuse of S137 legislation.

Resolved: That the Parish Council only make S137 donations to bona fide organisations. Applications from individuals would only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

J. Tharion.

280. Request for Donation (REF: 3207)

Finchale College has requested a donation to support their project entitled "Communication Disorder Support Studio" aimed at helping adults with physical, medical and mental health issues.

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.

281. Request for Donation (REF: 3230)

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth declared an interest in this item and took no part in the ensuing discussion or vote.

The Heritage Group of New Thornley Partnership requested a donation to aid them in their efforts to erect a memorial to 2nd Lt. John Scott Youll V.C. a man born and bred in the Thornley.

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 £1000.00.

282. Planning Application (REF: 3208)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. L. Cook had applied for planning permission to construct an extension to sun lounge at 34, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

283. Coopers Close Allotments Fencing (REF: 3214)

Councillor T, Unsworth and Mrs .J. Unsworth declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the ensuing discussion or vote.

The Parish Clerk reported that pursuant to minute 230 of the meeting held on 1st February 2005 estimates for the provision of fencing and security gates for the Coopers Close allotment site has been obtained.

The firm providing the quotation had pointed out that to completely enclose the allotment site with fencing could be extremely costly because of limited access to each allotment and because of the open water course at one side of the site. It was therefore suggested that initially only the fence on one side of the site (bordering Coopers Close) be replaced with a palisade fence and two entry gates.

Although this would improve security it would not provide security to all allotments or improve the appearance of the site to any great extent.

➤ **1.8M high**

£7,461.55

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➤ **2.10M high** **£8,080.22**

➤ **2.4M high** **£8,652.86**

The Parish Clerk reported that there was no budget provision for the work and if members decided to embark on the project in either the current or next financial year finance would need to be transferred from other budget headings or be allocated from the Capital Works program. Alternatively a financial provision would need to be established in 2006/2007 estimates but that this would have implications when setting the budget and community charge in that year.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred pending discussions with the Coopers Close Allotment Association.

284. Alteration to Youth Shelter (REF: 3222)

Durham Constabulary requested the Parish Council to consider financing the cost of alterations to the youth shelter and provided cost estimates;

➤ **To fix 2 lower panels** **£700**

➤ **To fix 4 lower panels** **£1,200**

The Parish Clerk reported that whilst permission was granted to Durham Constabulary to erect the youth shelter on Parish Council land, the Parish Council had not contributed financially to the project. He also pointed out that council property was damaged when the shelter was being installed and this had never been repaired by Durham Constabulary or the contractor acting on its behalf.

Furthermore, there was currently no budget provision for the work and if members decided to embark on the project, in either the current or next financial year, finance would need to be transferred from other budget headings or be allocated from the Capital Works program.

It was also pointed out that the original application to erect the shelter had been given on the understanding that if it was not proven to be effective it would be removed.

Members expressed concern at the lack of use of the facility and the damage sustained to it.

Resolved: That no funding be provided and Durham Constabulary be requested to remove the shelter from Parish Council land and carry out reinstatement.

285. Gypsy & Traveller Conference (REF: 3233)

Durham County Council invited representatives of the Parish Council to attend the event to be held at the Riverside Cricket Ground, Chester le Street on 2nd March 2005 from 9:00am until 3:00pm.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

286. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 3221)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 31st December 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.

287. Action Packed Futures Event (REF: 3237)

Representatives of the Parish Council were invited to attend a planning event for Action Packed Futures to take place at County Hall on 7th or 9th March 2005 from 4pm until 5:30 pm or 6pm until 7:30pm respectively.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

288. Eastern Gateway – Additional Planting (REF: 3246)

Groundwork East Durham advised that on behalf of New Thornley Partnership the shrub bed around the village stone adjacent to the Community Centre was to be extended slightly and requested the Parish Council to undertake maintenance in a manner similar to the original scheme.

It was also suggested that a seat be installed to dissuade residents from sitting/resting on the stone.

Because the District of Easington would not take on the responsibility for the seat they requested the Parish Councils comments/observations before proceeding.

Resolved: That the additional shrub bed be maintained at Parish Council expense and the installation of the seat be rejected.

289. Request for Donation (REF: 3238)

Councillors J. Worthington, W. Middleton and J. Ollett declared an interest in this item and took no part in the ensuing discussion or vote.

Thornley More to Life Group, in association with Groundwork East Durham, requested a donation to enable them to arrange activities for youths of the village.

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 £450.00.

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290. Transfer of Liquor Licence (REF: 3227)

The Solicitor acting for Khurshied Alam notified the Parish Council that he had withdrawn his application to the Durham Magistrates Court to transfer the liquor licence held by Khursheed Alam into his name.

The application would now be submitted in the name of Mumar Ben Alam and would be considered on 8th March 2005.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

291. Proposed Stopping Up Order – Laurel Crescent, Thornlaw North

G.O.N.E. provided details of a proposed stopping up order of the footpaths and highways on Thornlaw North in line with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Section 247.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

292. Planning Permission (REF: 3228)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been refused to Mr. & Mrs. P. McCoy to construct a first floor rear extension at 61, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

293. Planning Permission (REF: 3240)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mrs. Todd to construct a rear conservatory at 42, Eastlea, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

294. Parish & Town Council Precepts 2005/6

The District of Easington provided details of precepts for information.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

295. 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 make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.



296. Additional Urgent Items of Business

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) Act, 1985, section 100B (4)(b), the Chair following consultation with the Proper Officer, agreed that the following items of business. Not shown on the agenda, be considered as a matter of urgency.

297. Request for Donation

Great North Air Ambulance requested a donation to assist in the provision of the service covering the North East region.

Resolved: That the item be deferred until the next meeting

298. Proposed Stopping Up Order – Laurel Crescent, Thornlaw North

G.O.N.E. provided copy of the stopping up order of the footpaths and highways on Thornlaw North in line with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Section 247.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

299. Parish Council Office Accommodation

Councillor Mrs M. Brunskill requested an update on the provision of a Parish Council Office in the village. ¹²

The Parish Clerk reported that whilst 29 Greenwood Cottages had been considered by the Parish Council, New Thornley Partnership was negotiating for the lease.

He pointed out that if the partnership were successful and decided to accept the lease it may be possible for the Parish Council to negotiate joint use of the premises (with the agreement of East Durham Homes) in the interest of economy. If their application failed or they rejected the terms of the lease then Parish Council could then make its own application to lease the premises if it wished to do so.

Resolved: That further information be awaited.

300. Condition of Roads – Thornlaw South

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the roads on Thornlaw South were in a deplorable condition caused by housing developer's vehicles depositing building materials and mud onto the surfaces. This was making the driving conditions dangerous particularly after rain.

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

¹² Meeting of the Parish Council held on 2nd September 2003 minute 151 refers.



301. **Reinstatement Yellow Lines – The Villas**

Councillor J. Ollett reported that Durham County Council had still not reinstated the yellow parking restriction lines in Stanley Terrace satisfactorily.¹³

The Parish Clerk reported that a number of letters and Faxes had been sent asking that the matter be attended too.

Resolved: That an additional request be sent and County Councillor M. Nicholls be asked to investigate.

¹³ Meetings held on 6th July 2004 minute 62, 7th September 2004 minute 94 and 1st February 2005 minute 263 refers.



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J. Howard

THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
AT
YOULL HOUSE, THE VILLAS, THORNLEY
ON
5TH APRIL 2005

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair) Mrs. M. Brunskill, M. Burgin, W. Middleton, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, G. Wilson, I. Worthington.

County Councillor M. Nicholls.

APOLOGIES

Councillor	Reason for Absence	Resolved
Councillor J. Ollett	Engaged in Community Work	Approved

302. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillors Wharrier, G. Wilson and T. Unsworth referred to minute 282 and pointed out that they had declared an interest in the item.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill referred to minute 290 and pointed out that she had declared an interest in the item.

Having noted these amendments the previous meeting held on 1st March 2005, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record.

303. Public Question and Answer Session

A member of the public asked what action could be taken to curb acts of anti social behaviour at the rear of Youll House and the litter being dropped in the village generally.

The Chairman and members of the Parish Council explained that these issues were not the responsibility of any particular agency. The Parish Council were constantly raising similar concerns with the County Council, the District Council and the Police in an attempt to resolve the problems.

The district councillors that were present at the meeting would request that a litter picking patrol be instigated in the village.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

304. Police Report

The chairman welcomed P.C. David Thompson to the meeting who reported that in the previous month 84 incidents had been dealt with in Thornley including:-

Vehicle Theft	1
Anti Social Behaviour	15



Criminal Damage	11
Vehicle Nuisance	5
Obstruction	1
Use/Sale of Drugs	2
Theft of property	1

It was also reported that in comparison to other neighbouring villages, Thornley had had a low number of reported incidents over the last 12 months and the crime rate was decreasing.

David Taylor, the newly appointed Police Community Support Officer introduced himself and gave a summary of his background.

Because of concerns expressed by residents of the O.A.P. bungalows at the rear of Youll House, the police had asked the District of Easington to cut back or remove the privet hedges around the properties.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

305. Street Wardens Report

As no street wardens were present a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

306. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that Durham County Council's Renaissance Funding program for Thornley had been discussed. A resident's consultation event was now being organised by officers in order that people living in Thornley could comment on the proposed scheme which centred on improving the areas around Youll House, the green and the shop frontages. Basic designs would be available by the end of April.

It was anticipated that the Parish Council could apply for 70% funding for related projects that it may wish to include in the scheme.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

307. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that a concert by the Police Brass Band was to take place in the Community Centre, Wheatley Hill on 15th April 2005. Tickets were £3.00.

Discussions had taken place in an attempt to find a solution to the ever present anti social behaviour at the rear of Youll House. Requests had been made to have the privet hedge around the O.A.P. bungalows removed in order that the area became more open and thereby expose any inappropriate activities.

The housing redevelopment on Thornlaw North was on hold to allow the District Council to identify which areas of land could be included in the project.

Redevelopment in the Thornlaw South would be resolved in the near future.

Three Rivers Housing Association had been granted a licence to proceed with a housing development but the building of several bungalows had been delayed.

.....



The district council had agreed to replace the windows of properties in Coopers Close and were looking at options as to how redevelopment of the area could be undertaken in the future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

308. County Councillor

Councillor Nicholls reported that he had raised the Parish Council's concerns over the reinstatement of the Yellow lines on Hartlepool Street with officers at the County Council. Numerous attempts had been made to replace the lines but cones had been removed by drivers and vehicles were left in the road. As a result it was impossible to carry out the work. The work would be undertaken as soon as possible.

Arriva had agreed to continue the 213 bus service in the area.

Premier waste had withdrawn their application to construct a landfill site west of the A19 in County Durham.

Durham County Council were continuing to apply for finance to support the appointment of youth workers in the area.

A "Park & Ride" scheme into Durham City Centre was under consideration to ease congestion. It was anticipated that this would be operational for Christmas 2005.

All aspects of the governments "Schools for the Future" program were under consideration. Addition information would be given when it became available.

In view of the Parish Council's concerns, a litter picking exercise had been carried out in the vicinity of the Library to improve the area.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

309. Community Association

Councillor Mrs Brunskill offered her resignation as the parish council's representative to the association.

The Chairman asked for nominations for a new representative but none were forthcoming.

No report was available.¹⁴

Resolved: That the information be noted.

310. Consultative Meeting

Because no meeting had taken place a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

311. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

Because no meeting had taken place a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

¹⁴ This item will be removed from future agendas until a new representative is appointed.



312. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the guest speaker had failed to attend. She then gave a comprehensive report on the topics discussed.

It was suggested that the litter picking service provided by the district council was not as effective as it should be and that they be asked to consider letting the Parish Council carry out the work on an agency or similar basis.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the district council be asked to consider an agency arrangement with the parish council .

313. School Governors

Councillor Burgin reported that a new chairman had been appointed and there was now a full board of Governors. The school must comply with various initiatives of face closure.

A "Sure Start" program was currently being established in the school and work was already underway.

A new Headmaster/mistress would be appointed on the retirement of Mrs Edwards.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

314. West Area Forum

Because no meeting had taken place a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

315. Youll House

Because no meeting had taken place a report was unavailable. Councillor G. Wilson reported that the A.G. M. would take place on 3rd May 2005.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

316. Quality Parish Council's (REF: 3282)

The District of Easington invited the Chairman to attend the meeting to be held on 18th March 2005 at the Council Offices commencing 10:00 am to consider the proposed charter for devolution of functions.

Resolved: That the Chairman attend subject to prior appointments.

317. Freedom of Information Act 2000– Publication Scheme

The Parish Clerk reported that the Freedom of Information Act 2000 specifies the classes of information which local councils publish or intend to publish.

To assist local authorities and other agencies comply with the Act, Model Publication Schemes had been made available for adoption.

Under the model the Parish Council would be required to publish/make available certain types of information under Section 20 of the Act, but other data was optional.



It was recommended that the Parish Council adopts the requirements of the Model Scheme to publish the core classes of information and reviews which other classes of information should be provided at a later date. Doing so would ensure compliance with Act and provide the opportunity to review the situation at such time as parish council procedures are amended.

Resolved: The model Publication Scheme be adopted and residents are made aware of their rights under the Act, by displaying appropriate notice(s) in a public area(s) in the village.

318. Transfer of Land (REF: 3179)

Councillors T. Unsworth, Mrs. J. Unsworth and G. Wharrier declared an interest in the item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.

Members were asked to recall that this item had been deferred at the meeting held on 1st February 2005, (minute 224 refers) in order that the terms and conditions of the proposed transfer of the land from Durham County Council to the Parish Council could be clarified.

A discussion with the legal officer at Durham County Council had revealed that whilst the conditions appeared to be onerous they were in fact standard clauses to ensure that the land is maintained adequately so as to ensure road safety.

The parish council's major cause of concern was the potential for damage to underground services which the parish council would be responsible for if an incident occurred.

Additional information had been obtained from Groundwork East Durham on the types of trees planted and their location in relation to the underground services. It was reported that the trees should not pose a threat to the services in the highway verge.

The parish council could transfer the land for £1 but the county council would require the parish council to pay their legal costs and surveyors fees estimated at £250 and £500 respectively. In addition the parish council would have to pay its own legal fees.

Resolved: That the County Council be asked if it would consider leasing the land for maintenance purposes to the Parish Council.

319. Standing Orders

The Parish Clerk reported that in the light of changes to the composition of the council it will be necessary to amend Standing Orders of the Council numbered (1) & (5) and for other typographical errors to be corrected.

Resolved: That the amendment of Standing Orders be approved

320. Walkways West of the A19 (REF: 3297)

The District of Easington provided a draft copy of a leaflet on which members were asked to comment or provide additional information that they may wish to see included.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

321. Planning Application (REF: 3298)

The District of Easington advised that Easington Primary Care Trust had applied for planning permission to construct a Proposed Disabled Access at The Health Clinic, 10, The Villas, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised

322. Planning Application (REF: 3311)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. Beresford had applied for planning permission to construct a residential development at Gore Hill Farm, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised

323. Coopers Close Allotments Fencing

Councillors T. Unsworth, Mrs. J. Unsworth declared an interest in the item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.

The Parish Clerk reported that pursuant to the Parish Council meeting held on 1st March 2005¹⁵ a meeting with the Secretary of the Allotment Association had revealed that the majority of tenants would accept the provision of gates across the two entrance paths at this juncture and that the provision of fencing around the whole site could be considered at a later date once estimates had been received and applications to outside funding bodies had been determined.

Resolved: That further consideration of this item be deferred until the outcome of funding applications was known.

324. Welfare Park – Grant Application

The Secretary of football teams operating in Thornley requested the Parish Council to support their applications to various agencies for funding to update and improve the facilities at the Welfare Park.

Resolved: That Parish Council support the applications to improve the Welfare facilities.

¹⁵ Minute 284 refers



325. Audit of the Annual Accounts Year Ended 31 March 2004 (REF: 3271)

The Parish Clerk reported that HLB AV audit had completed the audit of the parish council's accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2004 and had provided details of the issues that the council should address.¹⁶

Resolved: That the information be noted and the issues identified by HLB AV be implemented where appropriate.

326. Planning Permission (REF: 3286)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. & Mrs. A. Gott to construct a double garage at Garden Lodge, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

327. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 3306)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 17th March 2005. 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.

328. Letter of Thanks REF: 3270)

St. Godric's R.C.V.A. Primary School sent a letter of thanks for the donation toward the school gardening club.

Resolved: That the letter be received.

329. 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 make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.

330. Request for Donation

Great North Air Ambulance requested a donation to assist in the provision of the service covering the North East region.

Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £100.00.

¹⁶ Copies provided to all members.



331. Any Additional Urgent Items of Business

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) Act, 1985, section 100B (4)(b), the Chair following consultation with the Proper Officer, agreed that the following items of business. Not shown on the agenda, be considered as a matter of urgency.

332. Parish Council Office Accommodation

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill referred to minute 300 and produced copies of letters sent by New Thornley Partnership to East Durham Homes (District of Easington) relating to a proposed lease of 29 Greenwood Cottages, Thornley for use as a partnership office. She pointed out that the letters also included reference to the Parish Council as having an interest in the matter.

The Parish Clerk stated that this issue was strictly a matter between the New Thornley Partnership and East Durham Homes but in an attempt to clarify matters he explained that in September 2003 he had been instructed by the Parish Council to investigate the possibility of obtaining premises in the village for Parish Council use.¹⁷ This was an ongoing search as suitable premises rarely became available.

Research had revealed that New Thornley Partnership were in the process of obtaining 29, Greenwood Cottages from East Durham Homes. It was determined that the best interest of the Parish Council and residents could be served if the premises could be used on a shared/joint basis. As a result an informal approach was made to the Partnership.

Any decision made by New Thornley Partnership to accept or reject a lease on the property would not be binding, or place any responsibility on the Parish Council. If they accepted a lease and wished to pursue a joint use proposal they would have to advise the Parish Council. It would then be up to the Parish Council members to determine if they wished to enter negotiations with all parties and pursue the matter.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Council continues it's search for suitable premises in Thornley for use as a Parish Office.

333. Invitation to a Reception (REF: 3319)

The Chairman of the District of Easington invited the Chairman and the Parish Clerk to a reception at the Council Offices on Tuesday 19th April 2005 commencing 7:00pm to forge closer links with Parish & Town Councils.

Resolved: That the Chairman attend subject to prior appointments.

¹⁷ Minute 151 meeting held on 2nd September 2003 refers.

* * * * *



334. Parish Paths (REF: 3320)

Durham County Council invited applications for funding to maintain the Parish Paths throughout the area.

The Parish Clerk reported that it was anticipated funding of up to 80% may be available depending on the number of applications received and overall costs works required.

A local contractor had provided an estimate of £2,126 to carry out one grass cutting cycle on the paths in Thornley. Hedge trimming and repairs of styles etc would be at additional cost.

Resolved: That an application for funding to undertake the work in 2005/6 be submitted and that matched funding be allocated from the revenue budgets.

335. Quality Town & Parish Council Partnerships Meeting (REF: 3322)

The District of Easington provided feedback on a recent meeting held to discuss draft charter partnership arrangements and advised that the next meeting would take place on 8th July 2005.

Written responses were requested by 24th June 2005.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

336. Planning Application (REF: 3326)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. R. Ord had applied for planning permission to construct a conservatory at 7, School Green, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

337. Planning Application (REF: 3327)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. S. Magee had applied for planning permission to construct a two story front extension at 1, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

338. Refusal of Planning Permission (REF: 3329)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been refused to Mr. & Mrs. J. Cook to construct an extension to a sun lounge at 34, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

339. Horses on Parish Land

Councillor G. Wilson reported that a number of horses had been tethered on land belonging to the Parish Council.

The Parish Clerk stated he was aware that these horses were on the land and was trying to establish who owned them. No application for permission to use council land had been applied for.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

J. Tharion.

340. Fencing off Entrance Tack to Welfare Park

Councillor Middleton suggested that the track leading to the Welfare Park be gated off and fenced in order to prevent access to adjacent land by the travelling community and horse traders.

The Parish Clerk pointed out that not all of the land in question belonged to the Parish Council and therefore erecting a fence and gate may not have the desired effect. As far as could be ascertained the landowner gave his permission to use his land and therefore there was not a great deal the parish Council could do to curtail the activity.

Resolved: That the item be deferred to allow land ownership to be investigated.



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