

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
2ND MAY 2006**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. M. Brunskill, W. Middleton, 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</i> | <i>Approved</i> |
| <i>J. Ollett</i> | <i>Away on Business</i> | <i>Approved</i> |
| <i>G. Wharrier</i> | <i>Illness</i> | <i>Approved</i> |

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th, April 2006, 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

The police constable present reported that in the previous month the police had dealt with the following incidents in Thornley:-

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Youths Congregating | 11 |
| Burglary | 2 |
| Criminal Damage | 12 |

In addition "street safe" project was progressing and overall the number of reported incidents was down.

Hi visibility patrols were continuing in the village to further reduce possible criminal activity.

It was anticipated that the local "beat bobby" would be replaced in the near future.

Applications for 2 ASBO's were to be considered by Magistrates in the coming weeks.

Underage drinking continued to be of concern and the police were to monitor the situation between the hours of 5:00pm until 10:00pm for a period of time.

A Neighbourhood Forum was to be arranged on a peripatetic basis between Wheatley Hill and Thornley every four weeks.



Resolved: That the information be noted.

4. Street Wardens Report

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

5. New Thornley

As Councillor Mrs. Unsworth was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

6. District Councillor

As Councillor Wharrier was not in attendance no report was available

Resolved: That the information be noted.

7. County Councillor

Councillor Nicholls reported that the county Council was carrying out a strategy for "Schools for the Future" which was to attract £90 million in funding.

Recent figures suggested that only 8.9% of the population of Durham was getting into employment and this was to be addressed.

A survey of financing Community Centres across the county was also being undertaken.

The new clinic in Wheatley Hill was to be constructed on the site of the existing doctor's surgery.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

8. Community Association

As the Parish has no representative on the Community Association no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted and this item be removed from future agendas.

9. Consultative Meeting

Councillor Wilson reported that no meeting had been held.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

10. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that no meeting had been held.

The Parish Clerk informed members that the Secretary of the association had advised that the lack of attendance from some Parish & Town Council's had been expressed at the previous meeting and had requested that this be brought to the attention of members.

It was noted that meetings of the association clashed with those of the Parish Council and this made it difficult for Thornley to be represented.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

11. **T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that no meeting had been held.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

12. **School Governors**

As councillor Burgin was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

13. **West Area Forum**

Councillor Wilson reported that no meeting had been held

Resolved: That the information be noted.

14. **Statement of Accounts 2005-2006**

The Parish Clerk provided a copy of the Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure Summary Account and other related information to 31st, March 2006 for consideration.

Resolved: That the statement be accepted and that the Parish Clerk make arrangements to submit the Annual Audit Return to BDO Stoy Hayward within the prescribed timescales.

15. **Annual Audit of Accounts Ending 31st March 2006**

The Parish Clerk reported that the external auditor (**BDO STOY HAYWOOD**) had advised that the annual audit of the 2005/2006 accounts would take place on 9th September 2005.

The accounts had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit amendment) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/564)

Members were asked to approve Section 1 and Section 2 of the Annual Audit Return and for 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 15th May to the 28th May 2006.

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.

16. **Youll House**

A copy of the Financial Statement was distributed for the attention of member's Councillor G. Wilson reported that an application for funding to the Esh Foundation had been unsuccessful.

He further reported that the group was facing some financial hardship and that as a result a weekly whist and domino session may end because it can no longer subsidise the cost of transporting the elderly people who attended.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

17. Request for Donation (REF: 4083)

Finchale Training College requested a donation to purchase training equipment for the adults with physical, medical and mental health issues.

Members were asked to recall that a donation of £50.00 was made to the college in March 2005 for a similar project.¹

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

18. Equipment Storage & Office

The Parish Clerk informed members that the recently purchased mini tractor (and ancillary items) had used up all existing capacity and there was nowhere to place additional items and requested Members to consider the purchase of a new steel storage unit for the Parish Councils tools and equipment.

It was suggested that the unit be erected on the library site and integrated with the recreational facility that was to be constructed in conjunction with New Thornley Partnership.

It was estimated that an appropriately sized unit would cost approximately £8,000.

If approved, it would also be necessary to vire expenditure from existing capital projects to fund the purchase.

As suppliers of the type of unit under consideration were few in number it was further suggested that Standing Orders 37 (a) be waived in this instance.

Resolved: That a suitable unit be purchased and located adjacent to the Community Centre subject to the approval of the Thornley Community Centre Management Committee. In addition the Parish Clerk prepares a Revised Budget for the consideration of members.

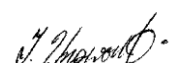
19. Local Council Charter (REF: 3927)

Pursuant to the Parish Council meeting held on 7th March 2006 (minute 306 refers) the District of Easington now advised that agreeing to the charter would have no direct or indirect financial implications on the Parish Council.

The document served only to outline a range of procedures on which the district council would consult participating authorities before making decisions. It would also serve to enable participants to undertake additional activities only if they wished to do so and after negotiation and agreement on the financial implications.

Resolved: That the Parish Council agrees the Charter and participates in the scheme.

¹ Meeting held on 1st March 2005 minute 281 refers.



20. Planning Application (REF: 4102)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. M. Foster had applied for planning permission to construct a two storey rear extension & private garage at 93, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

21. Planning Permission (REF: 4075)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mrs. D. Harrison to construct a house on a revised position including change of use from part car park to residential property adjacent to fish shop Hartlepool Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

22. Planning Permission (REF: 4098)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mrs. A. Carr to construct a private garage at 53, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

23. Rural Housing (REF: 4084)

The Commission for Rural Communities notified the Parish Council that the date of the planned event do discuss this subject had been changed to 5th June 2006.

Representatives were invited to attend at Easington Social Welfare Centre, Easington Colliery on 20th April 2006. Exact times had yet to be announced.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

24. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 4086)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 30th March 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.

25. 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.

26. 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.

27. Planning Application (REF: 4102)

The District of Easington has advised that Mr. M. Foster has applied for planning permission to construct a two storey rear extension & private garage at 93, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

28. Request for Donation (REF: 4154)

Age Concern Thornley requested a donation to cover the transport costs associated with a number of trips being arranged for members during 2006.

Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £1000.00



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
6TH JUNE 2006**

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

| <i>Councillor</i> | <i>Reason for Absence</i> | <i>Resolved</i> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>M. Burgin</i> | <i>Business</i> | <i>Approved</i> |
| <i>Mrs. J. Unsworth</i> | <i>Work</i> | <i>Approved</i> |
| <i>I. Worthington.</i> | <i>Holiday</i> | <i>Approved</i> |

29. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd May 2006, a copy of which had been previously circulated were accepted as a true record.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

30. Public Question and Answer Session

A resident reported that unaccompanied women drivers were being prevented from driving through the village by youths on bicycles blocking their path. Some had been harassed and intimidated. P.C. Rowe reported that the police had already been made aware of this practice and had visited some of the youths. If the practice continued the police would consider applying for ASBO's against those concerned.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

31. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Rowe to the meeting who reported that in the last month the police had responded to the following incidents in Thornley:

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Burglary | 1 |
| Criminal Damage | 4 |
| Motor Vehicle Crime | 2 |
| Youth | 12 |

It was reported that the officers currently operating the Anti Social Behaviour unit were being transferred to other duties but a new appointment would be made in the near future.



A new beat officer was also being placed in the village in July. In addition it was anticipated that two new PCSO would be appointed shortly. These changes in the staffing structure should help address certain problems in the village & help to reduce the overall level of criminal and anti social activity.

In relation to underage drinking, the officers from the Licensing Unit had visited the owner of the local off licence and outlined the repercussions if he was caught selling alcohol to underage persons.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

32. Street Wardens Report

As there was no Street Warden present a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

33. New Thornley

Councillor Wharrier reported that the last meeting had been poorly attended. Responses from the District of Easington in connection with the release of funds for the new sports facility on the Library site had not been received and so no progress could be made. This and other matters would be raised at the next meeting due to be held on 20th June 2006.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

34. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that there was no longer a demand for one bedroom accommodation in the district and this was causing some concern as it meant there were a number of void properties. The District Council was looking at ways to address this problem.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

35. County Councillor

As Councillor Nicholls was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

36. Consultative Meeting

Councillor Wilson reported that no meeting had taken place.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

37. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that no meeting had taken place.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

38. T.E.D.

Councillors Mrs. Brunskill reported that the main item of discussion had centred on letters received by residents concerning the overfilling of refuse bins and on recycling issues. Officers from Premier Waste and East Durham Homes had been requested to attend the next meeting to explain the operation.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

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39. School Governors

As Councillor Burgin was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

40. West Area Forum

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the next meeting would take place on 21st June 2006.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

41. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the operation was operating well and asked members to note that the premises would be closed for the summer holidays from 20th July 2006 until 14th August 2006.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

42. Local Authority Bylaws: A discussion Paper (REF: 4123)

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister provided a copy of the discussion paper relating to the above.

Resolved: That the information be received.

43. Empty Property Strategy (REF: 4138)

The District of Easington provided a copy of the strategy for the attention of members.

Resolved: That the information be received.

44. Replacement of Beat Bobby (REF: 4116)

Durham Constabulary provided a response relating to the replacement of the "Beat Bobby" in Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

45. Hire of Welfare Park (REF: 4159 & 4160)

The Parish Clerk reported that four football teams (Thornley Officials F.C., Thornley Over 40s F.C., Thornley F.C. & Harry's Bar F.C.) had applied for permission to use the Welfare Park for their home fixtures as part of the Durham Football League in 2006/7.

Members were informed that in 2005/6 three teams had been given permission but this had caused some damage to the playing surface on occasion. He recommended that no more than two matches should be permitted on each weekend throughout the season otherwise serious damage could be caused. This in turn may necessitate the pitch being taken out of play for some time whilst repairs were carried out and the surface allowed to recover. This would certainly disrupt playing fixtures.

Resolved: That the four teams be permitted to use the Welfare Park for their home games in 2006/7 at a cost of £125 per season (subject to review later in the year) on the strict understanding that only two match fixtures take place each week. Cancellation of matches would be determined by Parish Council staff in order that the playing surface would not become seriously damaged

46. Lease of Bow Street Play Area (REF: 4175)

The Parish Clerk informed members that pursuant to the meeting held on 4th April 2006 (minute 339 refer) the District of Easington had been contacted and that they had advised that they are only able to lease, to the Parish Council, the area of land owned by them. This lease could commence on 1st September 2006.

Members highlighted that a 6 year lease (at £50 per year) proposed between the District of Easington and the New Thornley Partnership (who had installed the play equipment in 1998) had never been signed and therefore no rent had been paid. Since 2004 the District of Easington had effectively taken responsibility for the area.

Resolved: That the District of Easington be asked to consider taking responsibility for the rent on a permanent basis.

47. Planning Permission (REF: 4139)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr & Mrs Bell to the remove Condition 7 to allow unrestricted occupancy of the bungalow at Dunelm Stables, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

48. Planning Permission (REF: 4140)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. I. Graham to construct a house on land at Hartlepool Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

49. Planning Permission (REF: 4162)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. & Mrs. McCarroll to construct a Residential Development (outline) at Ashford Grove Stables, Ashford Grove, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

50. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 4141)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 27/4/2006. 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.

51. Auditor Report of Accounts ending 31st March 2005 (REF: 4150)

The Parish Clerk reported that the Internal Audit of accounts from 1st October 2005 to 31st March 2006 had been completed by W.J. Smith. No financial irregularities had been identified and the accounts were in order. It was also pointed out that Mr. Smith had commented that the Parish Council may wish to consider expanding risk assessments in the future to cover areas of their operation (e.g. cemetery) and on other ways the council's operations might be improved².

Resolved: That the report be received and the actioned as appropriate.

52. 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.

Councillor G. Wilson referred to the annual budget set aside for the payment of the audits.

The Parish Clerk explained that this figure was calculated on a set basis provided by the Government appointed audit and that the Parish Council had little or no scope for reducing this figure. In relation to the internal audit, this was carried out by twice a year by Mr. Smith on a time spent basis. This was currently £350.00 per audit.

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

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. Climate Change Strategy (REF: 4187)

The District of Easington provided information relating to a proposed Strategy for dealing with Climate change and invited members to participate in discussions.

Resolved: That the information received.

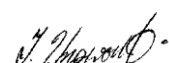
55. Planning Permission (REF: 4188)

The District of Easington has advised that planning permission has been granted to Mr. M. Foster to construct a two storey rear extension & private garage at 93, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

² A copy of the auditors report is available.

* A number of members of the public have requested a copy of the minutes of the meeting. The minutes are available on the council's website. The minutes are available on the council's website. The minutes are available on the council's website.



56. E-Government (REF: 4189)

County Durham e-Government Partnership advised that two proposed workshops had been cancelled due to lack of support. They now invited members to attend two further workshops to be held in Durham later in the month.

Resolved: That the information be received.

57. Planning Application (REF: 4200)

The District of Easington has advised that Mr. N. Brass had applied for planning permission to construct a 4 NO. houses at land adjacent to 78, Eastlea, Thornley.

Resolved: That the District of Easington be advised that the public right of way that existed on this parcel of land must be diverted in order for the planning permission to be granted.

58. Planning Application (REF: 4201)

The District of Easington advised that W. Warnes had applied (on behalf of Thornley Parish Council) for renewal of planning permission for a community centre at land adjacent to the Library, High Street, Thornley.

Members expressed grave concern that this matter had never been discussed by the Parish Council and that no authority had been given either directly or implied to Mr. Warnes to act on the Parish Council's behalf in this or any other matter.

Resolved: That the District of Easington be asked to provide additional information of this application and that Mr. Warnes be invited to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council to explain his actions.

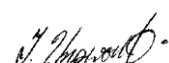
59. Fencing Greenwood Cottages (REF: 3996)

Councillor G. Wharrier declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.

The Parish Clerk referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2006 (minute 337 refers) and reported that East Durham Homes intended erecting metal fencing at this location.

Members were informed that East Durham Homes had not secured the total amount of funding required to enable the scheme to be undertaken. He advised that the Parish Council's contribution be made only if and when the scheme was complete.

Resolved: That the Parish Council's contribution of £1,000 be provided when the scheme was complete.



60. War memorial

Councillor Mrs Brunskill asked when the lighting for the War Memorial was to be installed as it was some months since the work was approved.

The Parish Clerk reported that the contractor, (Durham County Council Service Direct) had undergone a staff restructure and this had caused a delay. He had been assured that these matters had now been resolved and that installation of the lighting would commence on Monday 19th June 2006.

Resolved: That the information be noted.



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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
4TH JULY 2006**

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

| <i>Councillor</i> | <i>Reason for Absence</i> | <i>Resolved</i> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Mrs. M. Brunskill</i> | <i>Personal</i> | <i>Approved</i> |
| <i>Mrs. J. Unsworth</i> | <i>Work</i> | <i>Approved</i> |

61. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor Worthington referred to minute 45 and pointed out that the fees due from the football teams in 2006/7 should read £150.00 not £125.00.

Having noted that amendment the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th June 2006, a copy of which had been previously circulated were accepted as a true record.

62. Public Question and Answer Session

A resident highlighted the danger to children and adults in the East Lea area caused by speeding drivers and asked if the Parish Council good have traffic calming measures installed.

The Parish Clerk reminded members that this had been raised on previous occasions and Durham County Council had been asked to program the work.

The police officers present at the meeting agreed to pass on concerns to the traffic management unit and monitor the situation.

Resolved: That the Durham County Council be asked to progress the installation of traffic calming measures as soon as possible.

63. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C.s. Brown & Marston to the meeting who reported that because of a computer failure it was not possible to provide details of all incidents dealt with in Thornley in the last month.

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Burglary | 2 |
| Criminal Damage | 12 |
| Theft | 5 |
| Youth | 21 |

Theft of garden equipment was on the increase during the summer months and residents were advised not to leave equipment unsecured overnight.



The “off road” police motorcyclist had been relocated and it was not known when he might be replaced. As a result it would be difficult to address problems caused by motorcyclists in the foreseeable future.

The police reported that enquiries were ongoing in relation to the attempted theft of lead piping from St. Bartholomew’s Church organ.

Whilst there had been an increased police presence in Thornley it was essential that criminal activity was reported by residents. All evidence collated would assist the police in obtaining convictions and lead to reduced criminal behaviour in the village.

The problem of underage drinking was raised and members asked if funding was available from the police to install C.C.T.V. cameras in strategic parts of the village and if a banning order similar to that in operation in Ludworth could be obtained for Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the police to provided information on funding and banning orders at the next Parish Council meeting.

64. Street Wardens Report

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

65. New Thornley

Councillor Wharrier reported that no progress had been made in relation to the development of the new “sports” facility on the Library site.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

66. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that whilst the regeneration of the central area was progressing very slowly it was still envisaged that it would be completed later in the year.

Progress was being made to “decant” residents into alternative accommodation in order that the development by 3 Rivers Housing could move on to the next stage.

Little progress could be made in relation to the Thornley Community Centre until a survey being undertaken by the District of Easington was complete.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

67. County Councillor

The Parish Clerk reported on behalf of Councillor Nicholls that the proposal to close 1 or possibly 2 schools was proving controversial. The proposal was now at a consultation stage and all interested parties had been given the opportunity to comment.

Depending on the result of the consultation process the issue may be referred to the Government Minister for a decision.

The bus services to Thornley would remain as at present with the 213 operating all day until 7:30pm/8:30pm to or from Durham. The 22 service will operate until 10:20pm out of Durham terminating in Thornley.

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Resolved: That the information be noted.

68. Consultative Meeting

Councillor G. Wilson provided a general update on the street cleaning service being provided by the district council and provided details of other topics discussed at the previous meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

69. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that he had not been able to attend the previous meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

70. T.E.D.

As Councillor Mrs. Brunskill was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

71. School Governors

As Councillor Burgin was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

72. West Area Forum

Councillor Wharrier reported that attendance had been very poor and with the exception of matters relating to travellers encamped in Thornley and the provision of fencing around Greenwood Cottages, no other topics discussed related to Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

73. Youll House

Councillor Wilson reported that there had been a spate of vandalism and that a number of windows and roof slates had been damaged.

A trip to South Shields had been successful and ticket sales for a trip to Whitby were going well.

The centre would be closed for a 2 week holiday in the near future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

74. Extension of Planning Permission – Resource Centre

Councillor Wharrier declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.

Pursuant to minute 58, Mr. Warnes was present to explain why he had applied (in the Parish Council name) to extend the planning permission for a proposed Resource Centre in Thornley.

Mr Warnes explained that in his opinion he had done nothing wrong and had applied in good faith on behalf of the residents. At no time had he intended to cause any inconvenience or problems for the Parish Council.

He had however sought legal advice from a number of firms (on a no win no fee basis) on taking liable action against the Parish Clerk in relation the content of letter he had received.

He requested an apology from the Parish Council and that the letter be withdrawn.

The Parish Clerk explained that he had acted on instruction from the Parish Council as their appointed officer and that no part of the letter could, in his opinion, be construed as being libellous and that should Mr. Warnes pursue a legal case against it would be vigorously defended.

It was further explained that the matter had been discussed by New Thornley Partnership who also had concerns that Mr. Warnes had acted without their knowledge or consent in this matter.

The Parish Clerk advised members that in the long term it would be in their interest to have the planning permission extended on the basis that if the Resource Centre did not go ahead it would be easier and less complicated to amended the extended planning permission (to accommodate the proposed sports facility) rather than submit a totally new planning application.

He further advised that to accomplish this, the application to extend the planning permission should be submitted by him in the name of Thornley Parish Council and that to guard against any ambiguity the Parish Council should refund Mr. Warnes £155.00 in respect of the planning fee he had already paid.

Resolved: That the explanation given by Mr. Warnes be accepted and that he be refunded £155.00. In addition the District of Easington be advised to issue the extended planning consent in the name of the Parish Clerk on behalf of Thornley Parish Council. A decision on any further action be deferred until 5th September 2006 and a copy of the letter sent previously to Mr. Warnes be provided to each member.

75. Review of Allotment Rents

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

The Parish Clerk advised that it was appropriate at this time to consider reviewing the annual rental for the Parish Council's allotment sites in Thornley.

Resolved: That the annual rent be increased to £15 per plot as from 1st April 2007.

76. Review of Charges – Welfare Park

The Parish Clerk advised that it was appropriate at this time to consider reviewing the annual rental for the use of the Welfare Park by football teams using the facility as their "home" pitch during the playing season.

Resolved: That the fees be increased to £200 per team for the 2006/7 season.

77. Repair and Maintenance – Welfare Park Pavillion (REF: 4155 & 4156)

The Parish Clerk advised that in recent weeks there had been a spate of vandalism within the Welfare Park. Fencing had been damaged and more recently the windows and doors of the pavilion had been broken and some equipment belonging to the football teams stolen.



The matter had been reported to the police and a crime number obtained. An estimate had been obtained to replace the 4 external doors (£416 each) and replace the broken windows with polycarbonate to make the facility more secure.

It was also suggested that a steel roller shutter be fitted to the windows.

A second estimate totalling £1,371.74 had also been obtained to replace all toilet cisterns etc.

Members were further advised that to undertake the work it would be necessary to vire finance from other budget headings because the existing Welfare Park budget would not suffice.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred to allow additional estimate to be obtained to fit roller shutters to all external doors.

78. Planning Application (REF: 4204)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. D. Walton had applied for planning permission to construct a first floor rear extension at 21, Gore Hill Estate, Thornley.

Resolved: That the not objections be raised.

79. Planning Application (REF: 4215)

Durham County Council advised that Thornley Primary School had applied for planning permission to construct a 2m high steel palisade fence & gates at Thornley Primary School, Thornley.

Resolved: That the not objections be raised.

80. Bow Street Play area (REF: 4225)

A Resident requested the Parish Council to repaint the equipment and undertake the remedial works on the safety surface at the Bow Street play area. The Parish Clerk reported that he was aware of the situation and had requested Wicksteed Leisure (the company that installed the equipment some years ago) to provide a quotation for the cost of repairs.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred pending receipt of estimated cost of repair.

81. Proposed Wind Farm – Haswell Moor (REF: 4231)

E ON UK Renewables Ltd provided details of a public exhibition which would be held in Haswell Community Centre on Thursday 29th June 2006 from 2:pm until 8pm and Friday 30th June 2006 from 10am until 2pm in relation to a the this proposal.

If this time was not convenient for members they were the company would be more than happy to meet members at some other time to discuss the project in more detail.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

82. County Durham Rights of Way Improvement Plan (REF: 4242)

Durham County Council advised that it was producing an improvement plan to set out a clear vision for the next 10 years in terms of managing the network.

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It was anticipated that the plan would be ready for consultation in early 2007. The Parish Council was requested to consider the plan and provide additional information that would be used to shape the how the paths in Thornley were managed in the future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

83. Request to Graze Horses (REF: 4254)

A written application was received from Lyndsey Barron, 58, Dunelm Road, Thornley requesting permission to graze horses on Parish Council owned land at the former colliery site at the rear of the Library.

A copy of the Personal Liability Insurance had been provided.

Resolved: That permission be granted to Mrs. Barron to gaze horses on Parish land for a period of 12 month.

84. Annual Audit of Accounts to 31st March 2006 (REF: 4212)

BDO Stoy Hayward LLP (auditors) requested minor amendments be made to the Annual Return Form to reflect a £1 difference in the figures transferred from last year 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.

85. Letter of Thanks (REF: 4218)

A letter of thanks was received from Finchale Training College in respect of the Parish Council's donation for "Bricklaying & Training Equipment for the Disabled"

Resolved: That the letter be received.

86. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 4226)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 24/05/06. 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.

87. Planning Permission (REF:4232)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. L. Oliver convert farm buildings into 3 no. dwellings at Thornley Moor Farm Road leading to Thornley Moor Farm, Cassop.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

88. Audit for the Year Ended 31 March 2005/6 (REF: 4247)

BDO Stoy Hayward LLP reported that they had completed the audit of the Parish Council's accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2006.

There were no matters which came to their attention which required the issue of a separate additional "issues arising" letter and that arrangements must be made for residents to view Notice of Conclusion of Audit.

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Resolved: That the information be noted and arrangements be made for residents to view the Audit details.

89. Sexton's Report

The Sexton reported that since his last report on 5th July 2005 there had been:
23 internments
27 plots purchased
18 headstones erected or inscriptions added.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

90. 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.

91. 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 5th September 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

92. 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.

93. Request for Donation (REF: 4252)

St. Godric's R.C.V.A. Primary School requested a donation to fund a "10 Week Stress Management Course".

Resolved: That the request be rejected on the grounds that it was not from a designated or bona fide group.

94. Planning Application (REF: 4266)

The District of Easington has advised that Mr. & Mrs. Smith have applied for planning permission to construct a residential development (outline) at land at rear of Glenside, The Villas, Thornley.

Any objections should be forwarded to the district council

Resolved: That no objections be raised

95. Annual Play Area Safety inspection Report (REF: 4269)

The annual inspection report of children's play areas operated by the Parish Council was provided by R.o.S.P.A. A number of low and medium risk areas had been identified as well as high risk items relating to the safety surfaces.

Resolved: That the report be received and arrangements be made to obtain estimates for the cost of repairs.

96. Local Charter for Easington (REF: 4235)

Members were asked to note that the District of Easington had invited the Chairman (or his representative) to attend the signing of the Charter by the Prime Minister at Wheatley Hill Community Centre on Friday 30th June 2006. Very little notice had been given for the event and as a result it had not been possible for the Chairman or Vice Chairman to attend.

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth represented the Parish Council but was not able to sign the Charter on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Parish Clerk reported that arrangements were being made for the Chairman (Councillor T. Unsworth) to sign the document at a later date.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

97. Security Locks – Coopers Close Allotments

The Parish Clerk reported that he had obtained a quotation for the provision of security locks for the gates on the Coopers Close allotment site totalling £986.00.

The system provided for “slam locks” on both of the pedestrian gates and padlocks for the 2 vehicles access gates.

Each key would cost £7.50 and be of a pattern type which could not be duplicated without the Parish Council's Authority. All would be numbered for identification/record purposes.

Resolved: That the system be purchased and each allotment holder be provided with a key at a cost of £7.50 which would be refunded on termination of their individual allotment agreements.

98. Dog Fouling - Coopers Close

Councillor Middleton reported that a number of dog owners were allowing their animals to foul the grassed area belonging to the District of Easington in the Coopers Close area.

Resolved: That the District of Easington be advised of the situation and requested to install a “Dog Litter Bin”.

99. Damaged Fencing

Councillor Worthington reported that a section of fencing surrounding the grassed area adjacent to Bow Street had been damaged.

Resolved: That the District of Easington be requested to repair or replace the fence.

100. Dry Stone Wall – Church View

Councillor Wharrier reported that a section of dry stone wall had been damaged by vandals.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk investigate and instigate repairs as appropriate.

101. Coopers Close Allotment Inspection

Councillor Smith reported that the condition of some allotments and the activities of certain tenants was of concern and suggested that members carry out an inspection of the site.

Resolved: That members be requested to carry out a site inspection on Tuesday 1st August 2006 at 7:00pm.

J. Thomsen.

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**THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
INSPECTION OF ALLOTMENT SITES
THORNLEY
ON
1ST AUGUST 2006**

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

| <i>Councillor</i> | <i>Reason for Absence</i> | <i>Resolved</i> |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>T. Unsworth</i> | <i>Personal</i> | <i>Approved</i> |
| <i>G. Wharrier</i> | <i>Personal</i> | <i>Approved</i> |

102. Site Inspection

The Parish Clerk informed members that the site meeting had be called at the request of members to inspect the council owned allotment sites in Thornley to determine if tenants were complying with their agreements.

Members expressed reservations of conducting an inspection in view of the inclement weather conditions.

It was pointed out that the allotment holders had discovered that the inspection was to take place and as a result those tenants who may have been in breach of the agreements had now improved their sites.

It was further reported that unauthorised use was being made of the allotment water supply by "travellers" parked on district council owned land in the Coopers Close and that large quantities of water was being used to wash horses and vehicles.

Resolved: That the site inspection be cancelled and the Parish Clerk provides a water consumption report following receipt of the next water account.



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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
5TH SEPTEMBER 2006**

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

| Councillor | Reason for Absence | Resolved |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------|
| W. Middleton, | Personal | Approved |
| Councillor Nicholls | Business | Approved |

103. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor G. Wilson referred to minute 62 and pointed out that the traffic calming measures had not been installed.

The Parish Clerk advised that the Durham County Council would have to schedule the installation with regard to other priorities and the budget they had available.

Having noted the comments the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th July 2006, a copy of which had been previously circulated were accepted as a true record.

104. Minutes of the Site Meeting held 1st August 2006

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st August 2006, a copy of which had been previously circulated were accepted as a true record.

105. Public Question and Answer Session

There were no questions from those members of the public in attendance.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

106. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed the police to the meeting who reported that in the previous month they had dealt with the following incidents in Thornley:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Burglary | 1 |
| Criminal Damage | 8 |
| Youth | 10 |

An Anti social Behaviour Order had been placed on a youth living in Thornley but for legal reasons his name could not be disclosed.

A number of speeding complaints had been received in relation to the East Lea area and this was being monitored by the police.



Councillor Wharrier expressed the concerns that there had been a significant increase in anti social behaviour resulting from the influx of “travellers” to Thornley.

Although the police had responded what was required was a definite move to prevent these individuals camping on the open space in the village irrespective of who it belonged too.

A member reported that a resident had reported incidents of nuisance caused by motorcycles to the police but had been told that nothing would be done unless the resident was prepared to leave his/her name and address.

Members pointed out that if this was the case residents would not report incidents because of possible retaliation and intimidation should it come to light who had reported it.

The police responded saying that the new system of logging incidents required the name of the person reporting it. This was to prevent bogus reporting. He assured members that the names of those reporting incidents would remain confidential and visits would not be made to their homes for statements.

Thornley and the surrounding villages had been designated as a high priority for dealing with incidents relating to motor cycles and that a motor cycle had been confiscated recently from a resident in Thornley and this had been subsequently crushed and disposed of.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

107. Street Wardens Report

The Street Warden had previously given apologies for not being able to be present at the meeting. No report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

108. New Thornley

Although no meeting had taken place Councillor Mrs Unsworth reported that the lighting of the John Scott Youll memorial was now in place. The memorial now “stood out” in darkness and was a focal point in the village.

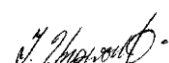
Resolved: That the information be noted.

109. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that following the public meeting attended by officers of the District of Easington, fencing and bollards were being erected in the Bow Street and Coopers Close areas to prevent “travellers” camping on the grassed open space.

It was pointed out that the vast majority of residents did not want travellers in the village ³ but unless all agencies worked together to find a solution the situation could get worse.

³ See Minute 132 - Travellers in Thornley



The district council's spatial strategy report could impact on Thornley by limiting the amount of land available for housing development in the future. If this proved correct the open space in the village would become a magnet for travellers and the consequential increase in anti-social behaviour.

Members expressed concern that travellers may park on the Parish Council's land and that measures should be taken to limit or prevent this as soon as possible.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Clerk provide estimates for consideration for installing bollards to prevent access to the former pit site adjacent to the library.

110. County Councillor

As Councillor Nicholls was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

111. Consultative Meeting

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

112. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that no meeting had taken place.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

113. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that whilst she had been unable to attend the meeting she was aware that the majority of councils in the area were extremely concerned at the loss of the police motorcycle off road unit. The reported incidents involving anti social behaviour and disturbance caused by off road motorcyclists were increasing and councils wanted action taken.

Resolved: That the Parish Council sends a letter to the Chief Constable supporting the reinstatement of the police off road motorcycle unit.

114. School Governors

As Councillor Burgin was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

115. West Area Forum

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

116. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the operation was running smoothly although a recently held coffee morning had been poorly attended.

A trip to Redcar would take place later in September and arrangements for the Christmas Parties were now being considered.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

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117. Members Code of Conduct

Councillor Smith expressed concern that discussions and decisions taken by the parish council were being made known to the public before publication of the minutes.

The Parish Clerk stated that all issues discussed by the council were in the public domain even if residents did not attend meetings. Members were at liberty to inform residents about these issues but they must not, under any circumstances, divulge or discuss any item which was exempt e.g. those relating to staff wages and conditions. If members did so they could be in breach of the member's code of conduct and liable to disciplinary action.

The Chairman stated that if an individual member had knowledge of any impropriety they should take appropriate action and report it to the monitoring officer at the District of Easington.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

118. Extension of Planning Permission – Resource Centre

Pursuant to the meeting held on 4th July 2006 (minute 74 refers) members were provided with a copy of the letter sent to Mr. Warnes regarding this item.

Resolved: That the letter not be withdrawn or any apology offered to Mr. Warnes.

119. Allotment Clearance (REF: 4219)

The Parish Clerk reported that the tenant of allotment numbers 3 & 4 Library site no longer wished to occupy the sites and had terminated his agreements. A number of buildings remained on the allotments however and the outgoing tenant had been advised to remove them. He maintained that he had passed over ownership to the prospective tenant and was not therefore prepared to carry out the work.

The prospective tenant had stated that he had not accepted responsibility for the buildings and would not take the tenancy whilst the structures remained on site.

The estimated cost to the Parish Council of removing the constructions would be in the region of £1, 200 for labour and transport. This was on the basis that no asbestos was present on site. If asbestos was found (which could only be established by carrying out a sample analysis) costs could increase substantially.

Members were asked to determine a course of action bearing in mind that a president would be set for the future clearance of any allotment that became vacant.

Resolved: That the outgoing tenant be given a period of 1 month to clear the allotment after which time the Parish Council would remove the items and an account be sent to the outgoing tenant for the costs incurred. Failure on the part of the outgoing tenant to settle the account would result in legal action being taken by the parish council to recover its costs. Furthermore, a clause be added to the Allotment Tenancy Agreements making it a condition that outgoing tenants clear their allotment on termination of their agreement. Failing to do so would make them liable to pay the costs incurred by the Parish Councils of doing so.

120. Request for Donation (REF: 4300)

Councillors Mrs. M. Brunskill, J. Ollett, 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.

121. Planning Application (REF: 4316)

The District of Easington advised that Mr & Mrs P. Millions had applied for planning permission to construct a rear conservatory at 26, East Lea, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

122. Request to install a Memorial Bench – Library Play Area (REF: 4319)

Mr & Mrs Barnett requested permission to install a bench opposite their daughter's headstone in the memorial garden of Thornley Cemetery. In addition they requested a donation from the Parish Council to cover the cost of the work. The Parish Clerk reminded members that similar requests had been considered in the past 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.

He also advised that if members acceded to this particular request six plots earmarked for the burial of cremated remains in the future would be unusable and potential income of approximately £650.00 would be lost.

With regard to a donation the Parish Clerk reported that it was Council Policy not to make donations to individuals because of president.

Resolved: That subject to Mr. & Mrs Barnett's prior agreement that they will pay all costs incurred by the Parish Council for purchasing a hardwood bench of approved type and its installation permission be granted and that the request for a donation be rejected.

123. Repairs to Youll House (REF: 4277)

The Parish Clerk reported that a quotation totalling £594.02 had been obtained to repair broken windows in Youll House. Since receiving the quotation other windows and doors had also been damaged by vandals.

Resolved: That the quotation be accepted and all window and door repairs be undertaken as soon as possible.

124. Repair and Maintenance – Welfare Park Pavillion (REF: 4291)

The Parish Clerk reported that pursuant to the meeting held on 4th July 2006 (minute 77 refers) an additional quotation totalling £2,376 had been obtained to install roller shutters to all doors on the pavilion.

Resolved: That the quotation be accepted and the works be undertaken as soon as possible.

125. Roof Replacement Youll House (REF: 4339)

The Parish Clerk reported that pursuant to the meeting held on 4th April 2006 (minute 347 refers) Durham County Council provided an estimate totalling £15,304.42 to replace the roof on Youll House.

He further advised that the current reserve to undertake the work stood at £12,500 and no budget allocation had been made in the current year's estimates to make up the shortfall.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred until it could be determined if the work could be undertaken as part of the wider Renaissance Project currently being implemented in collaboration with Durham County Council.

126. Revised Budget 2006/7

The Parish Clerk provided a revised budget to 31st March 2007 that identified the virement that had been necessary between expenditure codes to fund projects already approved.

He also advised that a further revision may be necessary should additional projects be approved before the end of the financial year.

Resolved: That the virement be approved.

127. Request for Additional Keys – Coopers Close Allotments

The Coopers Close Pigeon Society members and several other registered allotment holders requested additional keys for the locks on the newly installed security gates be issued to other (non registered allotment holders) who either assist members or have some other interest in the allotment.

Members were concerned that the issue of additional keys would increase the potential of the gates being left open and weaken security on the site.

Resolved: That additional keys be issued to registered allotment holders at a cost of £7.50.

128. School Garden – Coopers Close Allotments (REF: 4345)

Durham County Council provided a quotation totalling £4,564.62 to provide concrete pads and paths on the School Garden.

The Parish Clerk reported that this estimate was in excess of the original estimate calculated by Groundwork East Durham & the District of Easington (instigators of the project) and above the amount stated in Standing Orders. As a result 3 competitive quotations would be required.

An alternative course of action would be to investigate if the Parish Council's own staff could undertake the work.

Resolved: That the item be deferred to allow further investigation into potential savings and to ascertain if additional funding could be obtained to offset costs.

129. Community X-change (REF: 4342)

The Community X-change/PEALS Centre invited members to become involved in the scheme which commented on questions of importance across the whole of Europe.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

130. Maintenance Liability – New Play Areas

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth explained that in recent months the District of Easington had granted planning permission for several new residential developments in Thornley but no additional provision had been made for children's play areas.

The existing children's play areas in the village (maintained by the Parish Council) were now being used to a greater extent because more children had moved into the village.

This was putting an additional strain on the limited resources available to the Parish Council.

She questioned whether the District of Easington had included a condition that developers construct additional play areas (or other recreational facilities) as part of planning consent.

The Parish Clerk referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2006 (minute 339 refers) reported that he had asked officers at the district council to explain the position. As yet no response had been received.

Resolved: That the District of Easington be requested to provide clarification on this issue.

131. Damage Reports (Councillor Mrs Unsworth)

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that in recent months there had been an increase in vandalism and damage to Parish Council owned property.

She suggested that the total costs for repair be estimated and that the issue be brought to the attention of residents via the press

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk prepare an estimate of repair costs for consideration.

132. Travellers in Thornley

The Parish Clerk read out the content of a number of letters received in relation to travellers in Thornley. All highlighted the problems caused by travellers parking in the village and requests for the Parish Council to take action to prevent reoccurring in the future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

133. Planning Application (REF: 4348)

The District of Easington advised that Ms. N. Hudspeth had applied for planning permission to construct a house at The Old Slaughterhouse, Elliot Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised

134. Request to Purchase Land from the Parish Council (REF: 4351)

Mrs D. Turner & Family 2, Fairview, Thornley requested the Parish Council to consider the selling to them the area of land currently used for the 5-a-side games court in order that they could expand their business premises.

The Parish Clerk advised that should the Parish Council accede to this request it would first be necessary to instruct the Valuer Office Agency to determine a current land value.

He further advised that the estimated fees to carry out the survey could be in excess of £1000. This figure was based on fees paid for a similar request (for land on Hartlepool Street) in February 2006.

Members expressed reservations about selling the area but were cognisant of the fact that the 5 a side area was in a poor location and a constant target for vandals.

Resolved: That the sale be agreed in principal subject to the applicant depositing £1000 to cover survey fees. This would be refunded if the sale went ahead at the price determined by the Value Office Agency. In addition all legal & transfer costs to be paid by the applicant.

135. Welfare Park - Football Fixtures

The Parish Clerk referred to the Parish Council meeting held on 6th June 2006 (minute 45 refers) and advised members that a number of additional mid week fixtures had taken place contrary to the agreement with the football teams. As a result the pitch was being overplayed.

The Chargehand Gardener reported that if this practice was allowed to continue he may not be able to maintain the playing surface to the required standard without cancelling fixtures for a period of time.

Mr Kevin Ord (who represented the football teams) was present at the meeting and he explained to members that there had been a lack of communication and that the situation would not reoccur.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

136. Repainting of Playgrounds and Welfare Park Pavillion

The Parish Clerk reported that the equipment in the Parish Council owned children's play areas and the Welfare Park Pavillion required repainting. Although this work could be undertaken by appointing suitable contractors (having first obtained quotations) an alternative and potentially cheaper course of action would be to extend the contracts of the Parish Councils two temporary employees for a period of 6 weeks to carry out the work. Virement between expenditure codes would be necessary to provide the necessary funding. Members suggested that it would be more appropriate if this work was undertaken in early spring when the football season was coming to an end and hopefully fine weather would be more likely.

Resolved: That the contracts of the two temporary employees be extended by six weeks at the start of the 2007 contracts to allow the work to be undertaken in spring 2007.

137. Planning Permission (REF: 4290)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. D. Walton to construct a first floor rear bedroom extension at 21, Gore Hill Estate, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

138. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 4293)

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

139. Playground Maintenance (REF: 4294)

Pursuant to the meeting held on 4th July 2006 (minute 80 refers) Wickstead Leisure provided an estimate totalling £14,942.75 to return the safety surface to an appropriate standard.

The Parish Clerk reported that this estimate was in excess of that permitted by Standing Orders and that 3 competitive quotations must be obtained.

Members questioned if any alternative methods were available to bring the surface up to standard.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred to allow time for further investigation into costs and alternative methods of repair.

140. Renewal of Planning Permission (REF: 4302)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Thornley Parish Council to construct a Community Centre at land adjacent to the Library, High Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

141. Consultation – Easington Development Framework (REF: 4315)

The District of Easington provided a copy of the document for member's attention and comment.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

142. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 2324)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 25th July 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.

143. Planning Permission (REF: 4327)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. N. Brass to construct 4 No. houses at land adjacent to 78, East Lea, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

144. Liveability Evaluation (REF: 4341)

The District of Easington provided a copy of the evaluation of the Liveability Program for the attention of members.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

145. Best Value Performance Plan 2006 (REF: 4347)

The District of Easington provided a copy of the plan for attention of members.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

146. 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

147. 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.

148. Planning Permission (REF: 4301)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Thornley Parish Council to construct a Community Centre at land adjacent to the Library, High Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

149. Planning Permission (REF: 4355)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr & Mrs Millions to construct a rear conservatory at 26, East Lea, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

150. Easington Development Framework – Consultation Workshop (REF: 4357)

The District of Easington invited representatives from the Parish Council to attend a workshop in relation to the development framework to be held in Shotton Hall on 15th September 2006.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

151. Insurance Claim – Library Play Area (REF: 4358)

Allianz Cornhill advised that the Parish Council's claim in respect of the damage to the library play area has been settled in the amount of £3,894.28

Resolved: That the information be noted.

152. 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.

153. Service of Licensing of Fr. Alan Stainsby

The Parish Clerk reported that a verbal invitation had been received at (extremely short notice) to send a Parish representative to the service for Fr. Stainsby being conducted by Rt. Reverend John Pritchard Bishop of Jarrow. Only Councillor Ollett was available to attend.

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

154. Begging

Councillor G. Wilson reported that elderly residents were being asked to purchase arts works by youths purporting to be students from Poland. The situation had been reported to the police who were investigating. Members were asked to be vigilant and to report any incident directly to the police.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
3RD OCTOBER 2006**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. M. Brunskill, W. Middleton,

J. Ollett, G. Wilson, G. Wharrier, I. Worthington.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

| Councillor | Reason for Absence | Resolved |
|------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Mrs. J. Unsworth | Personal | Approved |

155. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor G. Wilson referred to minute 127 and pointed out that the gate hinge mechanisms may need to be improved to prevent the gates being lifted off. The Parish Clerk referred to minute 134 and informed members that Mrs. Turner had been advised of the Council's decision. Additional information was being sought and this was to be provided to Mrs. Turner to enable her to make progress.

Councillor G. Wilson referred to minute 152 and reported that there were a number of unauthorised horses being tethered on the Parish Council's land. Having noted the comments the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th September 2006, a copy of which had been previously circulated were accepted as a true record.

156. Public Question and Answer Session

There were no questions from those members of the public in attendance.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

157. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed the police to the meeting who reported that in the previous month they had dealt with the following incidents in Thornley:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Burglary | 1 |
| Burglary Other | 1 |
| Criminal Damage | 3 |
| Youth | 5 |

Although no complaints had been received concerning speeding motorists outside the school the County Council were investigating the installation of traffic calming measures.



The Parish Clerk reported that he had met with officers of the County Council outside the school. If enquiries supported the installation of traffic calming measures estimates would be prepared for the Parish Council's consideration.

The police were investigating possible sources of funding to remove a wall outside Peter's Bakery as this was being used as a focal point for youths.

The off road motorcyclist unit and other officers had carried out a special operation over a 10 day period targeting motorcycle in the village. A number of vehicles had been destroyed and summonses for various offences had been issued.

Members asked questions relating to the prohibition orders served on youths and how these were implemented.

Councillor Wilson asked if the police could obtain funding to install a security light on the bakery bank.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

158. Street Wardens Report

As the Street Wardens were not present a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

159. New Thornley

Councillor Wharrier reported that the main topic of discussion at the last meeting was the possible dissolution of the Partnership.

It had been agreed that the Partnership continue until the AGM in February 2007 or until District Council published its report on the future of Community Centres. Members felt that this document was pivotal to the continuation of the partnership as it would have impact on the development of a new recreational type facility, by the partnership, in the village.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

160. District Councillor

Members and officers of the District Council had toured Thornley recently and noted the concerns of residents and councillors on the standards of repairs etc in the village. It was anticipated that these concerns would be addressed in the near future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

161. County Councillor

Councillor Nicholls gave a comprehensive report on the cost of subsidising student travel and the methods currently being considered by the County Council to find a solution.

Longer term employment contracts for Youth workers and funding for the youth program was still under consideration.

A request was made that the Parish Council write in support of maintaining the local 22 bus service as this was one of the only forms of public transport available to residents and it was under threat of being withdrawn.

Councillor Nicholls pointed out that of a £4m budget £800,000 had been allocated to development in the region. The County Council had determined that this development could only take place once additional funding had been earmarked.

The deteriorating condition of the road to Ludworth had been reported and efforts would be made by officers to improve matters.

Resolved: That the information be noted and a letter supporting the continuation of the 22 bus service be sent to the County Council's Transport Officer.

162. Consultative Meeting

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

163. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that no meeting had taken place.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

164. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the main topic of discussion was on the issue of Anti Social Behaviour Orders but as this was information no details could be provided to the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

165. School Governors

As Councillor Burgin was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

166. West Area Forum

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the next meeting would take place the following evening.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

167. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the operation was running smoothly. All necessary repairs to the windows had been implemented by the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

168. Local Council Charter (REF: 4372)

The District of Easington advised that framed copies of the charter were available to Parish Councils at a cost of between £30 and £123 depending on the type of frame required.

Resolved: That the information be received.

169. Personnel & Health & Safety Advice (REF: 4369)

The District of Easington advised that it was to make Personnel and Health & Safety advice available to Parish Council's for a small annual fee and wished to know if Thornley Parish Council would like to participate in the scheme.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred until actual costs were made known.

170. Provision of Christmas Tree (REF: 4380)

Durham County Council provided an estimate totalling £1,052 plus VAT for the provision of a Christmas Tree in the Village for the festive season.

Members expressed concern at the vandalism caused to the tree in recent years.

Resolved: That an order for a tree be placed with Durham County Council for 2006/7 but provision in future years be reviewed if any vandalism occurs to the tree over the festive season.

171. Repair to Bow Street Play Area (REF: 4382)

Pursuant to the meeting held on 5th September 2006 (minute 139 refers) the District of Easington provided an estimate to repair/replace the rubber safety surface at the Bow Street Play area totalling £2500. Members were reminded that an estimate received from Wicksteed Leisure was for £14,942.75.

Members expressed surprise at the difference in price and questioned if it was for the same work.

Resolved: That the District of Easington be asked to confirm the estimate/specification and if it was correct an order be place to carry out the repairs.

172. West Area Forum (REF:4392)

The District of Easington advised that the next forum would take place in Youll House Thornley on Wednesday 4th October 2006 commencing 6:00pm.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

173. Water Consumption – Coopers Close Allotments

Pursuant to the meeting held on 1st August 2006 (minute102 refer) the Parish Clerk provided a comparison of the water consumption at Coopers Close Allotments over a period of years for members attention.

He reported that despite extremely dry weather over the summer months (& the fact that "travellers" to Thornley were using water from the site) water consumption was less than the same period in 2005.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

174. Letter of Thanks (REF: 4401)

A letter of thanks was received from The Learning Library for the Parish Councils donation of £50.

Resolved: That the letter be received.

175. Planning Permission (REF: 4405)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Thornley Parish Council to construct a temporary storage building at land adjacent to Thornley Community Centre, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted and construction of the unit be implemented as soon as possible.

176. Easington District Play Strategy (REF: 4407)

The District of Easington advised that £292,480 had been awarded in principal by the National Lottery for the purpose of improving local play facilities.

To progress the initiative a client monitoring group to consult with stakeholders was being formed.

It was suggested that Parish Councils in the area appoint a representative to the group via the Easington Association of Parish & Town Councils.

Members expressed the view that it would be beneficial if Thornley Parish Council's representative to the Association could obtain the nomination to represent all Parish Council's interests in this matter.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

177. 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

178. 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.

179. Request to install a Memorial Bench in Thornley Cemetery

Mr Bell made a verbal request through the Parish Clerk for permission to install a bench on a vacant plot near his mother's grave in Thornley Cemetery.

The Parish Clerk reminded members that similar requests had been considered in the past 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.

He also advised that it would be inappropriate to acceded to the request to place the bench on the vacant plot as it would face the wrong way i.e. North instead of South.

A possible solution would be to transfer ownership of the plot (it having already been purchased by Mr .Bell) to an adjacent plot or that Mr Bell purchase an additional plot to accommodate the bench.

Resolved: That the request to place a memorial bench on the grave adjacent to his mothers be refused but; subject to Mr. Bell's prior agreement that an alternative plot be allocated and that he pays all costs incurred by the Parish Council for purchasing a hardwood bench of approved type and its installation, permission be granted.

180. Vandalism Welfare

The Parish Clerk reported that vandals were still targeting the Welfare Park. The Street Warden would not visit the premises because they could not get their vehicle past the security barrier (installed by the District Council) as to do so would place them at risk.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

181. Proposed Stopping Up Order (REF: 4411)

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

Resolved: That no objections be raised

182. Planning Application (REF: 4423)

The District of Easington has advised that Ms. N. Hudspeth has applied for planning permission to construct a house at The Stables, Percy Street West, Thornley DH6 3AP.

Resolved: That no objections be raised

183. Probation Service

The Parish Clerk reported that an approach had been made by the Probation Service to participate in a scheme to integrate offenders back into society by providing work placement.

Resolved: That the Parish Council participates in the scheme if suitable projects can be identified.

184. Installation of Boulders to prevent access to the Former Pit Site

Pursuant to the meeting held on 5th September 2006 (minute 109 refers) the Parish Clerk reported that the cost of each boulder was approximately £25 depending on the size/weight delivered. Approximately 25 to 30 would be required to prevent access by vehicles onto the Pit Wheel Site. Additional costs would be incurred depending who was employed to undertake installation.

Resolved: That the installation of boulders be approved and the Parish Clerk investigates appropriate methods of installation.

185. County Association of Parish & Town Council's.

The Association advised that the AGM would take place in County Hall Durham on Saturday 28th October 2006 commencing at 10:15am.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

186. War Memorial Lights

Councillor Middleton expressed the view that the recently installed lights at the War Memorial were in the wrong place because they did not illuminate the whole of the memorial.

Resolved: That a cost be obtained to relocate the existing lights and/or the purchase and installation of additional lights.

187. Remembrance Day Service

Councillor Middleton enquired if any arrangements had been made by the Parish Council for the Remembrance Day Service.

The Chairman pointed out that this was not a Parish Council function.

Resolved: That the information be noted and a Poppy Wreath be purchased by the Parish for Remembrance Day.

J. Thomsen.

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

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

| Councillor | Reason for Absence | Resolved |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Mrs. M. Brunskill | Personal | Approved |
| Mrs. J. Unsworth | Personal | Approved |
| County Councillor M. Nicholls | | |

188. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor Middleton pointed out that he had forgotten to offer the apologies of Councillor Smith at the previous meeting and asked that they be recorded.

The Parish Clerk reiterated that if members cannot attend meetings they must tender their apologies personally to the Parish Clerk before meetings commence.

It was agreed that on this occasion only the apologies of Councillor Smith be recorded.

Councillor Wharrier referred to minute 160 and pointed out that it was only one officer and himself that had toured the village.

Having noted the comments the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd October 2006, a copy of which had been previously circulated were accepted as a true record.

189. Public Question and Answer Session

There were no questions from members of the public who were in attendance.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

190. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed Sgt. Dickinson to the meeting who reported that in the previous month they had dealt with the following incidents in Thornley:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Burglary | 1 |
| Criminal Damage | 6 |
| Youth | 12 |

Sgt. Dickinson then gave a very detailed report on the outcome of a special high visibility multi agency operation carried out in Thornley (and surrounding villages) recently.



The operation had focused on drug related matters (4 warrants issued and £188,000 of drugs confiscated) and a whole range of motor vehicle related crime that resulted in 25 fixed penalty fines, 9 rectification notices, 2 for no insurance, 2 arrests and the seizure of cigarettes.

The fire brigade had also visited 796 homes to discuss safety and 68 pieces of graffiti had been removed from premises by the district council.

It was anticipated that this type of operation would be carried out again on a regular basis.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

191. Street Wardens Report

The Street Wardens reported that in recent weeks they had been dealing with cases of vandalism and theft from void properties in the Coopers Close area. Because of the time of year they had also been called to a number of bonfire related matters.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

192. New Thornley

Councillor Wharrier reported that the meeting had been held at the Crossways Hotel in an attempt to attract new members and for residents to acquaint themselves with proposals to redevelop the hotel for housing.

A resident had enquired if traffic calming measures could be provided on the back street road parallel to Dunelm Road to deter motorists using it as a detour.

As this was not within the remit of the Partnership it was suggested it be brought to the attention of the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

193. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that the district council was awaiting a Spatial Strategy report before making firm decisions on further redevelopment in the area.

A presentation was being arranged on the recent Government White Paper that would devolve duties to Parish & Town Councils.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

194. County Councillor

Councillor Nicholls had offered apologise for not being able to attend but requested that the Parish Clerk report that a street light was to be installed on the "bakery bank".

Resolved: That the information be noted.

195. Consultative Meeting

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

196. Durham County Association of Town & Parish Councils

Councillor G. Wilson reported that he had attended the meeting held in County Hall the previous Saturday.

The main topic was the need to increase subscription charges and those for training courses because of increased costs.

Details would be sent to the Parish Council in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

197. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that no meeting had taken place.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

198. T.E.D.

As Councillor Mrs. Brunskill was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

199. School Governors

The Parish Clerk reported that in view of the resignation of Councillor Burgin it would be necessary to appoint a new representative to act as a School Governor.

Resolved: That Councillor T. Smith be nominated and the Parish Clerk advise the Headmistress.

200. West Area Forum

Councillor G. Wilson reported that issues raised at the previous meeting had not been addressed. Officers were to investigate and report back to the next meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

201. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that although the operation was operating satisfactorily there had been some difficulty providing luncheon for members because of staff illness.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

202. East Durham Villages Children's & Young People's Project (REF: 4451)

Durham Rural Community Council invited the Parish Council to become a partner in developing a project to raise funds to employ development workers to work with young people specifically in the villages in and around Thornley.

A representative of the Parish Council was also invited to be part of the Project Management Group.

Financial aid was requested that could be used for matched funding purposes.

Resolved: That Parish Council support the project and would consider financial aid when further details were made known.

203. Planning Application (REF: 4439)

The District of Easington advised that K. Turner had applied for planning permission for change of use from open space to storage of fairground equipment at access to Fairview, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised

204. Planning Application (REF: 4440)

The District of Easington advised that W. Laing had applied for planning permission to construct a rear kitchen extension and detached private garage at 124, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised

205. Additional Works at War Memorial (REF: 4441)

T. Widdowfield & Sons provided a quotation totalling £1,352.05 to undertake additional works required to complete the redevelopment of the war memorial. The Parish Clerk reported that there was £1,000 set aside in the Capital program for the works but it may be possible to apply for 50% funding via the War Memorials Trust.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred pending an application to secure funding.

206. Request for Donation (REF: 4443)

Haswell & District MENCAP Association requested a donation to support the work of the society in providing activities etc 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 £50.00.

207. Cemetery Maintenance

The Parish Clerk provided photographic examples and reported that over a period of some months a number of relatives of deceased buried in Thornley Cemetery had seen fit to install borders around graves, contrary to clause 8 of the Cemetery Regulations 2003 (revised 2006).

Materials used ranged from wrought iron and stone to wood and plastic. Designs also varied. In addition small decorative stones and other types of material were being used and these could cause serious injury to employees or members of the public if thrown up by grasscutting and or strimming machinery when maintenance operations were undertaken.

Memorabilia and other articles such as toys were also being placed on graves. It was pointed out that although some families would maintain their relative's grave on a regular basis, others only did so for a limited period and thereafter these plots were left to deteriorate.

If the current situation was not addressed more and more structures were likely to be installed and the cemetery would become (arguably) visually unattractive and more time consuming to maintain. As a result maintenance costs would increase.

Members were reminded that when considering a course of action they needed to be aware that the longer these practices were allowed to continue the more difficult and onerous it would become to stop and that some relatives may be unhappy at the councils decision.

Resolved: That suitable notices be posted in the Cemetery advising relatives to remove unauthorised structures immediately and that in default they would be removed by the Parish Council.

208. Request for Donation (REF: 4461)

East Durham Positive Inclusion Partnership requested a donation to support the organisation which provided free support & information to disabled children, their families and carers living in the Easington District.

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.

209. Maintenance Report

The Chargehand Gardener provided members with a written report on the various maintenance operations carried out by staff in recent months.

He also indicated the proposed works to be undertaken over the winter period.

Resolved: That the information be received.

210. Capital Works Program 2007

A report of the Parish Clerk was considered.

Resolved: That the program as detailed in the report be approved.

211. Planning Application (REF: 4469)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. Smith had applied for planning permission to construct a residential development at land at the rear of "Glenside", The Villas, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

212. Easington Youth Forum – Library Site (REF: 4463)

The Parish Clerk reported that a member of the Youth Forum had raised a number of issues regarding the removal of the Library Play equipment.

An explanation for the removal had been provided and other points raised had been addressed.

Recommendation: That the information be noted.

213. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 4428)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 29th September 2006. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

Recommendation: *That the information be noted.*

214. Planning Permission (REF: 4429)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Ms. N. Hudspeth to construct a house at The Old Slaughterhouse, Elliot Street, Thornley.

Recommendation: *That the information be noted.*

215. Resignation of Councillor M. Burgin (REF: 4442)

The Parish Clerk reported that Councillor Burgin had sent a letter of resignation as a Parish Councillor.

It would be necessary it advise the District of Easington that a vacancy existed in order that arrangements could be made for an election to take place.

In the event that no nominations were received it would be possible for the Parish Council to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Recommendation: *That the Parish Clerk advise the District of Easington of the vacancy*

216. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports

The Parish Clerk apologised for not being able to present a report due to preparation of the six monthly audit.

Details of all expenditure for the period would be presented at the next meeting.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

217. 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.

218. Remembrance Day Services

Councillor Middleton pointed out that because of the general demise of organisations in the area there was a danger that the Remembrance Service held at the war memorial in Thornley on the appointed day would not be held in future years.

Whilst he had made arrangements for this years' service, he suggested that in future the Parish Council contacts the various religious denominations asking if they could send a representative to perform a service.



The Parish Clerk reported that the arrangements for this type of event were not generally within the remit of Parish Council's. It would be possible however for letters to be sent to religious denominations inviting them to perform a service of remembrance. It being clearly understood that there was no obligation for them to accept the invitation or attend.

Resolved: That in future years the Parish Council invites the various religious denominations to send a representative to Thornley on Remembrance Sunday to perform a service of remembrance.



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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
6TH DECEMBER 2006**

PRESENT

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

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</i> | <i>Approved</i> |
| <i>G. Wilson</i> | <i>Away on Business</i> | <i>Approved</i> |
| <i>G. Wharrier</i> | <i>Away on Business</i> | <i>Approved</i> |
| <i>County Councillor Nicholls</i> | | |

219. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill referred to minute 203 and sought clarification as to why the Parish Councillor had not objected to the planning application.

The Chairman advised that in the view of Councillor's present at the last meeting this development would help to improve the area both visually and economically.

Councillor Ollett referred to minute 194 and reported that he had been informed that it would not be possible for Durham County Council to install a street lamp on the Bakery Bank because it was an unadopted highway. Some of the street lighting in the vicinity had also been altered but this would not cure the perceived problems in the area.

Having noted these comments the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th, November 2006, a copy of which had been previously circulated were accepted as a true record.

220. Public Question and Answer Session

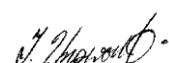
A resident reported that rubbish was being allowed to accumulate on the footpath between Passfield Square and Shinwell Crescent and as result it could become a health hazard.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk bring this matter to the attention on the District of Easington.

221. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Marsden to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the number of calls received from Thornley had decreased by 50%

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| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Criminal Damage | 3 |
| Theft | 1 |
| Anti Social Behaviour | 9 |
| Burglary (Void Property) | 3 |

An anti drugs operation had been carried out in Wheatley Hill & Thornley the previous Friday. No drugs (Class A) were found but one person was arrested for possession of an offensive weapon.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

222. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed Dave Riseley to the meeting who reported that in the previous month they had dealt with 29 incidents in Thornley mainly relating to the void property in Coopers Close and youths causing disturbance.

It was reported that one void property had been set on fire and that this was of grave concern.

Resolved: That the Parish Council's concerns on void property be brought to the attention of the District of Easington.

223. New Thornley

As Councillor Wharrier was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

224. District Councillor

As Councillor Wharrier was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

225. County Councillor

As Councillor Nicholls was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

226. Consultative Meeting

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

227. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that no meeting had taken place.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

228. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that no meeting had taken place.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

229. School Governors

Councillor Smith reported that no meeting had taken place.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

230. West Area Forum

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

231. Youll House

As Councillor G. Wilson was not present no report was available although it was understood that several Christmas Parties organised for members were proving successful.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

232. Request for Donation (REF: 4490)

A request for a donation was received from Crimestoppers.

The Parish Clerk advised that £50 was donated in 2005/06⁴

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.

233. Invitation to Civic Carol Service (REF: 4496)

The Chairman of the District of Easington Councillor Charles Walker invited the Chairman and partner to attend a Christmas Carol Service to be held on Monday 18th December 2006 at St. Hild & St. Helen's Church, Dawdon, Seaham commencing 6:30pm.

Resolved: That the invitation be received

234. Subscription Renewal Society of Clerks (Ref: 4500)

The Parish Clerk requested that in line with previous practice, the annual subscription for the Society of Clerks for 2007 be renewed at a cost of £120.

Resolved: That the subscription be renewed.

235. Planning Application (REF: 4512)

The District of Easington advised that Three Rivers Housing had applied for planning permission to construct 2 houses & 2 bungalows at land rear of Arran Grove, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

236. Personnel and Health & safety Advice (REF: 4520)

Members were asked to recall that the District of Easington proposed to offer advice on a range of Personnel & Health & Safety⁵ but a decision on whether to participate had been deferred pending notification of the cost involved.

⁴ Meeting held on 6th September 2005 minute 111 refers.

⁵ Meeting held 3rd October 2006 minute 169 refers

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The Parish Clerk reported that the cost for 2007/2008 would be £400 and that this would be reviewed in future.

Resolved: That the Parish Council did not participate in the scheme at this time.

237. Casual Vacancy (REF: 4524)

The District of Easington advised that no request for an election has been received and therefore the Parish Council was at liberty to make arrangements to fill the vacancy of Parish Councillor by co-option as soon as possible.

Mr. Michael Wigham 13, St. Bede Crescent, Thornley DH6 3HN was the only nomination received.

Resolved: That Mr. Michael Wigham be duly appointed to serve as a Parish Councillor and that the District of Easington be advised accordingly.

238. Risk Assessments

The Parish Clerk advised that it was incumbent upon the Parish Council to maintain a range of risk assessments (Financial and Manual) and that these should be periodically reviewed and expanded upon. ⁶

All existing risk assessments were considered.

Resolved: That the risk assessment be approved and that the Parish Clerk expands the portfolio as and when necessary.

239. Letter of Thanks (REF: 4500)

A letter of thanks was received from the Haswell & District MENCAP Society for the Councils donation of £50.

Resolved: That the letter of thanks be received.

240. Planning Permission (REF: 4523)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to W. Laing to construct a rear kitchen extension & detached private garage at 124, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

241. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 4521)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 27/10/2006. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

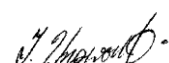
Resolved: That the information be noted.

242. 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

⁶ Copies of all existing Risk Assessments were available to members.



243. 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.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

244. Planning Permission (REF:4528)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Ms. N. Hudspeth to construct a house at The Stables, Percy Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

245. Local Government White Paper (REF: 4541)

Durham County Council advised that they had concluded that the people & communities of County Durham would be best served if the present two-tier system were replaced by a unitary structure of local government.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

246. Request for Donation (REF: 4539)

Victim Support County Durham requested a donation to support the work of the organisation over the next 12 months.

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.

247. Request for Donation (REF: 4540)

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 £50 was made in December 2005.

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.

248. 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 from £97,000 to £100,395 (i.e.3.5% as previously suggested) this would result in an overspend of £11,598.

Although it may be possible to absorb this amount by making use of earmarked reserves it would mean that not all planned Capital Works would be completed in the preferred timescale.

* A number of members of the Council have expressed interest in the proposed changes to the Precept and have requested further information. The Council has agreed to provide this information to the members of the Council who have requested it.



Any precept over £100,000 would necessitate an information leaflet being included in the Council Tax Bills (sent out by the District of Easington) advising Thornley residents of the Parish Council's position.

Resolved: That the Parish Precept be increased to £101,850 for 2007/2008 and the District of Easington be advised accordingly.

249. Date and time of next meeting

It was suggested that in view of the forthcoming Christmas and New Year holiday period members consider cancelling the meeting due to take place on 2nd January 2007 and hold the next meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 6th February 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Resolved: That the January 2007 meeting be cancelled and that the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on Tuesday 6th February 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
6TH FEBRUARY 2007**

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

| Councillor | Reason for Absence | Resolved |
|------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Mrs. J. Unsworth | Personal | Approved |
| G. Wharrier | Personal | Approved |
| I. Worthington | Personal | Approved |

County Councillor M. Nicholls

250. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Having noted the comments the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th December 2006, a copy of which had been previously circulated were accepted as a true record.

251. Public Question and Answer Session

Several members of the public asked that the Parish Council reconsider its decision to remove unauthorised enclosures that had been installed around graves in Thornley Cemetery.⁷

Resolved: That the Parish Council defers removal of the enclosures pending a review of the situation on 6th March 2007.

252. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Marsden to the meeting who reported that in the previous month they had dealt with the following incidents in Thornley:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Burglary | 4 |
| Criminal Damage | 16 |
| Theft | 3 |
| Youth | 14 |

Operation "Dark" would commence in the near future to highlight the need for extra vigilance on Commercial property during the winter.

Twenty officers would be paying particular attention to reducing burglary in Industrial & business premises in villages west of the A19.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

⁷ Meeting held on 7th November 2007 minute 207 refers



253. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed the Street Wardens to the meeting who reported that during January they had dealt with 28 incidents in Thornley mainly centered on damage being caused to the void properties in the Coopers Terrace area. Councillor Mrs. Brunskill pointed out that the District of Easington was being prevented from demolishing the properties until a colony of "bats" were cleared from the buildings.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

254. New Thornley

In the absence of Councillor Wharrier the Parish Clerk reported that no meeting had taken place. The AGM would take place on 20th February 2007.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

255. District Councillor

As Councillor Wharrier was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

256. County Councillor

The Parish Clerk reported on behalf of Councillor Nicholls that the Durham County Council had submitted their submission for unitary status.

It was anticipated that difficulties preventing the completion of the regeneration of the area around "the Villas" would be overcome in the near future.

The County Council were investigating the possibility of providing additional car parking adjacent to the sure Start Centre in Thornley in an effort to reduce congestion and potential accidents.

At present £2,000 was available for traffic calming measures in Thornley. Details of any schemes required by the Parish Council should be forwarded to the County Council as soon as possible.

A request was made that the Parish Council write a letter supporting an improvement in the bus service provided by Arriva to the Wheatley Hill, Thornley and other villages in the area.

Resolved: That (i) the information be noted (ii) The Gables be put forward as an area for traffic calming measures (iii) an appropriate letter be forwarded to the County Council concerning the bus services.

257. Consultative Meeting

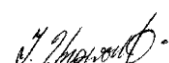
Councillor G. Wilson reported that no meeting had been held.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

258. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Secretary of the Association advised that there had been a poor attendance at meetings in recent months and asked that this be brought to members attention.

The Parish Clerk reported that the association had been advised that their meetings clashed with those of the Parish Council and that in the case of Thornley, this is the reason members could not attend.



The association was aware of this situation and was to review its position in the light of comments made by the membership to see if more convenient dates could be arranged.

Recommendation: That the information be noted.

259. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that a presentation on the "Pride in Easington" project was given. Any potential projects involving children in environmental improvements would be considered.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

260. School Governors

Councillor Smith reported that the next meeting would take place in March 2007.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

261. West Area Forum

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

262. Youll House

Councillor Wigham reported that the operation was operating successfully. A decision on the future operation of Age Concern Thornley would be made at the AGM to be held in May 2007.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

263. Planning Application (REF: 4549)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. Russell had applied for planning permission to construct a sun lounge extension at Hillcrest, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

264. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 4543)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 21/11/2006. 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.

265. Request for Donation (REF: 4552)

Durham Wildlife Trust requested a donation to aid its work over the coming year.

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

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266. Repairs to Youll House (REF: 4560)

Members were reminded that in recent weeks it had been necessary to replace the security grills on the windows of Youll House at a cost of £940.93 following damage to the windows by vandals.

The Parish Clerk reported that the annual budget for repair and maintenance of the centre was £750 and to date £1,258.00 has been expended. Leaving an current shortfall of £508.00

A further quotation was obtained totalling £1,553.42 plus VAT to replace the grills on the main entrance door, kitchen and side entrance.

To carry out the additional work it would be necessary to vire the shortfall from reserves earmarked for other projects.

Resolved: That the works be undertaken to make the premises secure and that virement be approved as required.

267. Review of Cemetery Charges/Regulations

The Parish Clerk advised that it was appropriate at this time for the Parish Council to consider the annual review of the scale of charges for burials and other services in Thornley Cemetery.

The charges were last increased at the meeting held on 6th September 2005.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred until July 2007.

268. Youll House Hire Fees

Members were asked to recall that this matter was discussed at the meeting held on 7th February 2006⁸ when it was resolved that because of recruitment issues and impending Government Regulations on smoking in public places, a decision be deferred for twelve months.

Councillor Wigham reported that the future of Age Concern was to be considered at their AGM in May 2006. If it was decided that the operation could not continue they would be no require the use of the building and it would revert back to the Parish Council.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred until June 2007.

269. Review of Standing Orders

Members considered amendments to Standing Orders in the light of current circumstances and trends.

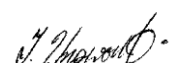
Resolved: That the proposed changes be implemented and a copy be provided to all members.

270. Planning Application (REF: 4604)

The District of Easington advised that J.E. Hudson had applied for planning permission to construct a Residential Development at Crossways Hotel & land adjacent to Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

⁸ Minute 263 refers



271. Community Facilities in Thornley

The District of Easington invited representatives of the Parish Council to attend an informal meeting, to be held in Thornley Community Centre on Thursday 15th February 2007 commencing 6:00pm, to discuss the findings of the "Feasibility Study of Council Community Buildings in Easington".

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

272. Financial Requirements Information Leaflet.

Members were asked to recall that at the November meeting they were advised that if the Parish Council Precept exceeded £100,000 for 2007/8 it would be obliged to produce a "Summary of Financial Requirements Information" leaflet for distribution to all residents with the annual Council Tax demand.

The Parish Clerk reported that in January 2007 Central Government had advised that the threshold necessitating the production of leaflets had now been increased from £100,000 to £140,000.

As a result the Parish Council was no longer obliged to distribute the leaflet. It was suggested that whilst the Parish Council is now under no obligation to distribute the information directly to residents, it would be appropriate if they were made aware of the Parish Council's financial requirements for 2007/8.

Resolved: That the information be provided to residents in poster form displayed in a number of locations in the village.

273. Audit of Accounts ending 30th September 2006 (REF: 4558 & 4559)

The Parish Clerk reported that the Internal Audit of Accounts from 1st April 2006 to 30th September 2006 had been completed by W.J. Smith. No financial irregularities had been identified and the accounts were in order.

The Auditor commented on other areas of the council's operation for consideration.

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

274. Stopping-Up Order – Thornlaw North (REF: 4580)

Government Office North East provided a copy of the Stopping-Up Order in relation to highways at Thornlaw North, Thornley, Co. Durham – Phase 2, made in accordance with the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 – Section 247.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

275. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 4591)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 21/12/2006. 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.

276. Letter of Thanks (REF: 4609)

A letter of thanks was received from East Durham Positive Inclusion Partnership for the Parish Council's recent donation.

Resolved: That the letter be received.

277. Break-in & Theft from Storage Units

The Parish Clerk reported that the Parish Council's two "port-a-cabins" were broken into on two separate occasions on Friday 12th January & again on Friday 19th January 2007.

Two chainsaw's, a number of tools and other items had been stolen or damaged. The doors and locks of the units were also damaged in the process. Both the police and council's insurance company had been informed and measures taken to repair the damage and secure repairs.

All items will be replaced on settlement of the insurance claim.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

278. 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

279. 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.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

280. Planning Permission (REF: 4620)

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

281. Pathfinder to Unitary Durham Districts (REF: 4621)

The District of Easington provided a copy of the bid for unitary status in Durham and requested that if the Parish Council wished to support the bid it should do so in writing.

Resolved: That the information be received.

282. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 4622)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 23rd January 2007. 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.

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283. Welfare Park Maintenance (REF: 4624)

The Parish Clerk reported that an estimate totalling £3,682.50 had been obtained to undertake a range of tasks considered essential to maintain that Welfare Park Football Pitch to a higher standard for the 2007/8 playing season. No specific budget provision had been made for this work in the current financial year or 2007/8.

Members were informed that if they decided to undertake the work it would be necessary to vire funds from other budget headings.

An alternative solution was to maintain the pitch at the current standard and when finance allows undertake remedial works.

Resolved: That the works be undertaken if finance could be made available by virement between budget headings.

284. Intruder Alarm & Electrical Provision – Storage Unit (REF: 4625)

The Parish Clerk reported in order for the newly erected storage unit to become operational it was essential that an electricity supply and an alarm system be installed. To facilitate this, an estimate totalling £2,720.00 had been obtained. He further advised that because no specific budget provision had been made for this work in the current estimates it would be necessary to vire funds from other budget headings for the work to be undertaken.

Resolved: That the works be undertaken and that virement between budgets be approved.

285. Request for Donation (REF:)

The Peterlee & Horden Branch of the Durham Light Infantry requested a donation to send 2 relatives to the grave of their brother Tommy Griffiths of Shotton, who was killed in action in Borneo.

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.

286. Parking of Showmen's Vehicles

A request was made that the district of Easington be requested to provide an update on the situation concerning the parking of showmen's vehicles on open space in Thornley.

Resolved: That the District of Easington be asked to provide an update.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
6TH MARCH 2007**

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

| Councillor | Reason for Absence | Resolved |
|------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Mrs. J. Unsworth | Personal | Approved |
| G. Wharrier | Personal | Approved |

287. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor G. Wilson referred to minute 286 and asked if any response had been received from the District of Easington in relation to the parking of showmen's vehicles on open space.

The Parish Clerk stated that no response had been received.

Having noted the comments the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th February 2007, a copy of which had been previously circulated were accepted as a true record.

288. Public Question and Answer Session

Several members of the public asked if the Parish Council had reconsidered its decision to remove unauthorised enclosures in Thornley Cemetery

The Chairman responded that a site meeting had taken place and a decision would be made later in the evening.

Those with concerns would be notified in writing by the Parish Clerk of the Councils decision with 7 to 10 days.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

289. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Marsden to the meeting who reported that in the previous month they had dealt with the following incidents in Thornley:

| | |
|----------|---|
| Burglary | 3 |
| Youth | 7 |

There had been a significant decline in the number of incidents being reported. It was also reported that P.C. Taylor had been promoted. His duties would now be undertaken by P.C. Michael Cornforth.

Councillor Wigham highlighted that the advertised times for the proposed monthly meeting between the police and residents was incorrect.



The police stated that they were aware of the error and arrangements had been made for officers to be present at the advertised time in the event that residents attended.

Resolved: That the information be noted and a letter of thanks be forwarded to the Chief Constable congratulating P.C. Taylor on his promotion and commending the efforts made by the police in reducing crime in Thornley.

290. Street Wardens Report

The street wardens reported that they were still attending to a number of calls relating to the void properties in Coopers Terrace.

Like the police they were receiving less reports in relation to Thornley but were being vigilant.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

291. New Thornley

The Chairman reported that the Annual General meeting had taken place in February and new officers had been appointed.

It was anticipated that when the District of Easington had completed its the report into Community facilities throughout the district the Partnership could develop a sports facility project in Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

292. District Councillor

In the absence of Councillor Wharrier Councillor Nichols reported that East Durham Homes was still awaiting a decision on 2 star status. If this was awarded several million pounds could be available to the district council for redevelopment works.

The demolition of properties in Coopers Terrace could not be considered until the "bats" that were roosting in certain properties were removed. This would probably take place in April.

Negotiations between officers of the district council and the showmen relating to the parking of their vehicles on open space was progressing. It was anticipated that this matter would be resolved in the near future.

The signage for new housing developments in the village was also being addressed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

293. County Councillor

Councillor Nichols reported that the County Council had lost £9.1 million and that as a result community charges would increase by 2.6%.

Discussions had taken place with the headmistress of Thornley School and a play centre was planned for development in July 2007. This would be the first such project in the county.

The development of vacant land adjacent to the school was being examined on which to develop additional car the for he school.

It was anticipated that youth worker would be appointed on 3 years contracts in the future if a funding application was successful.

The bus service to Thornley and the surrounding villages was still a cause of concern. Councillor Nichols asked that the Parish Council support action in any way possible.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

294. Consultative Meeting

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

295. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that no meeting had taken place.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

296. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs Brunskill reported that the "bats" in the Coopers Terrace properties had been discussed and that regular litter picks were taking place in Thornley in an attempt to reduce the problems it caused.

Free compost was being made available to residents by Premier Waste. This could be collected from the district council on 10th March 2007 between 8:30am and 12 noon.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

297. School Governors

Councillor Smith reported that the next meeting was to take place later in March.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

298. West Area Forum

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

299. Youll House

Councillor Wigham reported that the Parish Council had undertaken the repairs to the windows and that the building was now more secure.

Bags of fresh fruit and vegetables were being made available each week to residents at a cost of £2.50. It was considered that this represented good value for money.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

300. Transfer of Land from D.C.C. (REF: 4665)

The Parish Clerk reported at the request of the solicitor representing the Parish Council in this matter a meeting had taken place.

In the opinion of the solicitor the transfer was fraught with difficulties mainly due to the fact that not all of the land had been registered. To resolve all the concerns might prove costly because of the time needed to investigate etc.

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It had been suggested that the Parish Council consider the long term benefits of obtaining the land against the potential expenditure that was likely to be incurred to obtain title to the land.

Resolved: That the Parish Council withdraw from the transfer and that Durham County Council and Groundwork East Durham be advised accordingly.

301. Letter of Thanks (REF: 4666)

A letter of thanks was received from the Durham Wildlife Trust for the Parish Council's recent donation.

Recommendation: That the letter be received.

302. 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.

In addition members were asked to note that due to an error the Income & Expenditure report considered at the 6th February 2007 meeting had not include expenditure details. A revised copy was therefore considered.

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

303. 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.

304. Planning Application (REF: 4691)

The District of Easington has advised that Mr. N. Alvey has applied for planning permission to construct a Garden Store at 16, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

305. Planning Application (REF: 4692)

The District of Easington has advised that Mr. N. Brass has applied for planning permission to construct 4 no. houses at land east of Eastlea, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

306. Maintenance Report

The Chargehand Gardener provide members with a report highlighting the maintenance operation undertaken by staff.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

307. School Garden

Councillor G. Wilson requested an update on the development of the School Garden being constructed on the parish council Coopers Close allotment site. The Parish Clerk reported that the Allotment Association had only recently provided plans of building required etc and as a result works had been delayed. Works were now progressing however and it was anticipated that it would be in operation shortly.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

308. Cost of Vandalism

It was suggested that the cost of repairing acts of vandalism be prepared and that these be posted throughout the village for the attention of residents.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk provide the information for members.

309. Flower Vases Thornley Cemetery

It was suggested that the Parish Council investigate the cost of obtaining suitable flower vases for use in the Cemetery and these be posted in the cemetery for the attention of residents.

Resolved: That the information provided.

310. Grave Enclosures Thornley Cemetery

Following a site meeting that had taken place prior to the Parish Council meeting and having taken into account the views of members of the public the councillors reviewed the decision to remove unauthorised enclosures placed in the cemetery by relatives of the deceased.

Resolved: That the Cemetery Regulation be revised to permit the installation of Kerb Sets to enclose graves providing they are constructed of Granite or Marble and are colour matched to the existing headstone, if one is in place. They must also be installed by bona fide stonemasons. Kerb sets will be permitted on Sections A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2. No enclosures will be permitted on Sections A3, B3, or C3 in the cemetery extension or any grave designated for the internment of cremated remains i.e. Sections D1 or D2. The cost of obtaining formal permission to install Kerb Sets will be £75.00 plus the cost of purchasing "Exclusive Rights of Burial in Perpetuity" for the grave(s) if this has not already been obtained. In addition the time limit for removal of unauthorised enclosures be extended until 1st May 2007.



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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
3RD APRIL 2007**

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

No apologies were recorded received.

311. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor Ollett referred to minute 289 and pointed out that it was Sgt. Hawks not P.C. Marsden that was in attendance, that the reference to P.C. Taylor should be P.C.S.O. Taylor and that he had left the force not been promoted. Reference was also made to minute 290 and it was pointed out that a letter of thanks, similar to that sent to the Chief Constable, be sent to the District of Easington in respect of the Warden Services. Having noted the comments the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th February 2007, a copy of which had been previously circulated were accepted as a true record.

312. Public Question and Answer Session – Item 1

A member of the public highlighted the problems being faced by residents in Thornley because a group of “travellers” had camped in close proximity to their homes. The noise from electric generators and other general behaviour was considered anti social and asked what the Parish Council could do to rectify the situation.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council was aware that “travellers” were camped in Thornley but it had no powers to deal with the problem. It was up to the District of Easington to find a solution.

The police stated that “travellers” had certain rights under the law and therefore they (the police) could not intervene until asked to do so by the District Council unless a criminal act was carried out. They agreed however to visit the site and see if anything could be done to minimise the problems.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that the Parish Clerk makes the District of Easington aware of the situation.

313. Public Question and Answer Session – Item 2

Three members of the public expressed concern at the councils latest decision concerning the removal of enclosures around graves in Thornley cemetery.⁹

⁹ Meeting held on 6th March 2007 Minute 310 refers.



Resolved: That the concerns expressed by those present be noted and the action previously outlined be undertaken.

314. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Bowman to the meeting who reported that in the previous month they had dealt with the following incidents in Thornley:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Burglary | 3 |
| Criminal Damage | 5 |
| Theft | 4 |
| Youth | 2 |

These figures represented a 200% decrease in reported incidents and were much lower than those of other villages in the district.

P.C. Bowman introduced P.C.S.O. Michael Cornforth who would be working in Thornley for the foreseeable future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

315. Street Wardens Report

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

316. New Thornley

The Chairman referred to a letter received from the Secretary of the Partnership outlining the need for continued administrative support with particular reference to the production of a 10th Anniversary Newsletter. The Parish Council was also advised that Partnership meeting would now only be held on a bi-monthly basis. The Partnership requested the Parish Council to continue providing administrative support, on the basis of 3 hours per month instead of the current 6 hours per month. The cost of additional hours dedicated by the clerk to produce the newsletter would be paid for by the Partnership.

Resolved: That the Parish Council provides administrative support on the basis of 3 hours per month for the next 6 months when it would review the arrangement.

317. District Councillor

As Councillor Wharrier was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

318. County Councillor

As Councillor Nichols was not present no report was available

Resolved: That the information be noted.

319. Consultative Meeting

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

320. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that no meeting had taken place.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

321. T.E.D

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that Horden in Bloom had been awarded £22,000 and that an amount had been earmarked for residents in Thornley.

The Parish Council could obtain compost from Premier Waste should it require. Karen Minter had been appointed Senior Street Warden and Dave Risley had now been appointed Anti Social Behaviour Officer by the District of Easington.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

322. School Governors

Councillor Smith reported that no meeting had taken place.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

323. West Area Forum

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the meeting was scheduled to take place the following day, 4th April 2007.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

324. Youll House

Councillor Wigham reported that the operation was running smoothly.

The upstairs room had been cleared of all equipment ready for use by the Parish Council.

A meeting had been arranged to take place on Friday 13th April to discuss ways by which the Youll House operation could continue in the future. The Parish Clerk had been requested to attend.

The A.G. M was scheduled to take place on 15th June 2007 at which time the Chairman (Mr Wigham) would offer his resignation. He would however be relinquishing his duties on 1st June 2007.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

325. Dog Control orders (REF: 4677)

The District of Easington provided details of a dog control order for the attention of members and asked that comments be forwarded.

Resolved: That the Parish Council request that all children's play areas including the football field and the Bakery Bank be included in the provision if they were not already covered by the existing order.

326. Stakeholder Event – Play Strategy (REF: 4680)

Groundwork East Durham requested that the Parish Council nominate a representative to attend the event which would take place at Seaton Holme, Easington Village on Tuesday 24th April 2007 from 10:00am until 12:00 noon.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

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327. Request for Donation (REF: 4710)

The Easington Carers Collaborative, a charitable organisation committed to helping unpaid carers within the East Durham area, requested a donation to aid them in providing support for their volunteers.

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.

328. Planning Application (REF: 3411)

The District of Easington advised that Mrs. Harrison had applied for the removal of a condition from planning permission at land at Hartlepool Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

329. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 4694)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 21st February 2007. 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.

330. 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 reports be accepted and that the Parish Clerk make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts

331. Date of Next Meeting

Members were reminded that because this is an Election Year the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held in Youll House, The Villas, Thornley on the Tuesday 8th May 2007 at 7:00 p.m in accordance with Standing Orders

332. 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.

333. Planning Application (REF: 4727)

The District of Easington has advised that Mr. & Mrs. W. Gordon has applied for planning permission to construct a front extension at 33, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

334. Request to Use Welfare Park for Whippet Training

Mr. P. Wickham 77, Dunelm Road, Thornley made a verbal request for permission to use a section of the Welfare Park to train a whippet for racing.

Resolved: That permission be granted on the understanding that the dog will not be permitted to encroach onto the football pitch and that the owner be held responsible for the removal of any dog faeces deposited within the Welfare Park.

335. Future of Youll House

Two groups currently operating from Youll House under the auspices' of Age Concern Youll House had requested continued use should it transpire that the facility reverts back to Parish Council control.

Resolved: That the individuals be advised that they would be consulted when it became clear if Age Concern Youll House was to cease operation.

336. Preparation of Annual Audit

The Parish Clerk reported that he would be required to work an additional number of hours to prepare the Annual Audit return.

Resolved: That overtime be approved.

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