

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
3RD MAY 2005**

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

Councillor	Reason for Absence	Resolved
M. Burgin	Domestic Business	Approved
J. Ollett	Away on Business	Approved

**1. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councillor Smith pointed out that he had been present at the previous meeting but this had been omitted from the minutes.

Having noted this alteration the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th, April 2005, a copy of which had been previously circulated were accepted as a true record.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**2. Public Question and Answer Session**

No members of the public were in attendance

**3. Police Report**

P.C. Winship reported that in the previous month the police had dealt with 46 incidents in Thornley including:-

Vehicle Theft	2
Anti Social Behaviour	7
Criminal Damage	2
Vehicle Nuisance	5

In an operation aimed at motorists a significant number of drivers had been stopped and charged with vehicle related offences.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**4. Street Wardens Report**

Mel Hayter reported that in the previous month the street wardens had dealt with 46 incidents in Thornley including:-

Youth related incidents	7
Drug related incidents	7

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*J. Unsworth*

Ball games	1
Anti social behaviour	5
Vandalism	3

The wardens were continuing to work in close liaison with the police particularly in order to curb underage drinking.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**5. New Thornley**

Councillor Mrs Unsworth reported that she had been unable to attend the last meeting of the partnership and therefore no report was available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**6. District Councillor**

Councillor Wharrier reported that housing development in Thornley was slow particularly in Thornlaw North and Thornlaw South. The District of Easington was currently receiving interest from developers as to how the various proposals could be progressed.

It was now evident that not all of the land available for development was in the ownership of the district council and this was causing some of the difficulties.

The county council's decision to only allow permit holders to dispose of waste was causing a great deal of concern across the district as more and more "fly tipping" was taking place. The district council was to investigate ways in which the situation could be addressed.

A planning application to erect a mast in the Wheatley Hill area had been refused as had an extension to the Music Singing and Dancing licence for "Harry's Bar in Thornley.

A planning application to develop a number of houses on Gore Hill Farm had been deferred to allow consideration of new information provided by the applicant.

***Resolved: That the information be noted***

**7. County Councillor**

Because Councillor Nicholls was not present no report was available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**8. Consultative Meeting**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the question of a partnership arrangement with the District council in relation to a lengthsman for the village had been raised. Officers of the district council would be contacting the parish clerk in the near future to open negotiations.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***



**9. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

No meeting had been held

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**10. T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill gave a comprehensive report on the topics discussed at the previous Tidy Easington District Meeting.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**11. School Governors**

Because Councillor Burgin was not present no report was available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**12. West Area Forum**

No meeting had been held.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**13. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported provided a copy of the Annual report and the Financial Balance Sheet for Youll House Age Concern produced for their A.G. M. which had been held recently.

The centre would be closed from 20th July 2005 until 8th August 2005 for summer holidays.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**14. Letter of Thanks (REF: 3366)**

A letter of thanks was received from Groundwork East Durham for the donation of £450 toward the "More to Life" youth project.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**15. Planning Application (REF: 3356)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. D. Hardy had applied for planning permission to construct a front & rear extensions at 40, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**16. Section 137 Expenditure Limit (REF: 3368)**

The National Association of Local Councils advised that the Local Authorities (Discretionary Expenditure Limits) (England) Order 2005 (SI 2005No 419) came into effect on 29th March 2005 and applied to the financial year 2005/06. This had the effect of specifying £5.30 as the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137 for 2005/06.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***



**17. Parish Remuneration Panel Report (REF: 3376)**

A copy of Easington District Council's Remuneration Panel's report on remuneration for Parish & Town Councillors was considered by members.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**18. Stopping Up Order – Laurel Crescent (REF: 3382)**

Government Office North East provided a copy of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 – Section 247 Stopping Up Order of the Highway at Laurel Crescent, Thornley County Durham.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**19. Financial Statement to the Financial Year End March**

The Finance Statement for the Year ended 31st March 2005 detailing all income and expenditure was considered.

***Resolved: That the statement be accepted and that the Parish Clerk make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.***

**20. 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.*

**21. Request for Donation (REF: 3410)**

Trustees of the County of Durham Benevolent Fund made an application for a donation to provide winter clothing for families on the margins of need.

***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.***

**22. Youth Shelter (REF: 3403)**

The Youth Strategy Officer for Easington District Council request additional information in relation to the parish council's request to remove the Youth shelter from council land.

***Resolved: That the Youth Strategy Officer be invited to the next meeting of the Parish Council.***



**23. Request to Graze Horses (REF: 3409)**

A written application was received from Maurice Crake 9, Ashwood Grange, Thornley requesting permission to graze horses on Parish Council owned land at the rear of the Ashwood Grange.

***Resolved: That permission be granted to Mr. Crake to tether horses on Parish land at the rear of Ashwood Grange for a period of 12 month subject to providing evidence of appropriate Personal Liability insurance cover.***

**24. John Scott Youll Memorial**

The Parish Clerk referred to the meeting held on 1st March 2005 (minute 282 refers) and reported that although New Thornley Partnership had raised a considerable amount of money to erect the memorial to 2nd Lt. John Scott Youll V.C. there was still a minimal shortfall.

Whilst it was anticipated that the remaining sums necessary to commission the memorial would be raised in time, any delay could result in the memorial not commissioned or completed in time for the preferred unveiling date in October/November 2005.

It was suggested that the Parish Council allow New Thornley Partnership to transfer contributions already received by them (and subsequent donations) to the Parish Council and that the Parish Council take ownership of the project. This would enable the necessary instructions to be issued to contractors as immediately.

***Resolved: That the Parish Council adopts the John Scott Youll Memorial and implements the work as outlined.***

**25. Access Route to Welfare Park**

Councillor Middleton proposed that the entrance route to the Welfare park be the blocked off to prohibit access to adjacent land.

The Parish Clerk stated that he was aware of the Councillors concerns and had already requested details of land owners from Durham Land Registry.

It was pointed out that blocking the Parish Councils own access may not have the desired results as private access could not be fenced in any way.

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

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*J. Howard*

**OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
7TH JUNE 2005**

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIES**

**No apologies were recorded.**

**26. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd May 2005, a copy of which had been previously circulated were accepted as a true record.

**27. Public Question and Answer Session**

There were no questions from the public who were present.

**28. Police Report**

As the police were not present no report was available.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**29. Street Wardens Report**

The Chairman welcomed Neal Martin and Tony Hall to the meeting who reported that the usual problems persisted in the vicinity of Youll House and the Library.

Concern was expressed that there appeared to be double standards in operation regarding the penalties issued to residents who parked on pavements and grass verges. Some persistent offenders were not being approached whilst other "occasional" offenders had been issued warnings.

It was also reported that wardens operating in Thornley had failed to take any action relating to a recent incident in the Community Centre even though they had witnessed the disturbance.

The wardens could not respond as they had no knowledge of the incident.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**30. New Thornley**

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that current projects were on target and no problems were being encountered.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

*J. Unsworth*

**31. District Councillor**

Councillor Wharrier reported that 3 Rivers Housing were to develop 9 units in the Hartlepool Street area of the village. It was not known what type of homes would be constructed.

The void properties in both Thornlaw North and Thornlaw South were continuing to be of concern as they were constantly being broken into by vandals.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**32. County Councillor**

Councillor Nicholls reported that development on the Sure Start program would commence in early summer and be complete in January 2006. It was anticipated that some space in the center would be available for community use.

The newly elected County Council was to undertake a survey of approximately 8,000 O.A.P.'s to help determine their needs over the coming years and address the requirements for aged persons dwelling in the future.

The Investing in Children program was underway and in an attempt to recruit sufficient youth workers longer contracts of employment were being considered.

Local area agreements were under consideration and approximately £300 million was being made available by central government to enhance the Safer Communities program. The consultation process commenced on 20th May 2005.

The Street Wardens operation was now managed from the police station at Peterlee.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**33. Consultative Meeting**

Councillor G. Wilson reported on items discussed at the meeting held on 19th May 2005 and indicated that a lengthsman was now operating in the Thornley area on two days per week.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**34. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

The Chairman reported that after a period of inactivity the association had re-established itself and the Annual General Meeting would take place in the Council Offices, Seaside Lane, Easington on 6th July 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

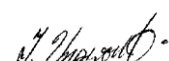
***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**35. I.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that she had not received notification of the meeting and had therefore not attended.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

\* I AM NOT A MEMBER OF ANY OF THE ABOVE NAMED SOCIETIES OR CLUBS AND THEREFORE I AM NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE A MEMBER OF ANY OF THE ABOVE NAMED SOCIETIES OR CLUBS. I AM NOT A MEMBER OF ANY OF THE ABOVE NAMED SOCIETIES OR CLUBS AND THEREFORE I AM NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE A MEMBER OF ANY OF THE ABOVE NAMED SOCIETIES OR CLUBS. I AM NOT A MEMBER OF ANY OF THE ABOVE NAMED SOCIETIES OR CLUBS AND THEREFORE I AM NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE A MEMBER OF ANY OF THE ABOVE NAMED SOCIETIES OR CLUBS.





### **36. School Governors**

Councillor Burgin reported that presentations had been given on operational aspects of the new centre being developed at the school but it had not been decided who would operate the facility.

The next meeting was to be held on 13th June 2005.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

### **37. West Area Forum**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that no meeting had taken place.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

### 38. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the operation was running well and a number of trips had been arranged over the summer months for the members.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

### **39. Future Development of “Pit Wheel” Area**

Councillor Wharrier highlighted the need for developing facilities on this site in view of the delay in constructing a new Resource Centre.

Members suggested that to assist the decision making process the views of residents should be taken into consideration.

**Resolved:** *That the Parish Clerk ascertain the potential costs of carrying out a door to door resident's survey.*

**40. Access Route to Welfare Park (REF: 3421)**

The Parish Clerk referred to minute 25 and distributed information provided by the Durham Land Registry on land ownership in the area and indicated that the District of Easington may finance the erection of a suitable barrier in order to prevent “fly tipping” on adjacent land.

It was also pointed out that fencing/gating the parish council's own land would effect football teams using the Welfare Park on a regular basis and restrict access to the public rights of way in the area. It would not necessarily prevent trespass to other areas. Unless other landowners followed suit or a compromise solution could be found little may be gained from the action.

Members were concerned that unless a solution was found unauthorised use of the land immediately behind the Welfare Park (not in Council ownership) would continue.

It was suggested that a gate be erected to allow access by vehicles as when required be erected along with a style for pedestrians and a barrier to prevent unauthorised access.

***Resolved: That the Parish Clerk obtains estimated costs for the provision of suitable barriers and consults the District of Easington on what they may provide.***

J. Thompson.

**41. Transfer of Land (REF: 3412)**

The Parish Clerk referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2005 (minute 319 refers) and reported that Durham County Council was not prepared to enter in to a maintenance agreement for the land.

Members stated that if New Thornley Partnership or Groundwork East Durham were prepared to pay the cost of the transfer, the parish council would be prepared to carry out the maintenance work in the long term.

***Resolved: That New Thornley Partnership and Groundwork East Durham be approached to ascertain if either or jointly would pay the costs associated with the transfer.***

**42. Planning Application (REF: 3424)**

The District of Easington advised that Primestyle Homes NE Ltd. had applied for planning permission to construct two houses at 1 & 2 Bow Street, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised***

**43. East Durham Community Transport (REF: 3434)**

East Durham Community Transport requested that the parish council to provide a letter of support in order that they could apply for funding from outside agencies.

***Resolved: That the before providing a letter of support East Durham Community Transport be asked to provide details of projects undertaken by them in Thornley.***

**44. Auditor Report of Accounts ending 31st March 2005 (REF: 3450 & 3451)**

The Parish Clerk reported that the internal audit of accounts from 1st October 2004 to 31st March 2005 had been completed by W.J. Smith. No financial irregularities were identified and the accounts were in order. The Auditor has also commented on other areas of the council's operation.<sup>1</sup>

***Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Council addresses the issues raised by the auditor where appropriate***

**45. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 3413)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 21st April 2005. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of the auditors report was distributed to members.



**46. Planning Permission (REF: 3414)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Easington Primary Care Trust to construct a disabled access at The Health Clinic 10, The Villas, Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**47. Planning Permission (REF: 3420)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. M. Magee to construct a two storey front extension at 1, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**48. Letter of Thanks (REF: 3422)**

A Letter of thanks was received from The Great North Air Ambulance for the donation made by the Parish Council

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**49. Community & Primary Care Strategy (REF: 3433)**

Easington Primary Care Trust provided a copy of their strategy document for members.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**50. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 3438)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 18th May 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.***

**51. Letter of Thanks (REF: 3443)**

A letter of thanks was received from County Durham Schools Benevolent Fund for the Parish Council's donation of £50.00

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**52. Notice of Audit of Accounts ending 31st March 2005 (REF: 3449)**

HLB AV Audit advised that the annual audit of accounts for the financial year April 2004 to March 2005 would take place on 9th September 2005 and that the accounts must be made available for examination by the public between 8th August 2005 and 5th September 2005.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and the Annual Audit return be submitted to council for approval once completed.***



**53. 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.*

**54. War Memorial Landscaping**

The Parish Clerk referred to the meeting held on 3rd May 2005 (minute 24 refers) and reported that in order to allow the names of those omitted from the role to be added and for the cenotaph to be cleaned it would be necessary to remove some of the established ornamental planting.

It was further suggested that the area immediately in front of the cenotaph be planted with summer and winter bedding plants.

***Resolved: That the ornamental shrubs and beech hedge be removed and summer & winter bedding be planted in the bed immediately in front of the cenotaph.***

**55. Liveability Fund**

The Parish Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been invited to identify "brownfield sites in the village that could/should be improved.

It was pointed out that certain areas had already been identified by other agencies working in the village.

***Resolved: That the locations of areas not already identified be reported to the National Brownfield Strategy.***

**56. Audit – Change of Name**

The Parish Clerk reported that **HLB AV Audit** had notified the Parish Council that it had changed its name to **BDO STOY HAYWOOD** with immediate effect.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
5TH JULY 2005**

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIES**

**No apologies were submitted for members not in attendance.**

**57. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councillor Middleton referred to minute 40 and reported that he had received information that suggested that travellers were to use the private land at the rear of the Community Centre during July for another of their meetings. It was therefore essential that a barrier be installed as a matter of urgency.<sup>2</sup>

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth referred to minute 43 and enquired if a response had been received from East Durham Community Transport asking it was possible for other groups to utilise the £1 Bus facility.

The Parish Clerk reported that no response had been received and that he would make further enquiries.

Having noted these observations the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th June 2005, a copy of which had been previously circulated were accepted as a true record.

**58. Public Question and Answer Session**

A petition was received by the Chairman of the Parish Council from residents of Thornley expressing their concern at the reinstatement of Yellow Parking Lines by Durham County Council on Stanley Terrace. See also minute 73 below.

The Chairman stated that the lines had been reinstated because of representations made by residents of Stanley Terrace.

Whilst sympathetic to the views being expressed by those attending members of the Parish Council stated that implementation of parking restrictions was the responsibility of Durham County Council.

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<sup>2</sup> The District of Easington agreed on 6th July 2005 to install a barrier as a matter of urgency.

\* A copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 5th July 2005, a copy of which had been previously circulated were accepted as a true record.





A project to clear the car park of broken bottles and other debris had also been undertaken.

Contact with the police via radio communication was also being maintained in order that the police could be called to incidents if required.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**62. New Thornley**

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that the Partnership was operating effectively and that to date over £5000 had been raised to erect a memorial to 2nd Lt. John Scott Youll V.C.

Volunteers had come forward to undertake a summer bedding scheme around the memorial and planning for the official unveiling were progressing.

The purchase of additional hanging baskets for erection in the village was under consideration.

Durham County Council was to hold a residents meeting in the near future in relation to a regeneration scheme to be undertaken in Thornley financed by renaissance funding.

The next edition of the newsletter was being compiled for distribution to all households in September.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**63. District Councillor**

Councillor Wharrier reported that work on the redevelopment of Thornlaw North had now commenced and that certain firms were interested in developing additional amenities in the village.

Members expressed concern at the deplorable condition of council properties in Coopers Close and asked what could be done to improve the situation.

The District of Easington was to carry out a door and window replacement program but no major works would be undertaken pending redevelopment of the area.

As soon as the remaining residents in Thornlaw South had been re-housed gas, water and other services would be disconnected and redevelopment would commence.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**64. County Councillor**

As Councillor Nicholls was not present a report was unavailable.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***





**65. Consultative Meeting**

Councillor G. Wilson gave a comprehensive report on items relating to Thornley discussed at the meeting held on 23rd June 2005.

The placement of a "bottle bank" at the rear of the Catholic Club was being considered also under consideration in an attempt to increase recycling in the village.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**66. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

The Chairman reported that the next scheduled meeting was to take place on Wednesday 6th July 2005.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**67. T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs Brunskill reported that all officials had been re-elected at the A.G.M.

The increase in "fly-tipping" in the district since Durham County Council had instigated a permit system to dispose of waste material at the local waste disposal site was a major concern.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**68. School Governors**

Councillor Burgin gave a comprehensive report on the "Sure Start" development taking place at Thornley School and indicated that operation of the new facility would be undertaken by existing administration.

It was anticipated that all work would be completed by September 2005.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**69. West Area Forum**

No meeting had taken place.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**70. Age Concern - Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the operation was running efficiently and that a number of trips for members were being planned.

Councillor Wilson also explained that as a result of new licensing arrangements it would be necessary for Age Concern to obtain a Public Entertainment Licence immediately if it was to continue to operate from Youll House. A "New Premises Licence" would also be required as from August 2005.

To successfully apply for both of these licences an electrical survey had been commissioned but plans of the building would also need to be drawn.

***Resolved: That the Parish Council commissions the drawing of plans of Youll House necessary to apply for the required licences.***





**71. Annual Audit of Accounts Ending 31st March 2005**

The Parish Clerk reported that the external auditor (**BDO STOY HAYWOOD**) had advised that the annual audit of the 2004/2005 accounts would take place on 9th September 2005.

The accounts had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Account & Audit Regulations 1996.

Members were asked to approve Section 1 and Section 2 of the Annual Audit Return permission for the Chairman to sign it on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Parish Clerk also advised that arrangements were in hand to inform residents of their rights to inspect the accounts etc., in accordance with the statutory regulations, from 8th August 2005 until 5th September 2005.

***Resolved: That the statement of accounts and statement of assurance be accepted along with answers required in section 2, and that the statement be signed by the Chairman on behalf of Thornley Parish Council.***

**72. Request for Donation (REF: 3489)**

Age Concern - Youll House requested a donation to help finance a number of trips in the summer period for its members.

***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 £300.00***

**73. Yellow Lines Stanley Terrace (Ref: 3492)**

Letters of concern and a petition from residents concerning the reinstatement of the yellow parking restriction lines on Stanley Terrace were considered. See minute 58 above.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**74. Planning Permission (REF: 3495)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. D. Hardy to construct a front and rear extensions at 40, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**75. Sexton's Report**

The Sexton reported that since his last report on the January 2005 there had been: -

14 internments

19 plots purchased

5 headstones erected or inscriptions added.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

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**76. John Scott Youll Memorial**

Parish Clerk reported that the memorial had now been commissioned and planning for the official unveiling was underway.

In order that the names of those missing from the role of honour could be added, the ornamental planting and beech hedge had been removed and summer bedding was in place.

Landscaping and block paving was also being planned.

It was suggested that floodlighting should also be considered.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and estimates for floodlighting be obtained.***

**77. 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.***

**78. 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.*

**79. Request to Remove Trees (REF: 3498)**

Mrs. D. Harrison requested the Parish Council to remove (at her expense) a number of trees near the perimeter of a building which it was proposed would be built adjacent to the fish shop in Hartlepool Street, Thornley. This would leave an 8 metre gap between her property and the tree line.

***Resolved: That the trees be removed by the Parish Council at Mrs. Harrison's expense once it was established that she was the owner of the land on which she proposed to build.***

**80. Quality Town & Parish Council Charter (REF: 3501)**

The Parish Council was invited to attend a meeting to be held at the Council Offices, Easington to participate in the development of the charter.

***Resolved: That the invitation be received.***

**81. R.o.S.P.A. Annual Playground Inspection Report (REF: 3503)**

The annual inspection report of children's play areas operated by the Parish Council was provided by R.o.S.P.A. Although a number of low or medium risk areas were highlighted no high risk items were identified.

The Parish Clerk suggested that in view of the deteriorating condition of the safety surface in the Bow Street play area it may be more cost effective in the long term if it were replaced.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and estimates for the replacement of the safety surface in the Bow Street play area be obtained.***

**82. Library Play Area**

The Parish Clerk referred to the meeting of the Parish Council held on 1st February 2005 (minute 227 refers) and reported that playground equipment suppliers had advised against replacing the timber equipment destroyed by vandalism on the site because of the inherent problems. In addition it would not be possible to replace the damaged timber equipment, even with metal units because the latest health and safety regulations would not permit it. This was due, in the main, to operational heights.

Rather than have two different types of equipment (timber & metal) in the same play area and taking into account the views of members on the general appearance of this site it was proposed that all remaining equipment be removed and replaced with more modern steel items that complied with current health and safety requirements.

In addition the ornamental planting and hedges be removed to create a more open aspect to the site as part of an overall redevelopment plan.

***Resolved: That estimates be obtained for replacing the timber play equipment with metal units that conform to current health and safety legislation.***

**83. Planning Application (REF: 3505)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. Morris had applied for planning permission to construct a lounge extension & porch at 5, Gorehill Estate, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised***

**84. Request for Support of Application**

New Thornley Partnership requested the Parish Council to support their application to the Coalfield Regeneration Trust for funding the post of Administration assistant.

***Resolved: That a letter of support be provided.***

**85. Christmas Tree**

The Parish Clerk referred to the Parish Council meeting held on 1st February 2005 (minute 226 refers) and reported that the estimated cost of providing a living Christmas Tree for planting in the village green would be £280 excluding delivery and planting charges.

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If purchased however it would need at least one year to establish itself before it could be festooned with Christmas lighting.

***Resolved: That a living Christmas tree be purchased and an electricity supply be provided if necessary.***

**86. Summer Recess**

The Parish Clerk reminded members that it was customary at this time of year to have a short summer recess.

***Resolved: That the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held in Youll House, The Villas, Thornley on Tuesday 6th September 2005 at 7:00 p.m.***



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
6TH SEPTEMBER 2005**

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIES**

**Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>M. Burgin</i>	<i>Domestic Business</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>M. Nicholls</i>	<i>Away on Business</i>	<i>Approved</i>

**87. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th July 2005, a copy of which had been previously circulated were accepted as a true record.

**88. Public Question and Answer Session**

A resident raised his concern at the lack of action taken by the District of Easington, the Police and the Street Wardens in dealing with the "travellers" that had recently camped in the vicinity of his home in Hartlepool Street. Damage had been caused to his car and a great deal of rubbish had been left around the site.

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council was also deeply concerned at the state of affairs and had in fact raised the issue with the District Council prior to the "event" taking place. As the land on which the travellers were camped was not in Parish Council ownership it could do nothing to prevent the event taking place.

A resident asked if there had been any progress in relation to the construction of parking areas in the vicinity of 31-33 Morris Crescent.

Councillor Wharrier reported that he had raised the issue and had been informed that no finance was available to carry out the scheme.

**Resolved: That the Parish Council endeavours to arrange a meeting with the Chief Executive of the District of Easington and the Travellers Liaison Officer of Durham County Council.**

**89. Police Report**

The Community Policeman reported that that in the previous month the police had dealt with 65 incidents in Thornley including:-

\*\*\*

*J. Wharrier*



Members expressed concern that 7, Asquith Street Thornley (in private ownership) was in a deplorable condition and that a refuse skip outside 20, Hartlepool Street was becoming a health hazard.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and the District of Easington be asked to investigate the problems.***

**93. County Councillor**

The Parish Clerk reported that Councillor Nichols had asked that in addition to those items raised by Councillor Wharrier, the Parish Clerk determine where in the village traffic calming measure be introduced using the current budget of £2,000

***Resolved: That Durham County Council be advised to concentrate traffic calming measures in the Gore Lane area of the village.***

**94. Community Association**

No representative

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**95. Consultative Meeting**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that no meeting had been held.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**96. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

Councillor Unsworth reported that no meeting had been held.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**97. T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that there had been insufficient members to form a quorum. She pointed out that graffiti, reported at an earlier meeting had now been removed.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**98. School Governors**

Because Councillor Burgin was not present no report was available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**99. West Area Forum**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the meeting was to take place the following evening.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**100. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that a number of trips arranged for the elderly had been very successful and had been enjoyed by all. Arrangements were in hand for the forthcoming Christmas festivities.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

## 101. Capital Works Program Report

A report of the Parish Clerk was considered.

***Resolved: That the program as detailed in the report be agreed.***

**102. Replacement of Kubota Grasscutting Machine**

A report on the replacement of the grasscutting machine was considered.

***Resolved: That a decision be deferred until comparable costs of Lease Purchase and Operators Licences were provided.***

### **103. New Thornley Partnership - Request for Administrative Support**

***Councillors 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.***

The New Thornley Partnership advised that existing funding, obtained in 2003 to finance the post of Administrator would expire on 31st November 2005. Although they had applied to a number of agencies for funding to allow the position to continue in the future it would be some months before applications were determined.

In order that the Partnership could continue to function they requested the Parish Council to provide 16 hours per week administrative support to the group from December 2005 until such time as a decision was made.

Members were reminded that a similar request was approved in February 2002.<sup>4</sup>

***Resolved: That the services of the Parish Clerk be provided to New Thornley Partnership for a period of four months and the Parish Clerk be paid for the additional hours.***

#### 104. Review of Cemetery Charges

The Parish Clerk reminded members that the charges for burials and other services in Thornley Cemetery were last increased at the meeting held on 3rd September 2002<sup>5</sup> and that they should be reviewed.

***Resolved: That the cemetery fees and charges be increased by 50% as from 1st April 2006.***

<sup>4</sup> Meeting held on 5th February minute 160 refers

**<sup>5</sup> Minute 110 refers.**



**105. Hire of Welfare Park**

The three teams from Thornley Officials Club requested the hire of the Welfare Park Football pitch and changing facilities for all home matches for the forthcoming season.

***Resolved: That the hire be approved at a cost of £150.00 per team.***

**106. Security Fence – Coopers Close Allotments**

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

Pursuant to the meeting held on 1st March 2005 (minute 284 refers) it was reported that the Coopers Close Allotments Association was currently preparing funding applications to enable appropriate fencing to be erected on the site and to construct a "School Garden".

Groundwork East Durham and the Primary Care Trust were each expected to contribute £3,000 and New Thornley Partnership was to be asked provide a similar amount of finance.

***Resolved: That the Parish Council fund the project to the value of £3,000 and agree in principal to fund any shortfall in the total funding should this be necessary.***

**107. East Durham Community Transport (REF: 3559)**

Pursuant to the minute 43 of the meeting held on 7th June 2005, East Durham Community Network provided details of projects with which they had been involved and requested a letter of support from the Parish Council to aid their initiative in obtaining funding from outside agencies.

***Resolved: That East Durham Community Transport be requested to provide details of specific projects they intended carrying out in Thornley.***

**108. Parking Restrictions – Stanley Terrace (REF: 3560 & 3575)**

Pursuant to the meeting held on 5th July 2005 (minute 58 refers), responses were received from both Durham County Council and Durham Constabulary regarding the reinstatement of the Yellow Parking Restriction lines on Stanley Terrace.

***Resolved: That copies of the letters be provided to the author of the petition.***

**109. Youll House Fencing Repairs (REF: 3541)**

The Parish Clerk reported that the estimated cost of repairing damage caused by vandals to the security fence at the rear of Youll House was £222.00.

***Resolved: That the work be undertaken.***

**110. Administration Fees – E.A.P. & T.C. (REF: 3552)**

Easington Association of Parish & Town Councils advised that the cost of administering the group as increased over the last 12 months.



**116. Request to Purchase Land (REF: 3594)**

Members were asked to recall that a Mrs. Harrison had requested the Parish Council to remove a number of trees adjacent to a section of land she had purchased some years ago on which she planned to build a new house.<sup>8</sup>

Investigations now revealed that Mrs. Harrison did not have sufficient land to allow the construction to proceed and she therefore requested the Parish Council to consider selling another 16 feet of land.

The Parish Clerk reported that should the Parish Council accede to Mrs. Harrison's request it would be necessary to instruct the District Valuer to determine a current land value. Fees to carry out the survey would be a minimum of £200.

***Resolved: That Parish Council agrees to sell an additional 16 feet of land to Mrs Harrison subject to compliance with all requirements. In addition Mrs Harrison be required to pay a £200 deposit which will be refunded if the sale is completed.***

**117. Sustainable Communities Bill (REF: 3595)**

Local Works requested the Parish Council to support the bill which it was endeavouring to put before Parliament.

**Resolved: That the information be received**

**118. Planning Application (REF: 3524)**

The District of Easington advised that Primestyle Homes NE Ltd had applied for planning permission to construct 2 houses at 1 & 2 Bow Street, Thornley.

Any objections should be forwarded to the district council

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**119. Planning Application (REF: 3525)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr & Mrs Gott had applied for planning permission to construct a dormer bungalow adjacent to Garden Lodge, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**120. Planning Application (REF: 3551)**

The District of Easington advised that Mrs. O'Brian had applied for planning permission to construct a rear extension at 7, Garden Terrace, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

<sup>8</sup> Meeting held on 5th July 2005 minute 79 refers.

J. Thompson.

**121. Planning Application – Resubmission (REF: 3567)**

The District of Easington advised that Primestyle Homes NE Ltd had applied for planning permission to construct 2 houses at 1 & 2 Bow Street, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**122. Planning Application – Resubmission (REF: 3569)**

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.***

**123. Planning Application (REF: 3582)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. J. Million had applied for planning permission to construct an 11.4m radio mast (retrospective) at 5, Passfield Square, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**124. Planning Application (REF: 3591)**

The District of Easington advised that Mrs M. Hartley had applied for planning permission to construct a two storey side extension & private garage at 1, St. Bede Street, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**125. Planning Application (REF: 3605)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr & Mrs Clarke had applied for planning permission to construct a two storey rear extension at 92, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**126. Planning Permission (REF: 3610)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. S. Pattison to construct a kitchen extension at 88, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**127. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 3589)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 29th July 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.***



**128. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 3516)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 28th June 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.***

**129. Refusal of Planning Permission (REF: 3568)**

The District of Easington has advised Mr. & Mrs Morris had been refused planning permission to construct a lounge extension & porch at 5, Gorehill Estate, Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**130. West Area Forum (REF: 3589)**

The District of Easington advised that the forum would take place in Wheatley house, Woodlands Avenue, Wheatley Hill on 7th September 2005 commencing 6:00p.m.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**131. Planning Permission (REF: 3585)**

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

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**132. Planning Permission (REF: 3600)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mrs. O'Brian to construct a rear extension at 7, Garden Terrace, Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**133. Planning Permission (REF: 3601)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Primestyle Homes NE Ltd to construct 2 no. houses (resubmission) at 1 & 2 Bow Street, Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**134. Planning Permission (REF: 3606)**

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

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***



### **135. 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.***

### **136. 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.*

### **137. Planning Permission (REF: 3620)**

The District of Easington has advised that planning permission has been granted to Mr & Mrs Gott to construct a dormer bungalow at adjacent to Garden Lodge, Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

### **138. Tethering of Horses**

Mr. S. Thomas 38, Laurel Crescent, Thornley made a verbal application to tether horses on land owned by the Parish Council and had produced a copy of his liability insurance documentation.

***Resolved: That permission be granted to Mr. Thomas to tether horses on Parish Council land for a period of twelve months.***

### **139. Anniversary Celebrations**

County Durham Foundation provided details of a forthcoming event to celebrate the 10th anniversary.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

### **140. Memorial Bench Thornley Cemetery**

Councillor Smith made a request to be allowed to install a bench in memorial in Thornley Cemetery.

The Parish Clerk reminded members that a similar request had been considered some years ago and that it had been decided that to maintain standards the Parish Council would provide a suitable hardwood bench and install it in the cemetery at the expense of the applicant.

The alternative solution being that the applicant sourced a hardwood bench. If it met the specifications required by the Parish Council it could then be purchased by the applicant and installed it in the cemetery by council staff at a previously agreed fee payable by the applicant.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Meeting held on 1st October 2002 minute 160 refers & 1st April 2003 minute 306 refers.



**Resolved: That subject to type approval by the Parish Council permission be granted to Mr. Smith to install a hardwood bench in the Cemetery. The installation to be arranged by the Parish Council and the costs and all other liabilities the responsibility of Mr. Smith.**

**141. Primary Health Care (REF: 3623)**

Easington Primary Health Care Trust has provided a copy of their business plan 2005/2008 for information<sup>10</sup>

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**142. Financial Risk Assessment**

Members considered a Financial Risk Assessment produced in accordance with Council Standing Orders.

**Resolved: That the Financial Risk Assessment be approved.**

**143. Provision of Hanging Baskets**

Councillor Middleton suggested that the Parish Council purchase hanging baskets for erection on an appropriate number of lamp posts etc on Dunelm Road, Thornley from Summer of 2006.

**Resolved: That the sufficient hanging baskets be purchased for the purpose outlined.**

**144. 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.*

**145. Personnel Report**

The report of the Parish Clerk was considered.

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

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<sup>10</sup> This is available to members should they wish to review it.



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*J. Howard*





#### 148. **Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Dave Thompson to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the following incidents add been dealt with in Thornley:-

Anti Social Behaviour	12
Criminal Damage	16
Vehicle Nuisance	7
Drug related incidents	2

In July a number of incidents had been reported taking place around the library and as a result it had been proposed that the area be fenced to prevent access to the site.

Members again expressed concern that incidents being reported to the police were not being attended too and Councillor Ollett provided details of specific instances.

Inspector Harrison (also in attendance) observed that whilst police action was taken on a prioritised basis all cases were followed up. If this was not being done he would investigate and provide feedback.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

#### 149. **Street Wardens Report**

The Street Wardens advised that they had only just received notification of the meeting and were therefore not able to provide a report.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

#### 150. **New Thornley**

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that arrangements for the unveiling of the John Scott Youll Memorial on 30th October 2005 were underway. Approximately 225 guests had accepted invitations to attend.

The P.I.T. (Pride in Thornley) project was underway and in collaboration with the Parish Council the Partnership was prepared to fund up to £5,000 for the purchase of additional hanging baskets for erection in the village.

Details of the Renaissance program were discussed and it was anticipated that a resident's consultation event would be arranged by Durham County Council in the near future.

A new sculpture, designed by the young people of Thornley has now been positioned on the village Green. This has unfortunately been the target of vandals and graffiti has been drawn on it. The partnership requests that the Parish Council arranges for the District of Easington "Graffiti Removal Team" to clean the sculpture and for the police to take appropriate action to prevent a further occurrences.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Council arranges removal of the graffiti.***

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**151. District Councillor**

Councillor Wharrier explained that demolition of houses in Thornlaw South had been delayed because asbestos had been found in the properties. A revised plan for demolition agreed and work would recommence in the near future.

Construction of new houses on the Thornlaw North estate was progressing and no problems were being encountered.

Three Rivers Housing had also commenced with the construction of 9 assorted properties at the rear of Hartlepool Street.

The estate section of the district council had been asked to investigate the digging of a ditch by a farmer in the Coopers Close area, the depth of which was considered to be hazardous to children. They were also concerned that the Northumbria Water Board drainage outlet was causing concern.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**152. County Councillor**

Although Councillor Nichols was not present he asked that the Parish Clerk advise members that currently there were no issues concerning Thornley being discussed by the County Council.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**153. Community Association**

Councillor Wharrier reported that the District of Easington had produced a report that suggested that £240,000 was required to refurbish Thornley Community Centre and bring it up to modern standards. He also provided details of similar amount needed for each of the other centres in the district. As the total annual budget set aside by the district council for the upkeep of all centres was £28,000 there was a significant shortfall.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**154. Consultative Meeting**

As Councillor G. Wilson had been on holiday at the time of the last meeting no report was available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**155. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

The Chairman gave his apologies for not being able to attend the last meeting of the association.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**156. T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that only four members had attended the last meeting.



In addition, officers of the district council reported that because all the agenda items and minutes had been accidentally erased from a laptop computer it had not been possible to hold the meeting.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**157. School Governors**

Councillor Burgin reported that although no meeting had been held he was able to report that the Sure Start Initiative planned to operate from the school in September had still not commenced.

Interviews for the new head of school would be taking place in the near future.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**158. West Area Forum**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that he had raised the issue of unauthorised "horse fairs" and the alteration to road signs relating to Thornley.

The provision of hard standing for cars in the vicinity of 31-35 Shinwell Crescent had also been discussed.

Officers of the district council had since visited Thornley to investigate these issues and indications were that the horse fairs would cease and the hard standing would be constructed.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**159. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that a number of Christmas Parties were now being arranged for the elderly.

Finance was always a concern and a 5year plan to raise funding was now being devised.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**160. The Darzi Report – Stakeholder Meeting (REF: 3641)**

The District of Easington invited representatives of the Parish Council to attend the event at the Glebe Centre, Murton on Monday 17th October 2005 commencing 9:00 am to discuss the report.

**Resolved: That the invitation be received.**

**161. Request for Donation (REF: 3651)**

Trees Please has requested a donation in aid of two campaigns that will benefit cancer sufferers and the physically disabled.

**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.**

**162. Annual Audit of Accounts to 31st March 2005 (REF: 3656)**

The Parish Clerk gave details of BDO Stoy Hayward LLP (auditors) request that amendments be made to the Annual Return Form to reflect the date of acceptance of the financial balances and other issues and that additional information be provided to enable the audit to be completed.

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

**163. Planning Permission (REF: 3442)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. S. Pattison to construct a proposed kitchen extension at 88, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**164. County Durham Waste Plan (REF: 3626)**

Durham County Council provided a copy of the Waste Plan which was adopted in April 2005.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**165. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 3629)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 18th September 2005. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

It was reported that there was growing concern at the amount of vandalism and anti social behaviour taking place in and around the Gore Hill play area.

In addition some residents required the play equipment should be removed but members were cognisant of the fact that others had in fact raised funds to have the playground refurbished. It would therefore be inadvisable to consider its removal without careful consideration of all resident's views.

The general opinion of members was that more should be done by the police and other agencies to clamp down on the anti social behaviour rather than remove community facilities which were provided for residents.

***Resolved: That Councillor Mrs. Brunskill raises concerns at the next A.S.B.O. meeting and that the other information be noted.***

**166. 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.***



## **167. 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.*

## **168. Annual Budget and Precept**

The Parish Clerk referred to a budget estimate report produced in line with council's planned spending for 2006/2007 and informed members that if the Parish Precept was increased by 4% i.e. to £97,000 a balance of approximately £3,123 would result.

***Resolved: That the Parish Precept be increased to £97,000 for 2006/2007 and the District of Easington be advised accordingly.***

## **169. Easington Cancer Information & Support Unit**

Easington Primary Care Unit invited representatives of the Parish Council to attend a consultation event on cancer information and support services at Shotton Hall on Tuesday 11 October 2005 at 10:00am

***Resolved: That the invitation be received.***

## **170. Wall vs. Thornley Parish Council**

ASB Law advised that it had been appointed by Cornhill Insurance (the council's insurer) to represent them in court proceeding in the case Wall v Thornley Parish Council. This case was in respect of damages resulting in an alleged accident in the Library playground on 8th September 2001.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

## **171. Training**

County Durham & Cleveland provide details of a training event for members entitled "Code of Conduct for Members" to take place at County Hall Durham on Saturday 15th October 2005 at 9:30am.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

## **172. Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils**

The association provided notification of the Annual General Meeting at County Hall Durham on 26th November 2005 and requested nominations for the officer's positions.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

## **173. Parish Paths**

The Parish Clerk referred to the meeting of the Parish Council held on 1st February 2005 and reported on a meeting earlier in the day with officers from Durham County Council in connection with the reinstatement of a footpath across the former pit site.

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Members were asked to recall that this was a priority scheme on the 5 year capital program.

On inspecting the site, officers of the County Council were of the opinion that the condition of the existing "desire line" was to some extent in better condition than many of the designated pathways and bridleways in the district and was not in need of any major restoration at this time.

Members were also reminded of an earlier decision<sup>13</sup> to await the results of a resident's survey on future schemes to be funded by the parish council.

***Resolved: That no action be taken at this time to reinstate the footpaths on the former pit site pending the results of a resident's survey.***

**174. Illumination of the War Memorial**

Pursuant to the Parish Council meeting held on 5th July 2005 (minute 76 refers) the Parish Clerk reported that a demonstration of the proposed lighting of the war memorial had been arranged to take place on Wednesday 5th October 2005 at 8:00pm.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**175. Request for Donation**

***Councillors Mrs. M. Brunskill, J. Ollett, W. Middleton and I. Worthington declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.***

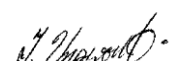
Thornley Youth Musical Group requested a donation to enable participating members (many from the village) to attend a pantomime performance being held at the Forum Billingham in January 2006.

This would give the group invaluable insight into live theatre and the production process.

***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 £150.00.***

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<sup>13</sup> Meeting held on 7th June 2005 minute 39 refers.



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*J. Howard*



**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
THORNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE  
ON  
21ST OCTOBER 2005**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. M. Brunskill, W. Middleton, J. Ollett, T. Smith, Mrs. J. Unsworth.**

**APOLOGIES**

**Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>G. Wharrier</i>	<i>Away on Business</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>G. Wilson</i>	<i>Away on Business</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>I. Worthington</i>	<i>Away on Business</i>	<i>Approved</i>

**176. Unveiling Ceremony of the John Scott Youll Memorial**

The Parish Clerk explained that because new guidelines governing parades on public roads in County Durham it would be necessary for the council to appoint a named individual to act as organiser for the event.

In addition, the route of the planned parade be amended and shortened in the interest of safety for all participants.

**Resolved: That Mrs. Joyce Unsworth by appointed as organiser of the event and the route be amended in the interest of participants.**



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*J. Howard*

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
1ST NOVEMBER 2005**

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIES**

**Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>M. Nicholls</i>	<i>Away on Business</i>	<i>Approved</i>

**177. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councillor Ollett referred to minute 148 and reported that after checking Inspector Harrison had confirmed that the incidents referred too had been attended to by the Street Wardens.

Having noted this amendment the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th October 2005, a copy of which had been previously circulated, were accepted as a true record.

**178. Minute of the Extraordinary Meeting**

The minute of the extraordinary meeting held on the 21st October 2005 were accepted as a true record.

**179. Public Question and Answer Session**

Messer's Fred Bromilow and Owen Rowland expressed their gratitude for the assistance given by the Parish Council and its clerk at the unveiling ceremony of the John Scott Youll memorial.

A resident enquired what arrangements were being made for the annual Remembrance Day Service in November 2005.

The Chairman stated that wreaths had been purchased for the ceremony but there was some difficulty in arranging for a member of the clergy to carry out a service. At present the wreaths would be laid on the war memorial at 2:00pm on Sunday 13th November 2005.

Councillor Middleton volunteered to contact Mrs. Brenda Seed who had performed the service in previous years.

A resident voice his concern at the increased vandalism in the village in recent weeks and gave instances of anti social behaviour and those involving motor vehicles mounting the pavement to avoid traffic calming measures on Hartlepool Street.



The Chairman acknowledged his concerns and explained that the types of incident referred to were discussed at every meeting of the council. It was not possible however for the parish council to take any direct action and relied on the Police and Street Wardens.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and Durham County Council be requested to install a sufficient number of bollards to prevent motor vehicles driving onto the pavement at the chicanes on Hartlepool Street.***

**180. Police Report**

The chairman welcomed P.C. David Thompson to the meeting who referred to the previous item and agreed that there had been reports of increased vandalism in the Gore Hill and Eastlee areas of village in recent weeks. These were being investigated along with other issues.

The statistics for Thornley over the previous month were;

Burglary	1
Criminal Damage	8
Theft of Motor Vehicles	8
Alcohol Related	2
Nuisance Related	13
Theft from property	4

Overall criminal damage had reduced by 50% over the previous month.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**181. Street Wardens Report**

The Street Wardens reported that in the previous month they had attended 17 incidents mostly anti social behaviour.

Motor cycle incidents had reduced due to some extent to the involvement of the police.

There had been 1 call relating to flytipping and 1 of criminal damage.

Patrols were ongoing and the junior warden's scheme was now operational.

Members expressed thanks for the action taken in relation to a void property in Asquith Street.

In response to reports that the wardens do not effectively investigate calls, the wardens stated that if they consider that there is a risk to themselves when attending an incident they would not normally approach the individuals concerned before requesting support from the police. They had no powers of arrest and they could be placed in danger.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**182. New Thornley**

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth gave a report on the recent unveiling of the John Scott Youll memorial.

It was hoped that a photographic record of the event could be compiled for future generations.

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Although there had been one or two incidents of vandalism the event had been a great success.

A residents "open day" had been undertaken by Durham County Council in relation to the Renaissance Funding Program and observations given were being incorporated into the proposed designs.

It was suggested that the Parish Council request Durham County Council erect a street lamp in the region of the new sculpture on the village green in an attempt to prevent vandalism.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and that Durham County Council be requested to erect a street light in the region of the sculpture on the village green.***

**183. District Councillor**

Councillor Wharrier reported that there had been further delays in the redevelopment of houses in the Thornlaw North and Thornlaw South areas. It was hoped that these could be overcome quickly and work could commence.

The Health & Safety Executive were to carry out further investigations in relation to a ditch which had been constructed in the Coopers Close area.

Councillor Wilson highlighted the danger posed to the elderly by the large amount of fallen leaves left on the paths in Stanley Terrace.

Councillor Wharrier referred to a report in his possession from the District of Easington which highlighted the potential costs of renovating Thornley Community Centre.

Councillors Mrs. Unsworth and Mrs. Brunskill highlighted the unsightly nature caused by allowing amusement vehicles to park on the grassed areas in the village.

***Resolved: That the information be noted the Chief Executive at the District of Easington be requested to investigate the removal of amusement vehicles from the grassed areas.***

**184. County Councillor**

Councillor Nichols requested that the Parish Clerk report on his behalf that operators were to withdraw the 25a bus service on 5th November 2005. The County Council were trying to establish what measures could be taken to prevent any further decline in transport service but this may take some time to resolve.

In relation to the proposed conservation area between Thornley and Wheatley Hill, funding was being sought to plant a number trees and shrubs to create a wildlife habitat.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**185. Community Association**

No report was available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***



### 186. Consultative Meeting

Councillor George Wilson reported that he had been unable to attend as he had been away on other business.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**187. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

The Chairman apologised for not being able to attend the last meeting of the association.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

188. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill that no meeting had taken place.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

### 189. School Governors

In the absence of Councillor Burgin no report was available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**190. West Area Forum**

Councillor George Wilson reported that no meeting had taken place but he was still awaiting a response from the District of Easington in relation to matters raised previously.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**191. Youll House**

Councillor George Wilson reported that no meeting had taken place.

## 192. Illumination of the War Memorial

The Parish Clerk reported that following the demonstration of the proposed lighting Durham County Council had obtained a quotation of £3645.69 + VAT from a supplier on their tender list.

In order that the works may be implemented in time for the unveiling of the John Scott Youll Memorial by the Lord Lieutenant of Durham on 30th October 2005 the Chairman had been consulted and instructions issued.

***Resolved: That the action of the Parish Clerk be endorsed and Standing Order 37 (a) be waived on this occasion.***

### 193. Replacement of Kubota Grasscutting Machine

Pursuant to the meeting held on 6th September 2005 (minute 102 refers) it was reported that the annual cost of obtaining a "5 year operators licence" for a replacement grasscutting machine would be approximately £4,922. The cost of a "5 year lease agreement" would be approximately £5,900.

Members were informed that if the machine was purchased it would be possible to undertake the majority of the Welfare Park maintenance “in house” and thereby save approximately £6.000per annum.

J. Thompson.

**Resolved: That a replacement machine be obtained utilising a 5 year operator's licence.**

**194. Office Accommodation**

East Durham Homes advised that New Thornley Partnership no longer had an interest in acquiring 29, Greenwood Cottages, Thornley for use as office accommodation. It had therefore been returned to the lettings list for occupancy by other residents.

The Parish Clerk referred to the meeting held on 5th April 2005 (minute 333 refers) and suggested that the Parish Council may now wish to apply for a lease on the premises.

**Resolved: That the Parish Council not lease the premises at this time.**

**195. Proposed Change of Use of Unmade Road to Domestic Curtilage & Erection of 1.8 high fence (REF: 3671)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. C. Stevenson had applied for change of use of unmade road to domestic curtilage & erection of 1.8m high fence at Dalton House, Percy Street, Thornley.

**Resolved: That no objections should be forwarded to the district council**

**196. Local Charter Meeting (REF: 3674)**

The District of Easington advised that the next Town & Parish Council meeting to discuss Quality Parish Council's would take place on Friday 14th October 2005 commencing at 10:00am

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**197. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 3675)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 19th September 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.**

**198. Refusal of Retrospective Planning Permission (REF: 3676)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been refused to Mr. J. Million to construct an 11.4m mast (retrospective) at 5, Passfield Square, Thornley.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**199. Primary Care Trust (REF: 3677)**

Easington Primary Care Trust provided a copy of their annual report for members.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**



**200. Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption In Designated Public Places) Regulation 2001 (REF: 3678)**

Durham City Council advised that it was to seek an order banning the consumption of alcohol in all public places in Sherburn Hill and Ludworth.

***Resolved: That no objection be raised and that information be obtained from the District of Easington on placing a similar order Thornley.***

**201. 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.***

**202. 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.*

**203. Request for Donation**

***Councillors Mrs. M. Brunskill, J. Ollett, W. Middleton and I. Worthington, declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.***

The Learning Library requested a donation from the Parish Council to enable it continue providing the loan of specialist toys and equipment to those with special needs in Thornley and throughout County Durham

***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.***

**204. Chairman's Civic Service**

The Chairman of the District of Easington invited representatives from the Parish Council to her Civic Service at The Holy Trinity Church, Murton on Thursday 8th December 2005 at 6:30 pm.

***Resolved: That the invitation be received.***

**205. Letter of Thanks**

A letter of thanks was received from Thornley Youth Musical Group for the Parish Councils donation.

***Resolved: That the letter be received.***





## 206. Residents Survey.

The Parish Clerk reported that pursuant to the meeting held on 7th June 2005<sup>14</sup> a firm specialising in market research had provided a quotation of between £4,800.00 and £10,600.00 depending on the methods to be employed to undertake the of survey.

Members considered this expenditure would place too great a burden on financial resources currently available.

Councillor Middleton suggested alternative methods could be employed to enable the parish council to obtain the residents views and agreed to consult the Restorative Justice Team.

***Resolved: To await a response from the Restorative Justice Team before proceeding.***

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<sup>14</sup> Minute 39 refers



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*J. Howard*

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
6TH DECEMBER 2005**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair), M. Burgin, Mrs. M. Brunskill, W. Middleton, J. Ollett, 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>I. Worthington</i>	<i>Personal</i>	<i>Approved</i>

**207. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill referred to minute 188 and reported that although a meeting had taken place she had been unable to attend.

Having noted this amendment the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st November 2005, a copy of which had been previously circulated, were accepted as a true record.

**208. Public Question and Answer Session**

A resident asked why there had been such a high police presence in the Gore Hill Estate in recent weeks.

The police were not present at the meeting to provide an answer.

Members expressed the opinion that there had been a higher number of reported incidents than was normal and suggested that the police presence was in response.

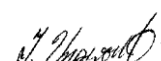
A resident expressed concern at a rumour in the village that the Gore Hill Play Area was to be removed and relocated elsewhere in the village.

Members explained that it had been requested by another resident living on the Gore Hill Estate due to the constant vandalism and anti social behaviour.

The Parish Council had not considered this as an option and would not make any decision before carrying a full consultation with residents.

A resident explained that St. Bartholomew's Church was to be demolished in 2007 and that as a result the stained glass windows would be lost forever.

He asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to support a resident's action group if one could be organised.



***Resolved: That the police be asked to provide a report for members and residents; the information be noted and that the Parish Council support residents in their attempt to organise an action group to save the stained glass windows in St. Bartholomew's Church.***

**209. Police Report**

As the police were not present no report was available.

***Resolved: That the police be asked why they were not attending meetings on a regular basis.***

**210. Street Wardens Report**

As the Street Wardens were not present no report was available.

***Resolved: That the district of Easington be asked why they were not attending meetings on a regular basis or providing up-to-date reports.***

**211. New Thornley**

Councillor Mrs Unsworth reported that the next edition of their newsletter was to be printed and distributed to every household in Thornley before Christmas. Floral arrangements installed near the sculpture on the village green had been vandalised on a number of occasions and that as a result they had been relocated near the War Memorial.

Because of personal commitments it had not been possible of the partnership to arrange any function to coincide with the switching on of the village Christmas Tree lights this year.

Applications for funding the security fence and the school garden on Coopers Close allotment site was progressing. It was anticipated that the project could be implemented before 31st March 2006.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**212. District Councillor**

Councillor Wharrier reported that the deadline for the demolition of houses on Thornlaw South had passed and no commencement date had been agreed with the builders.

Most of the houses on Thornlaw North had now been demolished and new homes were being constructed.

The banning of the consumption of alcohol in public places in Easington had been raised in a number of forums. In order for such an order to be placed in Thornley it would be necessary for all residents to be consulted. The district council were asked to support this initiative and take steps to undertake a survey.

A meeting had been held earlier in the day with Showmen of the village concerning the parking of vehicles on the amenity areas. The outcome of the meeting was unavailable.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and that the Parish Council endeavours to obtain residents view by way of a survey distributed through the New Thornley Partnership Newsletter.***

**213. County Councillor**

Councillor Nichols was not in attendance to present a report.

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth asked if Durham County Council could be asked to provide an update on the implementation of traffic calming measures in the village as no schemes had been carried out in recent years.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and Durham County Council be asked to provide a response on traffic calming measures.***

**214. Community Association**

Councillor Ollett reported that a recent structural survey report produced by the district of Easington was "confidential" and therefore its content could not be discussed.

A number of Christmas Parties for "under 11's" were being organised.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**215. Consultative Meeting**

As Councillor Wilson was not present no report was available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**216. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

The chairman reported that he had been unable to attend the last meeting of the Association.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**217. T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that she had attended the last meeting but there was nothing specific to report in relation to Thornley.

An industrial type vacuum cleaner had been purchased to remove litter and fallen leaves around the district.

In future all requests for the removal of graffiti will now be dealt with by Envirocall and not the Street Wardens.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**218. School Governors**

Councillor Burgin reported that because of limited finance the Sure Start" initiative in the school had been postponed, possibly until April 2006.

The nursery within the school was proving to be in great demand.

An event involving children to combat school bullying had taken place. It had not only been informative but entertaining.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***



**219. West Area Forum**

Councillor Wharrier reported that the forum had taken place in Youll House but attendance had been very poor. There had been no items discussed relating to Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**220. Youll House**

As Councillor Wilson was not present at the meeting no report was available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**221. Planning Application (REF: 3730)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. J. Truby had applied for planning permission to construct a sun room extension at "The Willows", Gore Lane, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**222. Planning Application (REF: 3736)**

The District of Easington advised that K. Harrison had applied for planning permission to construct a private garage at 13, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**223. Local Council Charters (REF: 3739)**

The District of Easington provided minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2005 and has asked if the Parish Council was interested in a Local Charter for Easington.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**224. Thornley Cemetery (REF: 3748)**

A request was received from J. Sanderson to be allowed to pave the area of a grave.

The Parish Clerk informed members that the current Cemetery Regulation prohibited the installation of curb stones around the graves but made no reference to paving.

Members discussed the wider implication relating to long term maintenance and the possible Health & Safety issues.

***Resolved: That permission be refused***

**225. Planning Application (REF: 3750)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. R. Tones had applied for planning permission to construct a pitched roof over extension at 23, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***



## 226. Residents Survey

The Parish Clerk provided an update in respect of action necessary to conduct a residents survey pursuant to the meeting held on 1st November 2005 (minute 206 refers)

***Resolved: That arrangements be made to distribute the survey via the New Thornley Partnership Newsletter along with a return envelope. A prize draw be arranged in accordance with Local government Act Section 111 in an effort to encourage residents to respond.***

**227. 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 incidence of domestic violence.

Members were asked to recall that a donation of £25 was made in February 2005 in respect of Christmas 2004.

***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.***

## 228. Risk Assessment 2005/6

The Parish Clerk advised members that it was in the council's interest to review its financial risk assessment document on an annual basis.

As the current document (draw up in August 2004) was only approved by Council at the meeting held on 6th September 2005<sup>15</sup> members considered it that it provided appropriate financial checks and balances for the next twelve months and as such did not need to be reviewed at this time.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**229. Audit for the Year Ended 31 March 2004/5 (REF: 3716)**

The Parish Clerk reported that BDO Stoy Hayward LLP had completed the audit of the parish council's accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2005 and provided details of the issues that the council should address.<sup>16</sup>

In relation to Fidelity Insurance Guarantee members considered that the additional financial premium payable to provide a greater element of cover than that currently provided by the policy (£50,000) may be disproportionate to the risk involved at this time.

<sup>15</sup> Minute 142 refers.

<sup>16</sup> **Copy distributed to each member for reference.**

J. Howard.





**235. 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.***

**236. Date and time of next meeting**

The Parish Clerk reported that in view of the forthcoming Christmas and Near Year holiday period members may wish to consider cancelling the meeting due to take place on 3rd January 2006 and holding the next meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 7th February 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

***Resolved: That the meeting due to take place on 3rd January be cancelled and the next meeting be arranged to take place on 7th February 2006***

**237. 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.*

**238. Local Transport Plan – Consultation Response (REF: 3779)**

Durham County Council provided a copy of pamphlet detailing the consultation process and the feedback from those involved.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**239. Brownfield Sites (REF: 3873)**

Durham County Council provided details of all “brownfield sites” in the Thornley area for reference purposes.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Council support the initiative to redevelop the areas identified.***

**240. Society of Clerks - Subscription Renewal (Ref: 3785)**

Members were asked to consider renewing the annual subscription for the Society of Clerks for 2005 at a cost of £108.00.

***Resolved: That the subscription fee of £108.00 be renewed.***

**241. Compulsory Purchase Order (REF: 3786)**

The District of Easington provided details of a compulsory purchase order of properties 69 and 92 Thornlaw North.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**242. Security Fence Coopers Close Allotments**

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

\* If a member of the Council has a conflict of interest in any item of business, they must declare it at the start of the meeting. If a member of the Council has a conflict of interest in any item of business, they must declare it at the start of the meeting. If a member of the Council has a conflict of interest in any item of business, they must declare it at the start of the meeting.



The Parish Clerk referred to the meeting held on 6th September 2005<sup>17</sup> and reported that there was likely to be a £2,000 shortfall in the amount of finance required to complete the works on the allotment site. In all probability the shortfall would be met by New Thornley Partnership.

In the event that it did not, it would not be possible for it to be considered by the Parish Council until its next meeting on 7th February 2007<sup>18</sup>. If this proved to be the case it was unlikely that the works could be implemented before the deadline imposed by other funders of 31st March 2006.

As the site was owned and operated by the Parish Council it was suggested that the implementation of the project be managed by them and that the finance raised by the Coopers Close Allotment Association be transferred to the Parish Council allowing the necessary instructions to be issued to contractors in accordance with Standing Orders.

***Resolved: That should it become necessary the Chairman and Vice Chairman be given delegated authority to approve the finance required to complete the works.***

**243. Special Meeting**

Councillor Mrs J. Unsworth recommended that a special meeting be convened to discuss the operational and financial aspects of Youll House, the Coopers Close and Library Allotment Sites and the Welfare Park.

***Resolved: That a Special meeting be arranged to take place on Monday 9th January 2006.***

**244. 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***

**245. Staff Review**

A revised staff structure, produced by the Parish Clerk in accordance with the meeting held on 6th September 2005. Minute 145 refers was considered.

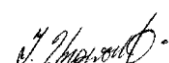
***Resolved: That Option 5 of the report be implemented as soon as possible on the basis that environmental workers be employed for 26 weeks per annum between April and September.***

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<sup>17</sup> Minute 106 refers

<sup>18</sup> Minute 236 refers.

\* A number of names have been removed from this document in order to protect the privacy of individuals. The names have been replaced by a series of asterisks. The names have been removed from the document in order to protect the privacy of individuals. The names have been replaced by a series of asterisks. The names have been removed from the document in order to protect the privacy of individuals. The names have been replaced by a series of asterisks.



**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
9TH JANUARY 2006**

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIES**

**Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>M. Burgin</i>	<i>Illness</i>	<i>Approved</i>

**246. Youll House**

The Parish Clerk explained that at present Age Concern, Youll House had an agreement with the Parish Council that permitted them to utilise the building almost exclusively free of charge on the proviso that they maintained the internal parts etc.

The council was responsible for the fabric of the building and that within the next 12 months it was possible that the roof of the premises may need to be repaired or replaced along with windows and security measures. Funding for these projects being part of the ongoing capital program.

The current arrangement meant that the Parish Council incurred potentially large amounts of expenditure but no income from the property. It also made it difficult for the council to obtain funding from any organisation to improve the facility as it could not, in effect, be used by the wider community. Potential hirers sought use via Age Concern and they received any income. The same applied to Age Concern Youll House as they did not own the property.

Members expressed the view that they had no desire to prevent members of Age Concern utilising the facility but a more equitable arrangement must be sought in order that other groups could use the facility and funding obtained.

Members also highlighted the fact that if the building was available to hire from the general public the council may need to employ a "caretaker" to ensure the premises was opened and closed when required and that it was cleaned and properly maintained.

**Resolved: That a meeting with officers of Age Concern Youll House be arranged to consider if a more equitable arrangement could be employed for the continued use of the premises.**

*J. Wharrier*

247. Welfare Park

The Parish Clerk explained that at present three local football teams used the facility for home games during the playing season. This generated approximately £450 per annum.

The roof of the changing facility had been replaced in 2002 and extensive works had been undertaken in 2004 to improve the playing surface. Only limited maintenance had been carried out on the perimeter fence since it was erected, possibly sixty years ago. As a result it was in a very poor state of repair and was now being vandalised.

The estimated cost of replacing the fence could be many thousands of pounds and consideration must be given to the cost effectiveness of embarking on such a project. In addition the changing rooms were badly in need of upgrading.

It was suggested that the facility would never be profitable since it was not possible to use the playing surface for more than a few football matches each week. The hire fees generated would not cover the cost of general maintenance.

It was suggested that the development of a new "all embracing" recreational facility may be a better long term solution and that the sale of existing premises may generate some of the funding required. A partnership with the District of Easington and local property developers may serve to develop the initiative.

***Resolved: That cost estimates be obtained for replacing the perimeter fence and the views of the District of Easington be obtained on the development of a new facility.***

248. Allotment Sites.

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

Councillor Unsworth withdrew from the meeting and the Vice Chairman, Councillor Worthington took the Chair.

The Parish Clerk explained that in accordance with existing policy a new security fence was to be erected at the Coopers Close allotment site before April 2006.

To develop the site further members were asked to consider what other projects they may wish to see carried out in the future.

It was pointed out that the current level of income generated from rents did not cover the annual water bills and that this would need to be taken into consideration when reviewing rents for 2007.

It was suggested that the installation of a land drain at the side of the two access paths be considered to take away surface water and that the roads be resurfaced.

In addition the number of water points be increased, possibly one to each allotment.



***Resolved: That cost estimates be obtained for the installation of land drains, resurfacing of the roads and increasing the number of water points.***

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*J. Howard*

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*J. Howard*

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
7TH FEBRUARY 2006**

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIES**

**Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-**

Councillor	Reason for Absence	Resolved
M. Burgin	Personal	Approved

**249. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th December 2005, a copy of which had been previously circulated, were accepted as a true record.

**250. Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting**

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 9th January 2006, a copy of which had been previously circulated, were accepted as a true record.

**251. Public Question and Answer Session**

A resident reported on incidents involving youths causing a disturbance outside Youll House on Friday 3rd February 2006 at approximately 6:00pm when property had been damaged.

The police had no knowledge of the incident and would check reports for further information.

Members raised a number of similar incidents when little or no action had been taken by the police.

The police in attendance stressed the need for all crimes etc to be reported to the incident room. Then and only then would the police be in a position to investigate.

It was reported that on a number of occasions it had been impossible to report incidents as callers could not get any answer at the police station.

**Resolved: That the information be noted**

**252. Police Report**

P.C. D. Thompson reported that in the previous month there had been 2793 incident reported throughout the county 65 of which were from Thornley.

Burglary	4
Criminal Damage	10

*J. Thompson*

Youths causing nuisance 15

Theft of or from motor vehicles 3

Two ABCs had been initiated and 1 ASBO had been applied for.

It was further reported that there was no longer a "beat bobby" on patrol in Thornley.

Members highlighted the fact that many of the neighbouring villages were suffering increasing levels of anti social behaviour and suggested that a joint meeting may prove useful.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and the Chief Constable be asked when the "beat bobby" would be replaced. In addition members of Wheatley Hill, Wingate, Deaf Hill, & Station Town Parish Councils be invited to discuss anti social issues.***

**253. Street Wardens Reports (REF: 3827)**

The Environmental Co-ordinator at the District of Easington provide a response pursuant to the meeting held on 6th December 2006 (minute 210 refers).

The Street Wardens reported that in January 2006 22 incidents had been attended in Thornley mainly to deal with anti social behaviour.

More foot patrols had taken place on the Gore Hill Estate due to an increase in calls from residents. Regular patrols were being made in the remainder of the village.

In response to demand an activity day had been organised but regrettably this had not been successful because youngsters had failed to attend.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**254. New Thornley**

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that the AGM would be held in February 2006 when elections would be held for the officers' posts.

No new initiatives had been actioned because of the Christmas holiday period.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**255. District Councillor**

Councillor Wharrier reported on previous discussions concerning a property in Bow Street and stated that it had been ongoing for some years. Documents from the District of Easington had highlighted that unless and until residents in the area were prepared to make formal statements and act as witnesses, it would be unlikely that legal action would be taken to resolve the issue.

Compulsory purchase of small parcels of land in the Coopers Close area was proving problematical as ownership could not be determined.

Further development of Hartlepool Street North & South was planned but no land was currently being made available to prospective developers.

Funding was being sought to fence properties in Greenwood Cottages.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***





**256. County Councillor**

Councillor Nicholls reported that the County Council had to save £13 million in its budget and that major cutbacks in services may result.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**257. Community Association**

Councillor Wharrier referred to minute 214 and sought clarification regarding the confidential nature of the report produced by the District of Easington on the Thornley Community Centre.

Councillor Ollett stated he would seek clarification from the District of Easington.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**258. Consultative Meeting**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that no meeting had taken place.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**259. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

The chairman reported that no meeting had taken place

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**260. T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs Brunskill reported that the main item of discussion had concerned the gritting of public roads. The Licensing Laws would be discussed at the next meeting.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**261. School Governors**

As Councillor Burgin was not present no report was available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**262. West Area Forum**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that no meeting had taken place.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**263. Youll House**

The Chairman reported that a meeting had taken place between representatives of the Parish Council and Youll House Age Concern regarding future operation of the centre.

The Parish Clerk distributed information provided by Youll House Age Concern detailing expenditure they had incurred over a period of some years in modernising or maintaining the centre. They asked that this be taken into consideration should the Parish Council decide to charge a hire fee in the future.



In addition, it was proving difficult to recruit supervisory personnel to continue the operation and the number of members attending meetings was declining. Furthermore, Government proposals to ban smoking in all public places may ultimately result in the closing down of the group.

***Resolved: That a decision be deferred for 12 months pending the implementation of government policy on smoking in public places.***

**264. Open Day Event (REF: 3807)**

The National Association of Local Councils advised that there would be an Open Day at County Hall Durham on Saturday 18th March 2006.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**265. Insurance Premiums – Playground Equipment (REF: 3814)**

Allianz Cornhill advised that the Parish Council would need to increase insurance cover in respect of playground equipment.

***Resolved: That the Parish Clerk take appropriate measures to ensure sufficient cover was provided based on the value of installed equipment.***

**266. Planning Application (REF: 3826)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. Morris had applied for planning permission to construct a single storey front & two storey rear extension at 5, Gore Hill Estate, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**267. Planning Application (REF: 3846)**

The District of Easington advised that The Diocese of Durham had applied for planning permission to demolish St. Bartholomew's Church and erect 3 dwellings at Church Walk, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**268. Planning Application (REF: 3869)**

The District of Easington advised that D. Burgon had applied for planning permission to construct bungalows on land at rear of Dunelm Road, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**269. Internal Audit Report (REF: 3871)**

The report of the Internal Auditor for the accounts from 1st April 2005 to 31st September 2005 was considered in detail.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Copy available for Members.



The Parish Clerk reported that he had discussed its content with the auditor and had explained that the Financial Risk Assessment and Fidelity Insurance had been considered by Council at its meeting held on 6th December 2005 (minute 228 & 229 refers). Other highlighted items had also been investigated, were appropriate and clarified. Arrangements had also been made for outstanding issues to be addressed before the year end audit.

***Resolved: That the report be received and that the specific areas relating to non financial risks management be progressed by the Parish Clerk.***

**270. Cemetery Regulations (REF: 3875)**

A further request from Mr. Sanderson concerning Thornley Cemetery was considered.

***Resolved: That the applicant be advised that the Council would not reconsider the application and he be advised accordingly.***

**271. Street Lighting – Village Green (REF: 3821)**

Pursuant to the meeting held on 1st November 2005 (minute 182 refers) Durham County Council advised that due to insufficient funds it would not be possible to install a street light on the Village Green within the current financial year. The request has been placed on a waiting list.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**272. Planning Permission (REF: 3790)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. J. Truby to construct a sun room extension at The Willows, Gore Lane, Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**273. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 3795)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 15/11/2005. 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.***

**274. Planning Permission (REF: 3801)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. & Mrs. Tones to construct a pitched roof over extension at 23, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**275. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 3830)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 13th December 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.***

**276. Proposed Sale - Land at Hartlepool Street (REF: 3837)**

Pursuant to the meeting held on 6th September 2005 (minute 118 refers) the District Valuer advised that the market value of the land in question £20,000.00. The prospective purchaser had been advised and a response was awaited.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**277. Provision of Bollards – Hartlepool Street (REF: 3873)**

Pursuant to the meeting held on 1st November 2005 minute 179 refer, Durham County Council advised that they would consider the provision of bollards on Hartlepool Street in the next financial year.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**278. Contract for Fencing Coopers Close Allotments**

The Parish Clerk advised that Standing Orders for Contracts 37a had been complied with and reported that the quotations received for the erection of the fence was as follows:-

Contractor 1 £9,500.00

Contractor 2 £9,531.72

Contractor 3 not returned

Pursuant to the meeting held on 6th December 2005 (minute 242 refers) the Parish Clerk reported that orders for the implementation of the works have been issued to Durham County Council who had provided the lowest tender.

It was anticipated that erection of the fence and associated works would be complete by the 31st March 2006.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**279. 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***

**280. Any Additional Urgent Items of Business**

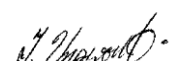
*In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) Act, 1985, section 100B (4)(b), the Chair following consultation with the Proper Officer, agreed that the following items of business. Not shown on the agenda, be considered as a matter of urgency.*

**281. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 3897)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 26th January 2006. 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.***

\* A number of items of business were considered at the meeting and are not shown on the agenda. These items are listed in the Appendix to the Minutes.



**282. Planning Permission (REF: 3898)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr & Mrs Morris to construct a single storey front & two storey rear extension at 5, Gorehill Estate, Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**283. Planning Application (REF: 3899)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. L. Oliver, Mrs. C. Oliver & Mr. J. Oliver had applied for planning permission to convert farm buildings into 3 dwellings at Thornlaw Moor Farm Road leading to Thornlaw Moor, Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**284. Request for Donation (REF: 3900)**

Durham Constabulary applied for a donation in order to set up and operate a mobile cinema in Thornley in an attempt to reduce anti social behaviour.

It was anticipated that the cinema would operate in the Catholic Club on a Thursday evening every two weeks.

The total cost of operating the cinema over twelve months was £150.00, (£90.00 for the copyright licence and £60.00 for DVD rental).

***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 £150.00.***

**285. Request for Donation (3923)**

***Councillors J. Ollett, I. Worthington, Mrs. M. Brunskill and W. Middleton declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.***

Thornley Heritage Group applied for a donation to raise funds in order to remove the stained glass windows from St. Bartholomew's Church, Thornley and display them for future generations in Thornley Community Centre.

***Resolved: That a donation be agreed in principal subject to confirmation of the total costs involved.***

**286. Permission to Site Portacabin (REF: 3922)**

The Parish Clerk reported that Thornley Community Association had granted permission to site a second portacabin within their grounds from which the Parish Council could operate. No rental would be charged provided that Council staff would assist from time to time with the clearance of overgrown shrubs etc in the curtilage of the Community Centre.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***



**287. Thornley Heritage Group (REF: 3924)**

The Heritage Group advised that it was to hold a meeting on 16th February 2006 in Thornley Community Centre at 7:00pm and invited representatives to attend.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Howard'.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
7TH MARCH 2006**

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIES**

**Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Mrs. J. Unsworth,</i>	<i>Wok commitments</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>County Councillor Nichols</i>	<i>Illness</i>	

**288. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councillor Mrs Brunskill referred to minute 252 and pointed out that the officer in attendance was D. Taylor the C.P.S.O.

Having noted this amendment the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th February 2006, a copy of which had been previously circulated, were accepted as a true record.

**289. Public Question and Answer Session**

There were no questions from the members of the public in attendance.

**290. Police Report**

Pc. Taylor the CPSO reported that 73 incident in Thornley had been reported to the police in the previous month.

Burglary	2
Criminal Damage	13
Youths causing Nuisance	16
Theft	5

Sgt. I. Dickinson reported that the duties of PC D. Thompson (the beat bobby) were being undertaken by other members of the force.

It was reported that underage drinking was still a major concern in the village and measures needed to be taken to curb this activity.

Sgt. Dickinson reported that it was a widespread problem and that if it was to be brought under control, nationally, all agencies needed to work in unison.

It was suggested that the Community safety Unit be requested to install the mobile C.C.T.V. in Thornley for a period of time.

*J. Unsworth*

***Resolved: That the information be noted and that the mobile C.C.T.V. be requested.***

**291. Street Wardens Report**

The Street Wardens reported that in February they had attended 31 incidents in the village mainly to deal with anti social behaviour in the areas of Greenwood cottages and Youll House.

Those involved had being reported to authorities in order that appropriate action could be taken.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**292. New Thornley**

Councillor Wharrier reported that the AGM had taken place and that the number of projects being undertaken was declining.

Because the number of residents attending meetings was also on the decline consideration was being given as to the future of the partnership.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**293. District Councillor**

Councillor Wharrier reported that the problems faced by villages were of concern to the District council and discussions were underway to tackle these.

There were a number of empty 1 bedroom bungalows in the village and it was likely that these would be demolished in coming months. These were to be replaced with 2 bedroom units in the future.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**294. County Councillor**

The Parish Clerk referred to the meeting held on 7th February 2006 (minute 252) and reported on behalf of Councillor Nichols that a meeting of Parish representatives was to take place in the Heritage Centre, Wheatley Hill on Wednesday 22nd March 2006 commencing at 6:30pm

***Resolved: That the Councillors T. Unsworth, W. Middleton, G. Wilson and Mrs. M. Brunskill be authorised to attend.***

**295. Community Association**

No report was available

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**296. Consultative Meeting**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that he had been unable to attend because the meeting clashed with another meeting he had attended concerning the construction of a Health Centre in Wheatley Hill.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***





**297. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

The Chairman reported that the meeting was taking place at the same time as the Parish Council meeting and could not therefore be in attendance.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**298. T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the meeting had been cancelled because insufficient members were able to attend as a result of illness.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**299. School Governors**

Councillor Burgin reported that no meeting had taken place.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**300. West Area Forum**

Councillor Wharrier reported that attendance at the meeting had been extremely low and that the main topic of discussion was on recycling issues.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**301. Youll House**

It was reported that the District of Easington were considering withdrawing of the subsidy on the "Lunch Club" service.

If this occurred the cost of meals would rise considerably and result in elderly residents of the village who participate in the scheme suffering unnecessarily.

It was suggested that the Parish Council express its concern to the District of Easington.

***Resolved: That the District of Easington be advised of the Parish Councils concerns.***

**302. Sale of Land – Hartlepool Street (REF: 3905)**

The Parish Clerk reported that the prospective purchaser had offered the sum of £8,000 for the land in question.

This was considerably lower than the valuation provided by the District Valuer and it would be inadvisable for the Parish Council to accept.

***Resolved: That the offer be rejected.***

**303. Planning Application (REF: 3906)**

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

***Resolved: That no objections be offered.***

**304. Community Website (REF: 3920)**

The District of Easington advised that it was to host a meeting on the development of websites for Parish Councils at the Council Offices on 14th March 2005 from 2:00pm until 3:00pm and invited representatives.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Council consider using the facility if it becomes a reality.***

**305. Planning Application (REF: 3926)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. G. Robinson had applied for planning permission to construct a rear sun lounge, pitched roofs to dormers & conversion of two properties into one at 45/46, Shinwell Crescent, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be offered.***

**306. Local Council Charter (REF: 3927)**

The draft charter provided by the District of Easington was considered.

***Resolved: That the Parish Council agree the charter in principal subject to clarification on financial arrangements.***

**307. Planning Application (REF: 3930)**

The District of Easington advised that Mrs D. Harrison had applied for planning permission to revise a house position including change of use from part car park to residential adjacent to fish shop Hartlepool Street, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be offered.***

**308. Request for Donation (REF: 3937)**

St. Godric's R.C.V.A. Primary School Thornley requested a donation to aid the construction of an adventure playground trail within school grounds.

The anticipated total cost was between £2,000 and £5,000.

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

**309. Drainage Works – Coopers Close Allotments (REF: 3953)**

Pursuant to the meeting held on 9th January 2006 (minute 248 refers) a cost estimate of £7,500 had been obtained for the installation of a land drain on Coopers Close Allotment Site.

Members were reminded that this work was not on the existing Capital Works Program and that should members decided to go proceed with the work it would be necessary under Standing Orders to obtain competitive quotations.

***Resolved: That a decision be deferred to allow for further investigation into alternative methods of construction.***

**310. Planning Application (REF: 3954)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs Lowther had applied for planning permission to construct a two storey rear extension at 36, East Lea, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be offered.***

**311. Residents Survey Analysis**

The analysis of the Parish Council's Residents Survey, a copy of which had been distributed, was considered.

***Resolved: That the information provided be used by the Parish Council when considering future developments or activities.***

**312. Transfer of Land (REF: 3918)**

Groundwork East Durham made an offer of grant totalling £1,200.00 to cover legal fees involved in the transfer of land from Durham County Council to the Parish Council following redevelopment.

The grant is conditional that the transfer is completed by 31st March 2006.

In order to progress this item within timescale the Parish Clerk has consulted with the Chairman & Vice Chairman and signed the appropriate documents.

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

**313. New Thornley Partnership - Request for Continued Administrative Support.**

New Thornley Partnership advised that on a previous occasion the Parish Council had agreed to undertake the administrative duties of the Partnership for a period of 4 months (ending 31st March 2006)<sup>20</sup> to allow time for funding applications for a new post to be submitted.

They now advised that their application for funding had not yet been determined and requested the current arrangement be extended until such time as a decision was made.

***Resolved: That a decision be deferred pending additional information being provided by New Thornley Partnership.***

**314. Traffic Calming (REF: 3931)**

Durham County Council advised that they were investigating the implementation of traffic calming measures near Thornley School as previously requested.<sup>21</sup>

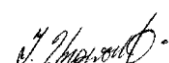
***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

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<sup>20</sup> 6th September 2005 minute 103 refers

<sup>21</sup> 6th September 2005 minute 93 and 6th December 2005 minute 213 refers

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**315. Council Precepts – For Information**

The District of Easington provided information relating to the level of precept for Parish & Town Councils FOR 2006/7

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**316. 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***

**317. 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.*

**318. Windows St. Bartholomew's Church**

The Parish Clerk referred to minute 285 and reported that the windows in St. Bartholomew's church had had to be removed earlier than anticipated.

As a result it had not been possible for Thornley Heritage Group to provide confirmation that the cost would be £600.00 as previously outlined.

To safeguard the windows the Parish Clerk had consulted the Chairman and suggested that a donation of £600.00 be made to the Heritage Group in order that they could settle the account.

***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 £600.00.***

**319. Request for Donation**

Wheatley Hill & Thornley Health Group requested a donation to aid the work of the group in the coming year.

***Resolved: That the request be rejected.***

**320. 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***



### 321. Staffing Policies

The Parish Clerk reported that with the adoption of the new staff structure it had been necessary to revise the Parish Councils, Contracts of Employment, Disciplinary Procedure, Grievance Procedure and Redundancy Policy documents.<sup>22</sup>

***Resolved: That the revised documents be adopted for all new employees.***

### 322. Shortlisting for Job Vacancies

All applications received for the posts of Chargehand Gardener, Gardener and Environmental Assistant (2) were considered.

***Resolved: That the selected candidates be asked to attend interviews to be held on 13th, 15, & 16th March 2006 respectively and that the appointment panel consist Councillors T. Unsworth, I. Worthington and Mrs. M. Brunskill.***

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<sup>22</sup> Copies were available for members.



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*J. Howard*

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
4TH APRIL 2006**

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIES**

**Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Mrs. J. Unsworth,</i>	<i>Work commitments</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>G. Wharrier</i>	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Approved</i>

**323. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Parish Clerk referred to minute 322 and reported on the appointments that had been made and explained that the staff had commenced their employment with the Parish Council on 1st April 2006.

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2006 a copy of which had been previously circulated, were accepted as a true record.

**324. Public Question and Answer Session**

A member of the public asked if the District of Easington had provided any information regarding the showmen's vehicles now being parked on land outside their designated area.

The Chairman reported that no information had been received and in the absence of Councillor's G. Wharrier and M. Nichols no response could be provided.

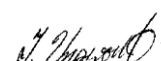
**325. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed Steve Hawks to the meeting who reported that in March the police had responded to 53 incidents in Thornley.

Burglary	2
Criminal damage	10
Anti Social Behaviour	14

The majority of complaints centered on anti social behaviour in the Greenwood Cottages and Stanley Terrace areas of the Village.

In response to a number of incidents involving criminal damage to buses passing through the village the police were mounting a "hi visibility" presence on the buses.



Two individuals from Thornley had been nominated for A.S.B.O and it was hoped this would help to reduce reports of this nature in the future. Councillor Middleton pointed out that witnesses to a particular incident were reluctant to come forward because of the real damages of intimidation. Unless something positive could be done to eliminate this eventuality it was likely that criminals would never face justice.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**326. Street Wardens Report**

The Chairman welcomed Jackie Morton (Senior Street Warden) to the meeting who reported that in March the wardens had attended 32 incidents 24 of which were for disturbances outside Youll House.

C.C.T. Cameras had now been fitted to the warden's vehicles and were being used to gather evidence that could be used to obtain A.S.B.O.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**327. New Thornley**

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

Parish Clerk reported on behalf of the Secretary of New Thornley Partnership that although they had access to funds which could be used to develop a scaled down project for sport & leisure on the library site membership of the organisation was declining and a number of committed members had resigned at the recently held AGM. As a result the partnership was unsure of its future.

It was pointed out that resident surveys, undertaken by both the partnership and parish council, had highlighted the need for a youth venue in the village and that additional sport & leisure facilities be made available.

It was suggested that because the Parish Council was the only sustainable organisation in the village they agree to take the lead role to develop the facilities in conjunction with the partnership and other interested groups or agencies.

The partnership accepted that the administrative workload of the parish would increase in order that this initiative could be realised and they were therefore prepared to discuss providing funding for either an additional number of hours to be worked by the parish clerk.

***Resolved: That the Parish Council be lead organisation in developing and operating appropriate facilities on the former colliery land in Thornley and that discussions be held with other organisations and agencies to develop the initiative.***





**328. District Councillor**

The Parish Clerk provided, on behalf of Councillor Wharrier, details of the Local Council Charter and on financial arrangements which would apply.

Details of the west Area Forum were provided as were Councillor Wharrier's concerns over the District Council's fencing policy.

Details of F.A.Q.'s relating to the new Concessionary Travel Scheme were provided.

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the District of Easington had arranged for residents to have their photographs taken for the bus passes at Youll House on 15th May 2006.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**329. County Councillor**

As Councillor Nichols was not present no report was available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**330. Community Association**

Because the Parish Council has no representative on the Community Association no report available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**331. Consultative Meeting**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that he had been unable to attend the meeting because of other commitments.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**332. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

The Chairman reported that no meeting had been held.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**333. T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that attendance at the meetings continued to be poor and gave a detailed report on recycling issues which had been discussed.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**334. School Governors**

As Councillor Burgin was not present no report was available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**335. West Area Forum**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that no meeting had taken place.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***



**336. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that Age Concern was operating successfully.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**337. Fencing Greenwood Cottages (REF: 3996)**

East Durham Homes requested that the Parish Council consider funding a shortfall in funding amounting to £1,000 in order that metal fencing at Greenwood Cottages could be installed.

The total cost of the scheme is estimated at £4,800.

Members expressed concern that they were being asked to fund these works.

***Resolved: That £1,000 be contributed to the project only if not doing so would mean that wooden fencing would be erected.***

**338. Planning Application (REF: 3997)**

The District of Easington advised that Ms. R. Newby had applied for planning permission to construct a dining room extension at 10, Emmerson Square, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**339. Lease of St. Chad's Square – Playground (REF: 4000)**

The District of Easington requested the Parish Council to formalise its arrangement in respect of the lease of an area of land at St. Chad's Square used for a children's playground.

Members expressed the view that provision of playgrounds was covered by the planning regulations and that as such the developer responsible the redevelopment of the Thornlaw Estate should be constructing a new playground.

The Chairman reported on a situation that had come to his attention in the Parish of Castle Eden where house owners on a new development did not wish to see a playground developed in their estate. As a result a compromise situation had been agreed whereby the developer had made a contribution to the Parish Council to allow for the provision of other much needed facilities elsewhere in the village.

***Resolved: That additional information be obtained from the district council before making a decision.***

**340. Planning Application (REF: 4016)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. McCarroll had applied for planning permission to construct 14 houses at Ashford Grove Stables, Ashford Grove, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised***



**341. Planning Application (REF: 4017)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr & Mrs J. Bell had applied for planning permission for the removal of condition 7 from planning application 99/92 to allow unrestricted occupancy of bungalow at Dunelm Stables, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised***

**342. Rural Housing (REF: 4012)**

The Commission for Rural Communities invited the Parish Council to be represented an event to discuss rural housing issues was to be held at Easington Social Welfare Centre, Easington Colliery on 20th April 2006. Exact times had not been announced.

***Resolved: That the invitation be received.***

**343. Planning Application (REF: 4031)**

The District of Easington advised that Mrs. K.A. Carr had applied for planning permission to construct a private garage at 53, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised***

**344. Replacement of Chains – War Memorial (REF: 4041)**

An estimate of £510.00 was received for the replacement of chains surrounding the War Memorial.

***Resolved: That an order be placed for the works to be undertaken.***

**345. Lease for Bow Street Play Area (REF: 4043)**

The District of Easington requested the Parish Council to enter into a Lease Agreement in respect of land used for the Bow Street Play Area at a cost of £50.00 per annum.

It was also requested that an outstanding bill of £400 accrued over the last 4 years by New Thornley Partnership be settled by the Parish Council.

Members reported that some of the land in question may not be in the ownership of the district council and that they were not responsible for the outstanding payments.

***Resolved: That the District of Easington be requested to provide confirmation of land ownership before decision be made on entering a lease.***



**346. New Thornley Partnership - Request for Continued Administrative Support.**

New Thornley Partnership requested that the Parish Council provide reduced administrative support for a period of 3 months at 6 hours per month<sup>23</sup> to arrange meetings and take minutes. This would enable the Partnership to appeal for more members to become involved in the regeneration of the village.

***Resolved: That the Parish Council provides reduced administrative support for 3 months (1st April to 30th June 2006) at 6 hours per month.***

### 347. Nail Fatigue - Youll House Roof

Members were asked to recall that a survey carried out by the District of Easington in August 2002 at a cost of £474.22 estimated that the repair to the roof would be in the region of £10,500.00.

At the time the Parish Council did not have sufficient finance available to fund the work and as a result the scheme was added to the Capital Program.

The current total reserve fund was £12,500

In recent weeks there had been some water ingress and members were asked to decide if the necessary repairs should be now be undertaken.

Results of a recent Residents Survey indicated that the majority of those returning forms wanted Youll House to be refurbished.

The Parish Clerk pointed out that until such time as tenders had been obtained it would not be known if sufficient finance was available to undertake the work.

Members expressed the view that it may be more cost effective if the roof was replaced altogether rather than undertake repairs.

***Resolved: That a decision be deferred to allow estimates for the provision of a new roof to be obtained.***

**348. Planning Permission (REF: 3987)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to the Diocese of Durham to demolish the Church & erect 3 dwellings at St. Bartholomew's Church, Coopers Close, Thornley.

**Resolved:** *That the information be noted.*

**349. Planning Permission (REF: 4013)**

The District of Easington had advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr S. Magee to construct a single storey front extension at 1, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**<sup>23</sup> April to June 2006**

J. Thompson.

**350. 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***

**351. 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), to consider any item the Chair considers urgent, following consultation with the Proper Officer.*

**352. Planning Application (REF: 4045)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. Lowther had applied for planning permission to construct a two storey rear extension at 36, East Lea, Thornley.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**353. Planning Application (REF: 4067)**

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

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***



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*J. Threlkeld*



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