

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
8TH MAY 2007**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor J. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. M. Brunskill, B. Maitland, W. Middleton, T. Smith, I. Worthington.**

**APOLOGIES**

**No apologies were recorded.**

**1. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd, April 2007, 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**

Several members of the public asked a number of questions relating to the Parish Council's decision to remove unauthorised grave enclosures etc in the cemetery.

The Parish Clerk explained that the council had been contacted by Durham Diocese regarding this matter and that a faculty may be required before the proposed works were undertaken.

Whilst the Parish Council still intended to remove unauthorised structures they would only do so when clarification had been obtained from the Diocese on whether a faculty was necessary.

Residents again asked that the Parish Council to reconsider the situation before a faculty was sought.

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

**3. Members Code of Conduct (Revised)**

The Parish Clerk reported that Central Government had revised the Members Code of Conduct and that it was necessary for the Parish Council to adopt the new code in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

**Resolved: That the new code of conduct be adopted and arrangements made to advertise the fact in accordance with legislation.**

**4. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Steve Rowe to the meeting who reported that no monthly report was available.

He pointed out that reports of criminal activity in Thornley had reduced considerably in recent months.



The police were aware that travellers would be visiting the village in the coming weeks and were being vigilant.

In response to questions from members concerning the high levels disturbance caused by of off road motorcycles, P.C. Rowe reiterated that all incidents should be reported. Doing so would highlight the need for this matter to be dealt as priority.

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

**5. Street Wardens Report**

The Chairman welcomed Dave Risely to the meeting who reported that whilst no statistical report was available the warden's were still operating in the village and dealing with issues of concern.

The details of a number of minors had been taken in relation to underage drinking and the actions of these individuals would be monitored. Further action would be taken against them if required.

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

**6. New Thornley**

No report was available.

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

**7. District Councillor**

The former District Councillor Greg Wharrier provided a written report indicating that he had attended the West Area Forum. Details were provided to members by the Parish Clerk.

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

**8. County Councillor**

As Councillor Nicholls was not present no report was available.

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

**9. Consultative Meeting**

No report was available.

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

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

No report was available.

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

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

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the installation of an I-Link unit in Thornley had been raised because it was considered that it constituted a hazard to pedestrians and road users.

An assurance had been given that the District Council would continue to collect refuse bins from households on a weekly basis.

A supply of dog litter bags was to be provided to the Parish Council for distribution to those that required them. The Parish Clerk confirmed that these had been delivered and were being made freely available to dog owners.

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

**12. School Governors**

Councillor Smith reported that no meeting had taken place.

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

**13. West Area Forum**

The Parish Clerk reported details provided by ex Councillor Greg Wharrier.

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

**14. Youll House**

The Chairman welcomed George Wilson to the meeting who pointed out that Age Concern Thornley had planned to terminate the agreement that existed between it and the Parish Council for the daily use of the facility.

Members of Age Concern Thornley had however now decided to continue their operation as at present and that as a result the agreement would remain in place.

Mr. Wilson pointed out that the office and attic space had been cleared and that the Parish Council could utilise these facilities if required.

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

**15. Bank Mandate**

The Parish Clerk advised members that because of the recent Local Council elections the composition of the Parish Council had changed and that some of the current signatories on the bank mandate had ceased to be Councillors. As a result they were no longer eligible to authorise expenditure.

It was necessary therefore to nominate a number of the current Parish Councillor members to sign cheques on behalf of the Parish.

All existing arrangements between the Cooperative Bank and the Parish Council would continue as at present.

***Resolved: That the names of Councillors' W. Middleton & Mrs M. Brunskill be added to the Bank Mandate.***

**16. Planning Application (REF: 4738)**

The District of Easington advised that M. Emmerson had applied for planning permission to construct 14 dwellings at Ashford Grove Stables, Ashford Grove, Thornley.

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

**17. Planning Application (REF: 4749)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. J.E. Hudson had applied for planning permission to construct a residential development at Crossways Hotel, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

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

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**18. Planning Application (REF: 4785)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr & Mrs B. Pattison had applied for planning permission to construct a rear conservatory at 22 Ashwood Grange, Thornley.

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

**19. Request for Storage Space**

The District of Easington indicated that if the Parish Council could provide storage space for a small ride on grasscutting machine and hand tools they were prepared to place a lengthsman/gardener in Thornley on a daily basis. Although no payment would be offered for use of the facility they would be prepared to install an alarm system in the unit to aid security.

***Resolved: That storage space be provided to the District Council.***

**20. Planning Permission (REF: 4751)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. N. Alvey to construct a Garden Store at 16, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

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

**21. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 4759)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 26/3/2007. 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.***

**22. Statement of Accounts 2006-2007**

The Parish Clerk provided a copy of the Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure Summary Account and other related information to 31st, March 2007 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.***

**23. 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 2006/2007 accounts would take place on 20th July 2007.

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.

It was further reported that arrangements were in hand to inform residents of their rights to inspect the accounts etc., in accordance with the statutory regulations, from 18th June to the 13th July 2007.

***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.***

**24. Letter of Thanks (REF: 4736)**

A letter of thanks was received from the Chief Constable regarding PCSO Taylor.

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

**25. Refusal of Planning Permission (REF: 4737)**

The District of Easington advised that J. Hudson had been refused planning permission to construct a residential development at Crossways Hotel & adjacent land, Thornley.

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

**26. Letter of Thanks (REF: 4780)**

A letter of thanks was received from the Easington Carers collaborative for the recent donation made by the Parish Council.

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

**27. Auditor Report of Accounts ending 31st March 2007 (REF: 4770)**

The Parish Clerk reported that the Internal Audit of accounts from 1st October 2006 to 31st March 2007 had been completed by W.J. Smith and the accounts were in order. Mr. Smith had pointed out that a note should be attached to the accounts to clarify a few minor points.<sup>1</sup>

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

**28. Parish Councillor Vacancies (Co-option)**

The Parish Clerk reported that as a result of the recent Local Government Elections, Thornley Parish Council had four vacancies for the position of Parish Councillor.

It would be necessary to advertise these positions and select the successful candidates within the designated timescale.

***Resolved: That the posts are advertised throughout the village of Thornley.***

**29. 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.***

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of the auditors report is available.



**30. 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*

**31. Planning Permission (REF: 4787)**

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

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

**32. Planning Application (REF: 4789)**

The District of Easington advised that Dr. Patel & Partners had applied for planning permission to construct a rear extension to provide consulting rooms at the doctors' surgery Dunelm Road, Thornley.

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

**33. Invitation to Official Opening (REF: 4794)**

Haswell & District MENCAP Society invited representatives of the Parish Council to attend the official opening by John Cumming MP of their new headquarters on Saturday 23rd June 2007 at 10:00am.

***Resolved: That Councillor Mrs. Brunskill represent the Parish Council on this occasion.***

**34. Letter of Thanks (4809)**

A letter of thanks has been received from T. Smith for the Parish Councils donation to the Tommy Griffiths Memorial Fund.

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

**35. Vandalism Gore Hill Playground**

Members were advised that there was a continual & growing problem of vandalism at the Gore Hill play area. In recent months a number of items have had to be replaced at a cost of approximately £1,15.83. One particular swing seat was on site for only a matter of days before being destroyed.

***Resolved: That the remaining swings be removed until further notice.***

**36. Travellers in Thornley**

The Chairman welcomed Ian Holt (Environmental Services Manager District of Easington) and Scott McNally (Travellers Liaison Officer Durham County Council) to the meeting who gave a general overview of the procedures currently in place for dealing with the travelling community within Durham.

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

**37. Use of Welfare Park**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that she had been approached by officers of the District of Easington seeking permission to utilise the Welfare Park in coming weeks to provide a range of activities for children in the village.

***Resolved: That the use of the Welfare Park be given in principal and that the Parish Clerk obtain details of what was proposed.***

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
9TH JUNE 2007**

**PRESENT**

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

**GUESTS**

**Councillor T. Unsworth (District of Easington)**

**APOLOGIES**

**No apologies were recorded.**

**38. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill referred to minute 34 and pointed out that both she & Councillor Middleton had been nominated to attend the official opening of the MENCAP Centre.

Having noted this alteration the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th May 2007 were accepted as a true record.

**39. Co-option of Parish Councillor**

The Parish Clerk reported that as a result of the recent Local Government Elections, Thornley Parish Council had four vacancies for the position of Parish Councillor. These positions had been advertised within the village and application had been received from J. Hogg, W. Turnbull, Mrs. J. Unsworth and G. Wilson.

**Resolved: That the four applicants be co-opted to serve as Parish Councillors and the Electoral Officer at the District of Easington be advised.**

**40. Public Question and Answer Session**

A resident reported that contractors working within the curtilage of St. Bartholomew's Churchyard had relocated a number of marble memorial plaques from within the church and affixed them to the perimeter wall.

It was suggested that they would not withstand exposure to the elements and that the Parish Council contact Durham Diocese and request permission to place the plaques within Thornley Community Centre or a similar building in order that they could be preserved.

It was also reported that part of the perimeter wall had been demolished and that the district of Easington be requested to remove the debris before more damage was sustained.

A number of residents asked if any response had been obtained from the Durham Diocese regarding the proposal to remove unauthorised enclosures from around graves within Thornley Cemetery.

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council was communicating with the Diocese on this matter and until the position of the Diocese was made clear the Parish Council would not remove any of the unauthorised enclosures. It was pointed out that a number of individuals had however removed enclosures on their own.

***Resolved: That the Parish Council requests permission from the Durham Diocese to relocate the memorial plaques and that other information be noted. District Councillor Unsworth was to request the District of Easington to undertake the necessary works relating to the perimeter wall of St. Bartholomew's Church.***

**41. Police Report**

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

Youths Congregating	8
Burglary	1
Criminal Damage	8
Theft	2

Two additional beat officers were introduced to members and it was explained that they would be providing a regular police presence in the village.

Whilst statistics showed that the amount of criminal activity was being reduced in Thornley the police still needed all incidents to be reported. The name of those reporting incidents need not be given as it was understood that many residents feared retaliation if their names became known.

Operation "Milkshake" had recently been undertaken and this had proven very effective in targeting motor related offences. Sixteen people had been arrested and an amount of drugs had been seized.

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

**42. Street Wardens Report**

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

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

**43. New Thornley**

It was reported that no meeting had been held.

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

**44. District Councillor**

Councillor Unsworth reported that since his recent election to the District Council he was undergoing induction training into the council's operation. He had been appointed to serve on the Community Services Scrutiny Committee but as no meetings had taken place he had nothing to report at this stage. He provided details of a Sumer Festival due to take place on 16th June 2007.

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

**45. County Councillor**

As Councillor Nicholls was unable to be present he asked that the Parish Clerk report that engineers had visited fire damage sustained in a property in St. Cuthbert's Road and had made the property safe until further works could be undertaken.

It was hoped that the bats nesting in the void properties in Coopers Close would be cleared within the next few weeks and that this would allow demolition to take place.

Progress was being made on the County Councils bid to become the unitary authority in Durham.

Proposals for additional parking adjacent to Thornley School would be progressed as soon as a decision of funding was made known.

Remedial works required on the roadside footpath to Ludworth was being investigated.

Councillor Wilson reported that a participation group was involved in an attempt to re-route the No 22 bus service.

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth highlighted the concerns of many resident that fencing had been erected around the void properties in Coopers Close to protect bats but a similar consideration was not being afforded to vulnerable people living in the village.

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

**46. Consultative Meeting**

It was reported that no meeting had taken place.

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

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

It was reported that no meeting had taken place.

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

**48. T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the there were no issues relating to Thornley had been discussed at the recent meeting.

Schools in the area had responded positively, especially in Thornley, to a competition to improve the environment.

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

**49. School Governors**

Councillor Smith reported that no meeting had taken place.

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

**50. West Area Forum**

Councillor Wilson reported that no meeting had taken place.

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



**51. Youll House**

Councillor Wilson reported on the AGM that had taken place and that a full program of events was being planned for members in the next 12 months.  
The group had a bank balance of approximately £2,000.

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

**52. Insurance Renewal**

The Parish Clerk reported that Allianz Cornhill had advised that the Council's Insurance was due for renewal at a premium of £5,189.42.  
He advised members that the premium could be reduced by approximately £1,452.64 if the council no longer insured equipment in the two remaining playgrounds, the war memorial and the pit wheel.  
Members were of the opinion that major damage likely to necessitate a claim on the policy would ever be made and that to claim for repairs for minor damage would not be cost effective because of the excess on the policy.

***Resolved: That the items referred to be removed from the policy and that the difference in the insurance premium be placed into a reserve account on an annual basis to cover the cost of minor repairs etc.***

**53. Planning Application (REF: 4833)**

The District of Easington advised that Ms Joanne Carr had applied for planning permission to construct a replacement garage at 80, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

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

**54. Planning Application (REF: 4834)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. M. Frampton had applied for planning permission to construct a house at land adjacent to Highfield House, Church Walk, Thornley.

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

**55. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 4820)**

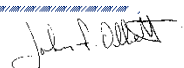
The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 29th April 2007. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

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

**56. Easington Regeneration Statement (REF: 4826)**

The District of Easington provided a copy of the statement for the attention of members and the residents.  
Anyone wishing to comment on the document was requested to complete one of the feedback sheets that had also been provided.

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



**57. 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.***

**58. 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.*

**59. Notice to Quit – Allotment A10 Coopers Close**

The Parish Clerk reported that Notice to Quit had been served on the tenant of this allotment for non payment of rent and failure to maintain the garden to an acceptable standard.

The tenant made a verbal appeal to the Parish Council to be allowed to pay the rent and to be given 2 weeks to cultivate the garden and bring it back to a proper standard. He explained that he had been ill recently and had not been able to visit the allotment for many weeks.

***Resolved: That the tenant be given until the 26th June 2007 to comply with the Allotment Agreement. Failure to do so would result in termination of his agreement.***

**60. Maintenance Report**

The Chargehand Gardener provided members with status report on the current work program.

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

**61. Coopers Close Allotment Path**

The Parish Clerk reported that the footpath servicing the Coopers Close allotment site was deteriorating and that it would be necessary to have it resurfaced with a suitable material.

***Resolved: That estimated be obtained and the work be placed on the Capital Program.***

**62. Refusal of Planning Permission (REF: 4837)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been refused to Mrs. Harrison for the removal of condition 5 from planning permission to allow unrestricted occupancy of house at land adjacent to fish shop Hartlepool Street, Thornley.

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



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

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIES**

**Councillor T. Unsworth (District of Easington)**

**63. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill referred to minute 48 and pointed out that the minute should read "except in Thornley" because Thornley School had not responded. Having noted this alteration the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th June 2007 were accepted as a true record

**64. Public Question and Answer Session**

Residents present asked if the Parish Council had received any communication from the Durham Diocesan Registry concerning the proposal to removed unauthorised enclosures from around the graves in Thornley Cemetery.

The Parish Clerk read out a letter received on 3 July 2007 the content of which was to be discussed later on the agenda.

Mr Jeff Corrigan (representing one of the residents) commented on Ecclesiastical Case Reports (a copy of which had been provided for distribution to members by the Parish Clerk following the meeting) and asked that these be taken into account by the Parish Council when deciding if a Faculty should be obtained from Durham Diocesan Registry.

The Chairman reiterated that no unauthorised item would be removed from the cemetery by the Parish Council until all the views had been taken in to consideration and further clarification and guidance had been obtained from the Diocese.

Members were cognisant of the general level of feeling being expressed and would be taking these onto account when arriving at a decision that would best serve the Parish Council and residents interests in the long term whilst balancing the need to maintain standards in the cemetery.

**65. Police Report**

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

Youths Congregating	8
Public Order Offence	1
Criminal Damage	2
Theft	3

A quantity of alcohol had also been seized from under-aged persons.  
Members raised concern that the Street Warden had not attended the Parish Meeting for some.

**Resolved: That the information be noted and that a letter be sent to the District of Easington asking if the Wardens could attend the next meeting.**

**66. Street Wardens Report**

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

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

**67. New Thornley**

Although no report was available, the Parish Clerk stated that he understood from conversation with the Vice Chairman of the Partnership that no progress was being made in relation to the development of a new facility on the Pit Wheel site pending a meeting to be arranged by the District of Easington and all parties interested in pursuing the initiative.

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

**68. District Councillor**

Councillor T. Unsworth requested that the Parish Clerk report that a site meeting was to be arranged to investigate the work required to the perimeter wall of St. Bartholomew's Church.

Sums of money could be available under the Local Government Act (Section 106) and that the District Council had been requested to take on the inspection and maintenance of the play areas in Thornley. The Parish Clerk had been requested to contact Alan Napier (Leader of the District Council) in this regard. Planning permission had been granted for a housing development on the site of the Crossways Hotel.

Information was also provided on the proposed selective demolition of properties in Coopers Close once the survey on the bat population had been completed.

It was envisaged that this would be in approximately 4 week time.

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

**69. County Councillor**

As Councillor Nichols was not present n report was available.

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

**70. Consultative Meeting (REF: 4864)**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the next meeting was to be held on 19th July 2007.

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



**71. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's (REF 4857)**

The Parish Clerk reported that the A.G.M. coincided with this Parish Council meeting and therefore representative could not attend. It was pointed out that all association meeting were held on the same dates as those of the parish and unless some other arrangements could be made it was unlikely that the parish could be represented.

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

**72. T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that representatives had raised concerns that issues reported to the TED meetings were not being pursued by the District of Easington. An officer of the District Council was to attend the meeting to give an explanation. Unfortunately he/she had failed to attend.

Residents concerns over the noxious fumes emanating from a delivery of manure to an address in Thornley had been raised and officers from both the County Council and the District Council were investigating.

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

**73. School Governors**

Councillor Smith reported that no meeting had been held.

Members expressed concern that no meetings had been held for a considerable period of time and it was suggested that this be investigated by Councillor Smith.

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

**74. West Area Forum (REF: 4862)**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the next forum was to take place at Wheatley House, Wheatley Hill on Wednesday 11th July 2007 commencing 6:00pm.

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

**75. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the group was operating successfully and that a coffee morning was to take place on Saturday 7th July 2007 to raise funds.

The District council had been unable to provide meals for the elderly in the current week due to staff shortages. Group members had therefore provided an alternative.

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

**76. Youll House Roof and Hire Fees**

Members were asked to recall that this matter was originally discussed at the meeting held on 7th February 2006 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.

At the meeting held on 6th February 2007 the matter was deferred again pending a decision by Age Concern Youll House on whether it would continue to operate in 2007 and beyond.



The Parish Clerk reported that group had now confirmed that it would continue its operation from Youll House and therefore it was necessary for the Parish Council to decide what action was to be taken with regard to the renewal of the roof and what charges if any were to be levied for use of these premises.

It was pointed out that there was £11,812 in a capital reserve fund but that this may not cover the total cost of the works required.

Discussion centered on the difficulties of obtaining funding for the works because of the present letting arrangement that existed between the Parish Council & Youll House Age Concern.

It was suggested that the works required might be eligible for funding as part of the ongoing redevelopment project being undertaken by Durham County Council in the vicinity of Youll House and that this be investigated.

***Resolved: That a decision be deferred pending a meeting<sup>2</sup> with Age Concern Youll House to discuss possible solutions. Councillors Mrs. Brunskill, Mrs. Unsworth & G. Wilson attend along with the Parish Clerk.***

#### **77. Review of Charges – Welfare Park**

Members were 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 forthcoming playing season.

The current fees were £200 per team and that to date 3 teams had expressed an interest to use the facilities during 2007/8.

The Parish Clerk explained that council's net expenditure on the facility during 2006/7 was £11,831 and that a further £5,630 had been expended since 1st April 2007.

***Resolved: That a decision be deferred pending a meeting<sup>3</sup> with representatives of the football teams to discuss alternative methods of funding. Councillor Ollett & the Parish Clerk to attend***

#### **78. Review of Allotment Rents**

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

The Parish Clerk reported that tenants were currently charged £15 per annum.

***Resolved: That the annual rent be increased by £5 to £20 per annum as from 1st April 2008.***

#### **79. Regional Spatial Strategy (4842)**

Government Office North East invited comments on the changes proposed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to the draft revision.

A CD of the proposed changes was available for members.

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

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<sup>2</sup> Meeting arranged to take place at Youll House on 10th July 2007 commencing 3:15pm

<sup>3</sup> Wednesday 11th July 2007 – Youll House

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**80. Training on Code of Conduct (REF: 4865)**

The Monitoring Officer at the District of Easington encouraged members to attend a training event on the new code which would take place at The Glebe Centre, Murton on Wednesday 4th July 2007 commencing at 7:00pm.

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

**81. Stakeholder Event – Play Strategy (REF: 4867)**

Groundwork East Durham invited representatives to attend a meeting to progress the play strategy at Seaton Holme, Easington Village on Friday 6th July from 10:00am until 12 noon.

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

**82. Members Code of Conduct (REF: 4842)**

The Standards Board for England provided each member with a guide on the revised code.

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

**83. Refusal of Planning Permission (REF: 4861)**

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

Members expressed concern at this decision and sought clarification as to land ownership in the surrounding area.

***Recommendation: That the information be noted and Title to land in the immediate area be obtained from the Durham Land Registry.***

**84. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 4863)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 29th May 2007. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these would be ordered and fitted in due course.

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

**85. 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.***

**86. Additional Urgent Items of Business**

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

**87. Request for Donation (REF: 4889)**

Vitalise requested a donation to aid the work of its organisation to provide care breaks for the disabled and their careers.

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

**88. Borders Around Graves (REF: 4894)**

The Parish Clerk reported on a response from the Durham Diocesan Registry concerning the council's decision to remove unauthorised borders etc from graves in Thornley Cemetery.

Members suggested that a site meeting be arranged in order to clarify the location of the areas in the cemetery over which the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Durham has jurisdiction.

Taking into account what had been said earlier in the meeting<sup>4</sup> it was suggested that even if a Faculty was obtained, the Parish Council would still retain the power to make decisions on individual cases (in consecrated & no consecrated land) if they considered it appropriate to do so.

***Resolved: That a site meeting be arranged and that an application be made to the Durham Diocesan Registry for a Faculty to remove all unauthorised items from consecrated land in the cemetery i.e. Sections C1, C2 and the cemetery extension.***

**89. Planning Permission (REF: 4896)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Ms. Joanne Carr to construct a replacement garage at 80, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

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

**90. Easington Play Strategy (REF: 4898)**

The District of Easington invited the Parish Council to send a representative to a presentation in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 11th July 2007 commencing 2:00 pm on the Play Strategy recently compiled by Groundwork East Durham.

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

**91. Resignation of Councillors (REF: 4888, 4901 & 4903)**

The Parish Clerk reported that Councillors B. Maitland, W. Middleton and I. Worthington had tendered their resignation from the Parish Council.

The Parish Clerk reported that the District of Easington would be informed and that they would advise on the procedure for filling the vacancy in the near future.

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

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<sup>4</sup> Minute 63 refers



**92. School Allotment Garden**

Councillor Mrs Unsworth sought clarification on the current status of the School Garden.

The Parish Clerk reported that it was due for completion and handover to the School on 9th July 2007 but a contractor had failed to deliver materials on time and this had caused a delay.

All earthworks were now complete and all that remained was the purchase and erection of a greenhouse which was in hand. This would not prevent the immediate handover of the garden.

***Resolved: That the School be notified of the position and that handover takes place as soon as possible.***

**93. Tethering of Horses**

Councillor Turnbull suggested that owners of horses being tethered on Parish land should be charged a nominal fee for doing so.

The Parish Clerk reported on the current situation and highlighted the difficulties of policing the situation.

***Resolved: That no charges be made.***

**94. Notice to Quit – Allotment A10 Coopers Close**

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

The Parish Clerk referred to minute 59 of the previous meeting and reported that on a recent inspection it had been noted that although the tenant had made some effort to clear the allotment a great deal of overgrowth remained.

Councillor Wilson pointed out that to his knowledge the tenant had just returned from holiday and that this may have prevented him from carrying out the council instruction by the due date.

Members agreed that the if no firm action was taken a precedent could be set when dealing with similar situations in the future and therefore the tenant should be evicted

***Resolved: That a further inspection be made, by members, before determining what action should be taken.***

**95. Request for Donation (REF: 4902)**

***Councillors J. Ollett & Mrs Brunskill declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.***

Councillor g. Wilson took the Chair.

The Karen Mullender School of Dance requested a donation to help fund the cost of transporting students to a dance festival in Wales later in the 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 £100.***

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**MINUTES OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
SITE MEETING AT COOPERS CLOSE ALLOTMENTS  
ON  
7TH JULY 2007**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor J. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. M. Brunskill, W. Turnbull, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wilson.**

**APOLOGIES**

**No apologies were recorded**

**96. Inspection of Allotment A10**

Pursuant to minute 94, members inspected allotment A10 to determine if sufficient effort had been made by the tenant to justify rescinding the Notice to Quit which had been served upon him for breach of conditions.

Members were cognisant of the exceptionally wet weather experienced in recent weeks and that this may have affected the tenant's ability to comply with the Council's instruction.

**Resolved: That because of the unusually wet weather conditions, the tenant be given until 4th September 2007 to return the allotment to the acceptable standard.**

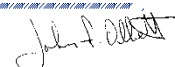
**97. General Inspection**

Individual tenants requested that the water stand taps on row "A" be reinstated. Members noted that a number of the allotments were in an overgrown condition contrary to the tenancy conditions and agreed that that the pathways were in need of some remedial repair prior to resurfacing<sup>5</sup>.

**Resolved: That the taps be replaced and remedial work of the pathways be undertaken as soon as possible.**

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<sup>5</sup> Meeting held on 6th June 2007 minute 61 refers.



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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
4TH SEPTEMBER 2007**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor J. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. M. Brunskill, J. Hogg, W. Turnbull, G. Wilson.**

**APOLOGIES**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Mrs. J. Unsworth</i>	<i>Work</i>	<i>Approved</i>

**98. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd July 2007 were accepted as a true record

**99. Public Question and Answer Session (1)**

A number of residents requested the Parish Council to support a petition calling for a ban on farmers in the area being permitted to spread (human) manure obtained from Northumbrian Water on agricultural land.

The odour emanating by allowing this practice had caused considerable upset and in some cases illness which lasted several days.

Members were informed that the local Member of Parliament had agreed to meet residents at Thornley Library later in the week to hear concerns and hopefully intercede to stop the practice.

***Resolved: That the Parish Council support the petition and that Durham City Council Environmental Department be advised of the concern.<sup>6</sup>***

**100. Public Question and Answer Session (2)**

Residents asked if any progress had been made in relation to the Parish Council's proposal to apply to the Durham Diocese for a Faculty Order permitting the removal of unauthorised items from graves in Thornley Cemetery.

It was reported that no further progress had been made at present however relevant information had been provided to the Durham Diocese Advisory Committee who would consider it at their next meeting. If they supported proposal, the Parish Council would be provided with a certificate to this effect and this would then form part of a submission for a Faculty Order.

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<sup>6</sup> See also minute 111



The Chairman explained that the Parish Council had also consulted the Catholic Church (through Bishop Kevin Dunn) asking for his observations. No unauthorised object would be removed from the Cemetery by the Parish Council staff until views had been obtained, a Faculty Order obtained and the matter being considered further by the Parish Council. Residents pointed out that they would oppose the Parish Council's application to the Durham Diocese for a Faculty Order.

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

#### **101. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed Sgt. Hawks to the meeting who reported that in the two previous months the police had dealt with the following incidents in Thornley:-

Youths Congregating	1
Public Order Offence	1
Criminal Damage	13
Theft	9

P.C. Bowman and the "off road" motorcycle patrol unit had undertaken an operation to curtail the number of incidents involving motor cycle and quad bikes. This had resulted in 8 vehicles being impounded and 3 arrests.

Warning notices had been placed on vehicles parking on double yellow lines on Stanley Terrace. If the practice continued fixed penalty fines would be issued.

Members were informed that "operation milkshake" (Enforcement and Engagement) would take place in the area to obtain information on various issues and would lead to prosecution of offenders.

Councillor Unsworth pointed out that a number of manhole covers had been removed/stolen and this behaviour could lead to severe injury. Void properties belonging to East Durham Homes had also been set on fire causing alarm to nearby residents. He asked if it was possible for the police to focus some resources on these problems in an attempt to apprehend those responsible.

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

#### **102. Street Wardens Report**

As the Street Wardens were not in attendance no report was available.

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

#### **103. New Thornley**

Members were advised that whilst no meeting had taken place members of the Partnership had been invited to attend a meeting, arranged by the District of Easington to be held in Youll House on Tuesday 11th September 2007 at 6:30pm, to discuss the community facilities in Thornley and the possible development of a new centre<sup>7</sup>.

It was understood that representatives of other organisations with an interest in the proposal had also been invited.

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<sup>7</sup> See also minute 139



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

**104. District Councillor**

Councillor T. Unsworth reported that East Durham Homes were in the process of consulting residents in the Greenwood Cottages area on possible redevelopment of the properties.

Firms were to be invited to inspect the areas with a view to submitting their proposals for redevelopment.

Void properties belonging to East Durham Homes in the Coopers Close area were to be demolished in the near future.

Clearance of rubble and other materials had been removed from around the perimeter wall of St. Bartholomew's Church as request at a previous meeting.

It had been noted that once again a number of "travellers" had started to camp on vacant land in the southern end of the village. The District of Easington had been asked to intercede and move these people on and then place some large boulders around the perimeter of the areas in question so as to prevent further access in the future.

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

**105. County Councillor**

As Councillor Nicholls was not present no report was available.

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

**106. Consultative Meeting**

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

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

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

The Parish Clerk reported that as a result of the resignation by Councillor Worthington the Parish Council had no representative on the body.

***Resolved: That Councillor J. Hogg be nominated.***

**108. T.E.D.**

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

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

**109. West Area Forum**

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

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

**110. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that meetings had been held with representatives of the Parish Council concerning the use of the building and that it had been agreed to enter into a partnership with other interested organisations to develop a new centre in the village.<sup>8</sup>

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

**111. Fertilizer Application to Farmland**

This item was discussed under Public Question and Answer Session (1)<sup>9</sup>

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

**112. Review of Charges – Welfare Park**

The Parish Clerk reported that pursuant to the meeting held on 3rd July 2007<sup>10</sup> a meeting had been held on 10th July 2007 with representatives of the 3 football teams who wished to utilise the Welfare Park for their home games in the forthcoming season.

Both the Parish Council's and football teams positions were discussed in some detail as were alternative methods of providing additional funding to develop the facility.

At the end of the meeting the representatives of the football teams proposed that the fees for the use of the facility for the 2007/8 season be increased to £300 per team.

***Resolved: That the hire fees for the 2007/8 season be increased to £300 per team.***

**113. Planning Application (REF: 4917)**

The District of Easington advised that P.J. Yeoman had applied for planning permission to construct a double garage at 21, Ashwood Grange, Thornley.

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

**114. Provision of Play Areas & Equipment (4918)**

The District of Easington provided information of this issue. Members were asked to recall that it was first discussed in the meeting held 4th April 2006 (minute 339 refers).

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

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<sup>8</sup> See also Minute 125

<sup>9</sup> Minute 99 refers

<sup>10</sup> Minute 77 refers.



**115. Request for Donation (4933)**

*Councillors Mrs. M. Brunskill & J. Ollett 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 to assist with the running of the organisation across County Durham.

Members were informed that a donation of £50 was made in July 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 £50.00.***

**116. Invitation (REF: 4938)**

Haswell & District MENCAP invited members to attend a Masquerade Ball at Shotton Hall on 25th January 2008. Tickets are priced at £25 per head.

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

**117. Review of Polling Places (Ref: 4963)**

The Parish Clerk reported that the District of Easington was to review the places in which residents could vote in both General & Local elections.

If members wished to comment in relation to the existing locations or suggest new or alternatives they were asked to notify the council by 12th September 2007.

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

**118. Overtime Payment**

The Parish Clerk reported that in order to facilitate the computerisation of the cemetery records and related information (dating back to 1934) and more recently in connection with the annual audit of accounts and general issues, it had been necessary to work additional hours

He requested members to approve payment of the required overtime.

***Resolved: That the necessary overtime be approved.***

**119. Planning Application (REF: 4970)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. E. Emmerson had resubmitted a planning application to construct 14 dwellings at Ashford Grove Stables, Ashford Grove, Thornley.

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

**120. District of Easington Play Strategy (REF: 4987)**

Groundwork East Durham provided a copy of the Play Strategy which was to be considered by the District of Easington in time for submission to the Big Lottery Fund on 10th September 2007.



If members wish to support this initiative they were asked to advise Groundwork Trust as soon as possible.<sup>11</sup>

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

**121. Casual Vacancies (REF: 4993)**

The District of Easington advised that as no request for an election had been received the Parish Council should make arrangements to fill the 3 vacancies that existed on the council as soon as possible.

The Parish Clerk reported that nomination had been received from;

Mrs A. Athey,  
Mrs. J. Middleton  
J. Williams  
T. Unsworth  
A. Allam

***Resolved: That a notice seeking any additional nominations be placed in the village and that candidates be invited to attend the next Parish Council Meeting when co-option would take place.***

**122. Allotment Clearance (REF: 4219)**

Members were asked to recall that at the meeting held on 5th September 2006<sup>12</sup> the tenant of allotments numbered 3 & 4 on the Library site advised that he wished to terminate his tenancy agreement.

He had been advised that he had to remove his building from the site or that the Council would do so and he would be charged the costs incurred.

The Parish Clerk reported that that the tenant had failed to undertake the work as requested and that the cost incurred by the Parish Council totalled £682.72. Members were asked to confirm that

***Resolved: That an invoice be forwarded to the individual in question to recover costs incurred.***

**123. Planning Application (REF: 5000)**

The District of Easington advised that Park Homes Ltd had applied for planning permission to construct a residential development of 6 dwellings at St. Bartholomew's Church, Church Walk, Thornley.

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

**124. Allotment A10 Coopers Close**

Members were asked to recall that following an inspection of this allotment on 7th July 2007 it had been agreed that the tenant be given an additional 8 weeks to clear the overgrown weeds etc and bring the garden back to an acceptable standard.

The Parish Clerk reported that little or no further work had been undertaken by the tenant and as a result other nearby tenants had complained.

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<sup>11</sup> A printed copy and a CD Rom were available for members.

<sup>12</sup> Minute 119 refers



***Resolved: That the tenancy agreement be terminated in accordance with the previously served Notice to Quit.***

**125. Youll House Roof and Hire Fees**

The Parish Clerk reported that pursuant to the meeting held on 3rd July 2007 (minute 76 refers) a meeting had been held with the committee of Age concern Youll House<sup>13</sup> on Tuesday 10th July 2007 when the Council's position was outlined.

In the current financial climate the Parish Council could not fund the roof replacement on its own and that unless the facility could be accessed by groups other than Age Concern it was unlikely that funding from outside organisations could be obtained.

The Parish Council was concerned that the condition of the roof was deteriorating on a daily basis and if it was not replaced in the immediate future it may fail causing injury to anyone in the building at the time.

Age Concern expressed the view that they were finding it increasingly difficult to raise sufficient funds to operate on a day to day basis without the increased burden of paying rent for the facility.

It was suggested another meeting be arranged to take place on 14th August 2007 to allow both Age Concern and the Parish Council to identify what funding could be attracted to the project and what conditions may be attached.

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

**126. Planning Permission (REF: 4916)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to J.E. Hudson to construct a residential development at Crossways Hotel, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

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

**127. Letter of Thanks (4932)**

A letter of thanks was received from Thornley Primary School for the Council's efforts in providing the school allotment garden.

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

**128. Letter of Thanks (4946)**

A letter of thanks was received from the Karen Mullender School of Dance for the £50 donation.

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

**129. Planning Permission (REF: 4950)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. M. Frampton to construct a house at land adjacent to Highfield House, Church Walk, Thornley.

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

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<sup>13</sup> See also Minute 110





**130. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 4957)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 29th June 2007. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these would be ordered and fitted in due course.

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

**131. Planning Application (REF: 4958)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. M. Emmerson had withdrawn his planning application for permission to construct 14 dwellings at Ashford Grove Stables, Ashford Grove, Thornley.

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

**132. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 4964)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 27th July 2007. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these would be ordered and fitted in due course.

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

**133. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 4965)**

The Parish Clerk reported that R.o.S.P.A had undertaken the annual inspection of Playgrounds on 15th June 2007. The majority of equipment was classed as low or medium risk requiring little or no attention. Those classed as high risk e.g. trip hazards would be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

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

**134. Bid to Develop Youth Work (REF: 4986)**

Members were asked to recall that they had agreed that the Parish Council would be a partner along with groups from Wheatley Hill to obtain funds to employ a youth worker for to operate between the two villages<sup>14</sup>.

The East Durham Trust advised that the bid for funding Youth Development as part of Easington's Children's Play Programme had been unsuccessful.

They were currently looking at ways by which the application could be revised and re-submitted.

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

**135. Planning Permission (REF: 4994)**

The District of Easington has advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. K. Turner for a change of use from open space to storage of fairground equipment & erection of boundary wall at 2, Fairview, Thornley.

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

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<sup>14</sup> Meeting held on 7/11/2006 minute 202 refers.





**136. 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.***

**137. 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.*

**138. Housing Development – St. Bartholomew’s Church**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Kirkup of Pukrick Homes who provided additional information on a planning application (to be considered by the District of Easington) to construct a 6 dwellings on the site of St. Bartholomew’s Church. Members were informed that the demolition of the church would be completed in approximately 7 days and that attempts would be made to recycle as much material as possible.

In response to members questions Mr. Kirkup acknowledged that the road access to the development would need to be addressed.

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

**139. Future of Community Facility (REF: 5005)**

The District of Easington advised that a meeting was to be held in Youll House on Tuesday 11th September 2007 commencing 6:30pm to discuss the future of community facilities in Thornley.<sup>15</sup>

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

**140. Withdrawal of Planning Application (REF: 5006)**

The District of Easington has advised that Mr. Yeoman had withdrawn his application for planning permission to construct a double garage at 21, Ashwood Grange, Thornley.

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

**141. Applications To Replace Headstones on graves in Thornley Cemetery**

The Parish Clerk reported that two applications had been made by Mrs O'Brian & Mrs Adams to replace the headstones on graves of their relatives in Thornley Cemetery.

The Parish Clerk pointed out that Cemetery Regulations stated that before a headstone can be placed (or replaced) on a grave the land must be purchased. A "Purchased Grave Grant" being issued to the person concerned.

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<sup>15</sup> See also minute 103



As the Parish Council had no record of either of the graves being purchased both applicants had therefore been asked to produce the purchased grave grant to confirm ownership of the grave in order to calculate the fee payable.

Unfortunately the grants could not be produced by either applicant because the original burials took place many years ago and the documents had not been passed down through the families concerned. They were not therefore available for inspection.

Councillor G. Wilson suggested that if headstones had been allowed to be placed on the graves originally then it must follow that the graves were indeed purchased and that it was unfair to expect relatives to hold documents for such a lengthy period of time.

He further suggested that in that if the applicants agreed to pay the fees necessary to replace the headstone, the purchase grave fee should be waived in this instance.

The Parish Clerk confirmed that the fees payable to replace the headstone had already been received from the stonemason acting on behalf of the applicants. It was the ownership of the grave that was in question.

***Resolved: That it be accepted that the graves had indeed been purchased at the time the burials had taken place and that payment of the appropriate fee to replace the headstone be acceptable in both these cases.***

**142. St. Bartholomew's Church Bell**

It was reported that St. Bartholomew's Church was to be demolished in the near future<sup>16</sup> and that the Parish Council may wish to consider purchasing the church bell to preserve the heritage of the village.

***Resolved: That the Parish Council attempts to purchase St. Bartholomew's Church bell at a cost of £50.***

**143. Durham Association of Town & Parish Council's**

The Parish Clerk reported that as a result of the resignation by Councillor Middleton the Parish Council had no representative on the body.

***Resolved: That Councillor J. Hogg be nominated***

**144. 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.***

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<sup>16</sup> Minute 138 refers



**145. Land Drainage - Coopers Close Allotments**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that surface water was not being drained from the pathways on the allotment site and that this was causing difficulties for some of the allotment tenants. He suggested that this scheme be added to the Capital Works program.

***Resolved: That a cost for the installation of a drainage system be provided for future consideration.***

**146. Maintenance Report**

The maintenance report provided by of the Chargehand Gardener was considered.

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

**147. Public Seating – A181**

A request was made for the Parish Council to install a seat on the roadside of the A181 to allow pedestrians to rest when walking in the area.

The Parish Clerk reported that permission would need to be obtained from the highways authority before a seat could be installed.

***Resolved: That the Highways Authority be asked to grant permission and if obtained a seat be installed at Parish Council expense.***

**148. Appointment of Vice Chairman**

The Chairman pointed out that following the resignation of Councillor Worthington it would be necessary to appoint a Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.

***Resolved: That Councillor J. Hogg be appointed to the position for the remainder of the current term.***



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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
2ND OCTOBER 2007**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor J. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, J. Williams, G. Wilson.**

**APOLOGIES**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
Mrs. J. Unsworth	Work	Approved

**149. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councillor Ms. Brunskill referred to minute 106 and pointed out that it was Councillor Wilson that had reported on the Consultative meeting. Councillor Wilson referred to minute 143 and pointed out that Councillor Hogg had been appointed to represent the Parish Council at the Easington Area Association of Town & Parish Councils not the Durham Association. Having noted these amendments the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th September 2007 were accepted as a true record.

**150. Police Report**

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

Burglary	1
Theft	2
Anti Social Behaviour	8
Criminal Damage	16
Theft from motor vehicles	1

Details of the number of incidents and resulting prosecutions of "Operation Milkshake" were provided and it was reported that because of its success a similar operation was being planned to take place in the future.

Because motorists had failed to heed warnings not to park on the double yellow lines in Stanley Terrace fixed penalty fines were now being issued.

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

**151. Street Wardens Report**

The Chairman welcomed the Street Wardens to the meeting who reported that the west area had been relatively quiet in recent months and that they had only dealt with 3 incidents. Anti social behaviour was still the major concern.

More foot patrols were to be initiated to combat potential disturbances over the bonfire night period and the onset of longer periods of darkness in the winter months.

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

**152. Public Question and Answer Session (1)**

Residents asked if any progress had been made in relation to the Parish Council's proposal to apply to the Durham Diocese for a Faculty Order permitting the removal of unauthorised items from graves in Thornley Cemetery.

The Parish Clerk reported that the Durham Diocese Advisory Committee had now provided a certificate supporting the Parish Council's case and that this would be submitted, along with the application for a Faculty Order to the Durham Diocese.

Requests to other denominations for their observations had met with no response at present.

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

**153. Public Question and Answer Session (2)**

An allotment tenant of Coopers Close requested that parish council to install land drains in several allotments to relieve flooding.

It was reported that this was already under consideration and when the relevant authorisations and costs had been determined a decision would be made.

***Resolved: That Northumbrian Water and the local farmer be requested to attend a site meeting to discuss possible solutions.***

**154. Public Question and Answer Session (3)**

The former tenant of an allotments on the Library Allotment site explained that he had received an account from the Parish Council for the costs incurred (by the parish council) of removing a pigeon loft and other material from his former allotments.

He explained the situation as he saw it and maintained that the buildings were not in his ownership. He would not therefore settle the account.

The Parish Clerk explained the background of this case and reported that if the account was not settled by the due date members would have to determine what further action, if any, should be taken.

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

**155. Co-option of Parish Councillors**

The Parish Clerk reported that of the six prospective candidates for the 3 vacancies that existed on the parish council 2 had failed to attend the meeting and one had withdrawn. As a result the 3 remaining candidates could be co-opted.

***Resolved: That the Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. J. Middleton and J. Williams be co-opted to the Parish Council.***

**156. New Thornley**

It was reported that the District Council was to undertake a survey of residents to determine if a new community type facility was required in the village.

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

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**157. District Councillor**

Councillor T. Unsworth reported that the demolition of properties in the Coopers Close area of the village was nearing completion.

Travellers camping on land in the south of the village had now left and arrangements were in hand to install a number of boulders around the perimeter of the area to prevent vehicle access in future.

It was reported that a fund, totalling £833, was available from the District of Easington to organisations operating in the village. The money could be accessed to help run events or provide necessary equipment to operate.

The possible redevelopment of Greenwood Cottages by East Durham homes was still under consideration. It was unlikely that tender documents would be available for at least 12 months. It was not known if Youll House (in the ownership of Thornley Parish Council) could be included in any proposed redevelopment scheme. This would be for the Parish Council to determine in association with East Durham Homes and the prospective developer.

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

**158. County Councillor**

As Councillor Nichols had left the meeting his report was not presented.

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

**159. Consultative Meeting**

Councillor Wilson reported that no meeting had taken place.

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

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

It was reported that no meeting had taken place.

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

**161. T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that only 4 members had attended the last meeting.

The application of manure to agricultural land had been discussed.

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

**162. School Governors**

It was reported that the Parish Council had no representation on this body and that the item could be removed from all future agendas.

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

**163. West Area Forum**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the next meeting would take place in Youll House on 24th October 2007.

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



**164. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that an Autumn Fare was being arranged. The operation was ongoing although raising sufficient funds was proving difficult. The environmental officer had visited the premises recently and had been satisfied at the procedures currently in place.

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

**165. Planning Application (REF: 5010)**

The District of Easington advised that Persimmon Homes Teesside had applied for planning permission to erect an advertisement board at corner of Dunelm Road & A.181, Thornley.

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

**166. Planning Application (REF: 5013)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. M. Barnett had applied for planning permission to construct a change of use from council garage site to private garage site & boundary fence at 46, Hillside Crescent, Thornley.

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

**167. Planning Application (REF: 5034)**

The District of Easington advised that Mrs Harrison had appealed against refusal of planning permission to remove condition 5 from the planning permission plan/2006/0083 to allow unrestricted occupancy of house land adjacent to fish shop at Hartlepool Street, Thornley.

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

**168. Audit for the Year Ended 31 March 2007 (REF: 5031)**

The Parish Clerk reported that BDO Stoy Hayward LLP had completed the audit of the parish council's accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2007. The only issue raised by the auditor was in relation to the Fidelity Insurance Guarantee which may need to be increased in accordance with guidelines.<sup>17</sup> Members were asked to recall that the Fidelity Insurance Guarantee had been increased last year after similar observations relating to previous audits. It was suggested that cover be increased again in order to keep place with the increased sums held by the Parish Council subject to the increased level of premium required. Arrangements must also now be made for residents to view Notice of Conclusion of Audit.

***Resolved: That the information be noted, Fidelity Insurance Guarantee be increased if required and arrangements be made for residents to view the Audit details.***

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<sup>17</sup> **Total balances at the financial year end plus 50% of the following year's precept.**





**169. Administrative Support – New Thornley Partnership**

Members were asked to recall that at the meeting held on 4th April 2007 (minute 316 refers) it was agreed that the Parish Council would provide administrative support on the basis of 3 hours per month for a period of 6 months to New Thornley Partnership.

Members were asked to decide if the arrangement was to be extended and if so on what basis.

***Resolved: That the existing arrangement be continued for another six months.***

**170. Remembrance Day Service (REF: 503300)**

Revd David Boddy of St. Saviours and St. Paul's Church, Shotton Colliery advised that he would attend the (ecumenical) service and that he would contact the various denominations.

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

**171. 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.***

**172. 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.*

**173. Request for Donation (REF: 5048)**

***Councillor Mrs. Brunskill, Mrs. Middleton & J. Ollett declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.***

Councillor G. Wilson took the Chair.

Thornley & District Community Association requested a donation to assist with the operation of an Autumn Fare being organised to take place on Saturday 13th October 2007.

***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.***

**174. Request for Donation (REF: 5046)**

Councillor Ollett took the Chair

Peterlee Women's Refuge requested a donation to their Christmas Appeal organised to provide a Christmas event for women and children who have suffered domestic violence.

***Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £50.***

**175. Planning Permission (REF: 5047)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. M. Emmerson to construct a residential development (outline) at Ashford Grove Stables, Ashford Grove, Thornley.

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

**176. Village Floral Display**

Councillor Mrs Brunskill reported that surrounding villages had obtained funds from the District of Easington to purchase and plants etc., to improve the visual impact of communities and suggested that Thornley attempts to access the scheme.

***Resolved: That access to funding be investigated.***

**177. Time Allowed for Public Question & Answer**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill highlighted that the time taken at the commencement of meetings to address questions from the public had prolonged the duration of the meetings unnecessarily.

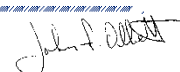
In recent months it had taken sometimes 60 minutes to deal with issues raised and in most cases they had already been covered in previous meetings, most notably the removal of unauthorised items in the cemetery.

The Parish Clerk reminded members that the time allocated should only be used "to put questions to the council" not to air grievances or complaints. Answers should only be given if one was available otherwise the questioner should be advised (by the Chairman) that a written response would be provided when the subject had been investigated. Any verbal response given should not invite further discussion.

Questioners requiring further clarification or explanation should be given the opportunity to meet Councillors following the meeting.

If necessary the Chairman should explain that whilst Parish Council Meetings are open to the public, they are not public meetings where issues or grievances can be raised and discussed as would be the case in an open forum. If a subject requires a decision by members, it should be placed on the agenda of a subsequent meeting.

***Resolved: That the 15 minutes allotted for questions from the public at meetings of the parish council be adhered too.***



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

**PRESENT**

**Councillor J. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, J. Hogg, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, G. Wilson.**

**APOLOGIES**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
Mrs. J. Unsworth	Work	Approved

**178. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd October 2007 were accepted as a true record.

In response to questions relating to minute 153 the Parish Clerk reported that enquiries had revealed that no permissions were required from the Environment Agency and that costs for the proposed works could now be prepared. And subject to approval the scheme could now be implemented.

**179. Public Question and Answer Session**

Members were asked if the application for a Faculty Order had been made by the Parish Council.

The Parish Clerk reported that an application could not be submitted to the Durham Diocese until expiration of a public notice on or after 14th November 2007.

**180. Police Report**

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

Burglary	1
Criminal Damage	4
Anti Social Behaviour	20

Councillor G. Wilson reported that Youll House had been and was continuing to be a focus for vandalism. This was brought into sharp relief when, during the meeting, when youths disrupted proceedings by committing acts of anti social behaviour.

Sgt. Dickinson highlighted that there were limited resources and that priority was given to areas based on the number/frequency of reports being logged. It was essential that residents reported all incidents in order that more attention could be focused in areas most at risk. Unless the police were made aware of an activity they could not attend.

Members voiced their disappointment in the communication system currently being used by the police.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and that the chief Constable be advised of concerns relating to the communication system operated by Durham Constabulary.***

**181. Street Wardens Report**

The warden reported that 2 new female wardens had been appointed and that they would be operational in Thornley in the coming weeks.

Relating to the incident that had taken place earlier in the meeting (during the police report) the youths in question had been questioned and the information obtained would be followed up.

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

**182. New Thornley**

Councillor T. Unsworth reported that the officers of the District of Easington were arranging a survey of residents (before Christmas) to help determine future needs and aspiration for the village in terms of housing and a new facility for the village.

The survey was part of a wider report on the communities of Thornley & Wheatley Hill both of which were now seen as a priority for regeneration by the district council.

**183. District Councillor**

Councillor T. Unsworth reported that the Parish Council was to be advised in the near future as to the level of Section 106 funding that had been earmarked for the village following recent housing developments in Thornley.

The Parish Council could utilise this money to carry out capital projects to enhance the village profile.

Because the redevelopment of Hartlepool Street/Youll House had been delayed indefinitely because of residents observations New Thornley Partnership were to be asked if the funding should be re-allocated by to more pressing schemes.

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

**184. County Councillor**

Councillor Nicholls reported that the housing needs of the elderly were being examined to determine if more 2 bedroom bungalows were required.

Intermediate care facilities were to be provided in care homes in the county as part of a wider project on the care of the elderly.

The need for traffic calming measures to be installed in East Lee area of Thornley had been identified by officers of the County Council and dependant upon the views of residents in the area the scheme may be implemented in the future. Although £3,000 was available via the County Council this would need to be matched by the Parish Council.

Traffic using the A181 was to be monitored over the next 6 weeks to help determine what action, if any, was needed to improve safety at the Crossways Hotel junction.

The proposal to develop a new clinic at Wheatley Hill had been delayed pending a review of needs by the new County Durham Primary Care Trust.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill requested that a number of bollards be placed in the verges on Gore Hill Estate to prevent residents parking their cars and damaging the grassed area.

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

**185. Consultative Meeting**

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

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

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

Councillor J. Hogg reported that no meeting had taken place.

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

**187. T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the increased incidents of dog fouling in Thornley had been raised. A quantity of dog fouling disposal bags had been requested and these were to be delivered in the near future for free distribution to dog owners.

The district Council's new refuse collection service had been discussed.

Councillor Mrs Attey requested that a dog litter bin be provided if possible on lamppost 121 on Dunelm Road as dog fouling in the area was extremely bad.

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

**188. West Area Forum**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that only 3 people attended the meeting (all councillors) and that the district council survey of residents had been discussed. Councillor T. Unsworth reported that Mr Thompson (EDC) had given details of financial benefits that may be available to certain residents. Anyone requiring additional information should contact Mr Thompson.

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

**189. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported on instances of vandalism and highlighted the distressing effect this was having on members of Age Concern. The building was being damaged on a daily basis and if it continued Age Concern may cease to operate.

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

**190. Faculty Order - Thornley Cemetery**

The Parish Clerk advised that in accordance with advice from the Durham Diocese, appropriate notices had been displayed in both the Northern Echo (31st October 2007) and within the Cemetery alerting the parishioners to the fact that the Parish Council was to apply for a Faculty Order to remove unauthorised items from the Cemetery.



As a copy of the Parish Council minute approving the application must be attached to the submission members were asked to confirm that an application be made to the Durham Diocese for a Faculty Order to remove unauthorised items from Thornley Cemetery.

***Resolved: That an application for a Faculty Order be made to the Durham Diocese.***

**191. Planning Application (REF: 5055)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. L. & Mrs. O. Oliver had applied for planning permission to construct a Klargestor Biodisc Treatment System at Thornley Moor Farm, Cassop.

***Resolved: That the District council be advised of the Parish Councils objects to the application on the grounds that obnoxious smells could emanate from its use.***

**192. Allotment Clearance**

The Parish Clerk reported that pursuant to the meeting held on 4th September 2007<sup>18</sup>, an invoice had been forwarded to the outgoing tenant to recover costs incurred by the Parish Council for clearing the allotment.

This account has not been settled by the due date and members were asked to determine what further action, if any, was to be taken to recover the debt.

***Resolved: That action be taken via the small claims court to recover the debt.***

**193. Planning Application (REF: 5056)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs J. Hoyer had applied for planning permission to construct a two storey side extension at 16, Emmerson Square, Thornley.

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

**194. Planning Application (REF: 5057)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. R. Lowther had applied for planning permission to construct a double garage at land rear of 1, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

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

**195. Virement of Budget**

The Parish Clerk reported that in order to maintain the accounts in line with agreed budgets it would be necessary to vire funds from Capital Reserves to the appropriate Revenue spending codes.

***Resolved: That the necessary virement be approved.***

**196. Youll House Security**

The Parish Clerk reported that in recent weeks Youll House had been the target of vandals and one break-in which had necessitated some repair works.

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<sup>18</sup> Minute 122 refers





It had been suggested that a steel roller shutter should be fitted to the kitchen access door.

***Resolved: That a decision be deferred pending notification on whether funding from other agencies can be obtained.***

**197. Capital Program 2008**

A report prepared by the Parish Clerk was considered.

***Resolved: That the Capital Program as detailed be adopted for 2008/9***

**198. Annual Budget and Precept 2008/9**

The Parish Clerk referred to a budget estimate report produced in line with council's planned spending for 2007/2008 and informed members that if the Parish Precept was increased from £101850 to £104906 (i.e.3.% as previously suggested) this would result in an underspend of £66.

***Resolved: That the precept be increased by 4% to £105,924 for 2008/9 and an information notice to residents highlighting the Council spending be posted in the village at the appropriate time.***

**199. Provision of Christmas Tree (REF: 5072)**

Members were asked to recall that at the meeting held on 3rd October 2006<sup>19</sup> it had been resolved to review the policy on the provision of a Christmas tree for the village for 2007 after taking into account vandalism sustained in 2006.

Durham County Council provided a quotation totalling £1,082 excluding VAT for the provision of a tree for 2007.

Members were also advised that should it be decided to erect a tree it may be necessary to replace the festoon lighting as this had been damaged by vandals the previous year. The estimated cost was £1,000.

It was suggested that the Parish Council provide a tree from its own woodland and that local schools and children's groups be approached to ascertain if they would make suitable decoration. If so donation(s) up to a total value of £50 be made.

In addition the festoon lighting be replaced early in the New Year ready for Christmas 2008.

***Resolved: That the Parish Council provides trees of appropriate size from woodland in its possession and that the local schools/children's groups be approached to provide decorations. Donations up to a total value of £50 be made to the participating group(s).***

**200. Durham Link Road**

Councillor Mrs. A. Attey referred to plans to construct a link road in the area and expressed concerns relating to the possible increase in traffic on the A181 near the Crossways junction.

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<sup>19</sup> Minute 170 refers

County Councillor Nicholls reported that similar concerns had been expressed by other communities and a meeting was to be held in the near future to discuss the project.

***Resolved: That Councillors Mrs Attey & J. Hogg attend the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.***

**201. Planning Permission (REF: 5067)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Persimmon Homes Teesside to construct an Advertisement Board at Corner of Dunelm Road & A181, Thornley.

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

**202. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5069)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 22nd August 2007. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these would be ordered and fitted in due course.

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

**203. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5078)**

A letter of thanks was received from the Learning Library for the Parish Council's recent donation.

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

**204. 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.***

**205. 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.*

**206. Request to Purchase Land from the Parish Council (REF: 5091)**

Members were asked to recall that at the meeting held on 5th September 2006 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.

It was resolved that the sale be agreed in principal subject to the applicant depositing £1,000 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.

The applicant had now deposited a cheque for £1,000. In view of the time that has elapsed since the original application members were asked to confirm that the District Valuer be approached to determine a valuation.



***Resolved: That the District Valuer be asked to provide a valuation for the land as outlined.***

**207. Chairman's Civic Carol Service (REF: 5090)**

The Chairman of the District of Easington, Councillor Mrs. Margaret Nugent, extended an invitation to members of the Parish Council to attend her Civic Carol Service to be held on Tuesday 18th December 2007 at Christ Church Station Road, Seaham commencing at 6:30pm.

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

**208. Request for Donation (REF: 5097)**

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

Age Concern requested a donation from the Parish Council to help fund Christmas Parties to be provided to members and other aged persons of the village over the festive season.

***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.***

**209. Request for Donation (REF: 5099)**

Victim Support requested a donation from the Parish Council toward the cost of volunteer expenses which were expected to rise to £24,000 in the year ending 31st March 2008.

***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.***

**210. Request for Donation**

The Chairman reported that the person providing the musical accompaniment at the Remembrance Day Service had requested that in lieu of payment a donation be made to Charity.

***Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £30.***

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
4TH DECEMBER 2007**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor J. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, G. Wilson.**

**APOLOGIES**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Mrs. J. Unsworth</i>	<i>Illness</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>J. Williams</i>	<i>Other Business</i>	<i>Approved</i>

**211. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill referred to minute 184 and requested that the final paragraph it be changed to read "...to prevent residents driving over the grassed area".

Referring to minute 200, District Councillor Unsworth informed Councillor Mrs. Attey that the proposed meeting would take place on 10th December 2007 commencing 2:00pm.

Having noted these items, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th November 2007 were accepted as a true record.

**212. Public Question and Answer Session - Faculty**

Members were asked if the Parish Council had received any decision on its application for a Faculty Order from the Diocese of Durham.

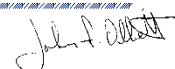
The Parish Clerk reported that receipt of the application had been received and that details of any objections would be forwarded in due course. No other details were available.

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

**213. Public Question and Answer Session - Allotments**

Several allotment tenants requested that they be permitted to add "partners" to their allotment tenancy agreements.

The Parish Clerk advised that doing so could create difficulties for those on the waiting list. If the members were disposed to accede to the request they should do so only on an individual basis after considering the circumstances of each application.



**Resolved: That the names of George Long 13, East Lea, Thornley & Colin Brown 1, Thornlaw North, Thornley be added to the allotment agreements in respect of numbers C1, C2, C3, Coopers Close. The name J. Purvis 39, Quetlaw Road, Wheatley Hill be added to the allotment agreement in respect of number C7, Coopers Close and that Fredrick Bromilow (senior) 13, Passfield Square, Thornley be added to the allotment agreements in respect of numbers A15 Coopers Close.**

**214. Public Question and Answer Session – Remembrance Day Services**

Two residents highlighted the extremely poor attendance at the recent Remembrance Day service and asked if the Parish Council was responsible for organising the event.

The Parish Clerk stated that it was normally the Royal British Legion that arranged such events but because no such organisation existed in Thornley the Parish Council had agreed in recent years to try and recruit the services of one of the local churches to facilitate. Unfortunately it had no control as to who actually attended on the day.

**Resolved: That the Parish Council assist members of the community willing to arrange future events and help with publicity.**

**215. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed Sgt. Dickinson and PC. Rowe to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the police had dealt with the following incidents in Thornley:-

Theft	2
Criminal Damage	5
Anti Social Behaviour	9

Police were in discussion with East Durham Homes and West Side Street Safe regarding the void properties in Greenwood Cottages which were becoming a focus for vandals.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that residents who were to afraid to contact the police directly to report incidents could do so via the alarm call service provided by the Street Warden's .

Councillor Mrs Brunskill reported that she had received 4 complaints of vehicles parking in a dangerous location. The police said they would investigate.

District Councillor Unsworth reported that the District Council was still trying to find a firm willing to redevelop the Greenwood Cottage properties.

Councillor G. Wilson highlighted the severe anxiety and disruption caused to the elderly users of the Youll House by youths and requested a greater police presence particularly on the evenings of 6th & 10th December 2007 when Christmas Parties would be held.

The police went to some lengths to explain the need for all incidents to be reported if they were to give the required level of service. The limited police resources were focused in those areas where incidents were reported. If calls were not logged then a low level of policing would result because it appeared that no incidents were taking place.

In an attempt to allay concerns Sgt Dickinson extended an invitation to the chairman of the Parish Council and Councillor G. Wilson to discuss the situation in Thornley with him outside the meeting.

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

**216. Street Wardens Report**

The Wardens reported that due to a change in reporting procedures no figures were available for the previous month.

The wardens were, in conjunction with the police, continuing to address the problem of youths causing disturbance in the Greenwood Cottages area.

There were 3 areas of concern to the wardens 1) Rose Lea Cottages and bus shelter area 2) Void properties in St. Bede's Crescent 3) Youths consuming alcohol.

Each of these would be address as resources permitted.

A white car thought to be distributing drugs in the village was to be investigated.

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

**217. New Thornley**

District Councillor Unsworth (Chairman of the Partnership) report that the officers of the District Council were to undertake a resident's survey shortly after Christmas to help ascertain the requirements for a new centre for the village.

No other projects were being considered at this time.

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

**218. District Councillor**

The focus of attention for the district council was to prepare for the new unitary authority for County Durham. It was a time of transition and various projects etc would be on hold until it could be determined how best to proceed.

As previously mentioned the Greenwood Cottages redevelopment would progress once a developer had been found. It was pointed out however that this may take some time.

Grants were still available via the district council to assist elderly and those on benefits.

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

**219. County Councillor**

As Councillor Nicholls was not present no report was available.

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

**220. Consultative Meeting**

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

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

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

The Chairman reported that the meeting was being held at the same time as the Parish council Meeting and therefore it was not possible for him to attend.

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



**222. T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that a request (made previously by Councillor Mrs. Attey) for a dog litter bin to be placed on Dunelm Road had been raised. This would be addressed as soon as the district council had received a new supply of litter bins.

The distribution of free dog litter bags had also been raised as they had not materialised. It had been reported that the district council was awaiting a further delivery. They would be made available at various locations throughout the village as soon as possible.

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

**223. West Area Forum**

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

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

**224. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the Age Concern operation was running smoothly and that a number of Christmas Parties for the elderly in the village had been organised.

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

**225. Allotment Clearance (REF: 5109)**

Three letters from Mr. Bowes re the clearance C11 Coopers Close Allotments were considered by members.

The Parish Clerk reported that Mr Bowes had now cleared the materials belonging to him from the allotment and it could now be re-let to the next person on the waiting list.

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

**226. Planning Permission (REF: 5112)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. & Mrs. J. Hoyer to construct a two storey extension at 16, Emerson Square, Thornley.

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

**227. General Maintenance Report**

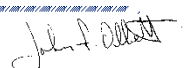
A report prepared by the Chargehand Gardener on the general maintenance operation was considered.

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

**228. Staff Christmas Bonus**

The Parish Clerk reported that it had been the practice of the Parish Council at this time of year to consider payment of a Christmas bonus to the two members of the workforce.

The Chairman remarked that he considered it appropriate that all full time members of the workforce, including the Parish Clerk should receive a payment including previous years where appropriate.



**Resolved: That the three members of staff receive a £50 Christmas bonus for 2007 and that in addition the Parish Clerk receive £20 (in line with that paid to other staff) for each of the 6 previous years of his employ.**

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

The Parish Clerk reported that the Internal Audit of accounts from 1st April 2007 to 30th September 2007 had been completed by W.J. Smith. No financial irregularities were identified and the accounts were in order.

Mr. Smith reminded members of the need to review rents & fees payable to the Parish Council for use of its premises and to consider the forward programme<sup>20</sup>.

**Resolved: That the report of the Auditor be received.**

**230. 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.**

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

The Parish Clerk reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council was due to take place on Tuesday 1st January 2008. As this was a Bank Holiday members were asked to consider cancelling the meeting and hold the next meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 5th February 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

**Resolved: That the next meeting be held on Tuesday 5th February 2008**

**232. 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.*

**233. Planning Permission (REF: 5127)**

The District of Easington has advised that planning permission has been granted to Mr. R. Lowther to construct a double garage at land rear of 1, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

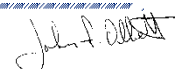
**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**234. Request for Donation (REF: 5140)**

Thornley Youth Musical & Social Group requested a donation to help toward transport costs of taking members of the group to a performance of Cinderella at the Sunderland Empire.

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<sup>20</sup> A copy of the auditors report is available.



***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.***

**235. Use of Bridleway**

The Parish Clerk reported that in recent months previously unidentified persons had been removing stone bollards preventing vehicle access on this bridleway in order to take feed to horses on an adjacent field belonging to Durham County Council.

The registration number of two vehicles had now been obtained as had the name of the County Council tenant concerned.

***Resolved: That the County Council be advised of the Parish Council's concerns and that appropriate action be taken either by the Parish Council or the County Council in this matter.***

**236. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5141)**

A letter of thanks was received from Youll House Age Concern for the Parish Council's recent donation.

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

**237. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5142)**

A letter of thanks was received from Thornley Community Centre for the Parish Council's recent donation.

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

**238. Condition of Public Right of Way**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported on the condition of a public right of way adjacent to the 5 a side football pitch.

The Parish Clerk was requested to investigate and if it was in the purview of the Parish Council, to repair the damage.

***Resolved: That repairs be undertaken if required.***





**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
5TH FEBRUARY 2008**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor J. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. J. Middleton, Mrs. J. Unsworth W. Turnbull, G. Wilson.**

**239. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill referred to minute 211 and requested that the paragraph be changed to read "... to prevent residents driving over the grassed areas and footpaths".

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill referred to minute 215 and reported that East Durham Homes were to remove the bushes from the properties in Greenwood cottages.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill referred to minute 217 and reported that some residents had complained that people carrying out the survey had given misleading information on the condition of the existing community centre.

Councillor Mrs. Attey pointed out that no dog litter bin had yet been installed on Dunelm Road by the District of Easington.

It was reported that minute 237 should read Thornley Youth Musical & Social Group not Thornley Community Centre.

Having noted these items, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th December 2007 were accepted as a true record.

**240. Public Question and Answer Session - Faculty**

Members were asked if the Parish Council had been notified of a decision by the Diocese of Durham on its application for a Faculty Order.

The Parish Clerk reported on the current status and indicated that a decision was awaited.

No other details were available.

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

**241. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Bowman to the meeting who reported that in the previous 2 months the police had dealt with the following incidents in Thornley:-

Burglary	1
Criminal Damage	18
Theft	5
Anti-social Behaviour	27

Police were continuing to monitor a particular vehicle on the Gore Hill Estate the owner of which had been reported as on a previous occasion as acting suspiciously.

Councillor G. Wilson mentioned 2 arson attacks at the rear of Stanley Terrace that he believed had not been investigated.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill referred to the void properties in Greenwood cottages and reported that it was unlikely that East Durham homes would be able to make any decision regarding their redevelopment in the foreseeable future.

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

**242. Street Wardens Report**

The Street Wardens were unable to attend the meeting and suggested that any incidents be reported to them as and when they occurred.

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

**243. New Thornley**

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chairman of the Partnership) reported that no feedback had been received on the residents' survey undertaken by officers of the District Council concerning the need for a new community facility.

A new group, operating under the umbrella of the Partnership had been formed to organise events and activities within the village over the coming year.

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

**244. District Councillor**

Councillors T. Unsworth and M. Nicholls reported that the main focus of attention in Thornley related to the proposed development of a new centre. As had already been reported the results of a residents survey was awaited as this would form the basis of future discussion on how the project would proceed.

The housing strategy program was still ongoing.

Because of concern expressed by member of Age Concern at the proposed increase for the meals on wheels service, meetings were to be held with officers of the district council in an attempt to find possible solutions.

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

**245. County Councillor**

Councillor Nicholls reported that the initial results of a survey into vehicular traffic on the A181 (near the Crossways Hotel) had highlighted no excessive speed being used by drivers. Statistical information was still being produced.

Because of concerns that potential grant aid for the county could be diverted by Government into the Olympic Bid, letters had been written to the Prime Minister.

Members were to meet with the local Member of Parliament and the Director of the Primary Care Trust on 14th February 2008 concerning the construction of a new health clinic in Wheatley Hill.

The overall budget increase for Durham County Council had been raised by 2.9% overall.

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

**246. Consultative Meeting**

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

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



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

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

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

**248. T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that dog fouling in the vicinity of Church Walk, Thornley had been raised and a dog litter bin had been requested.

Quantities of dog litter bags had been obtained and were available to residents from a number of locations within the village.

Concerns at the level of service being provided by the refuse collection service and the changes to be made in April 2008 had also been discussed.

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

**249. West Area Forum**

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

Councillor Nicholls reported that the parking of cars on Morris Crescent (reported at a previous meeting of the forum) was on a list of proposals to be addressed in the future.

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

**250. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that there would be no meals on wheels service for approximately 2 weeks because of illness among staff.

The group was finding it increasingly difficult to hold events on an evening because of problems caused by youths outside the centre.

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

**251. Subscription Renewal 2008 Society of Clerks (Ref: 5136)**

In line with previous practice, members are asked to consider renewing the annual subscription for the Society of Clerks for 2008 at a cost of £120.

***Resolved: That the subscription for 2008 be approved.***

**252. Planning Application (REF: 5153)**

The District of Easington advised that K. Bennett had applied for planning permission to construct a private garage at 4, Hilltop Bungalows, Thornley.

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

**253. Permission for Paving Stones on Parish Land (REF: 5195)**

Mr. & Mrs. Heale 4, Church View, Thornley requested permission to retain paving stone placed on land at the rear of their property to help prevent weeds and grass growth.

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



**254. Request for Donation (REF: 5198)**

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

The newly formed group "Thornley Moving Forward" which operated under the umbrella of the New Thornley Partnership, requested a donation of £500 in order that they had adequate funds available to be used as match funding when applying to outside organisations or to meet direct expenditure related to events or activities being organised by them for residents.

***Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £500.***

**255. Fencing Works – Youll House (REF: 5202/5203)**

Following a meeting between the Chairman and Members of the Parish Council with the police<sup>21</sup> it was suggested that a perimeter fence be erected around Youll House.

The police indicated that they may be able to provide some funding for the scheme.

Quotations obtained by the Parish Clerk ranged from £1,947.55 to £3,152.17.

The Parish Clerk went on to explain that officers at the District of Easington Planning Department had already been approached to determine if planning permission would be required. They had advised that an application would need to be submitted but would be strongly opposed because of the proposed height of the fence in this location.

***Resolved: That an application for planning permission be submitted.***

**256. Fencing Works – Library & Open Spaces (REF: 5202/5203)**

The Parish Clerk explained that the wooden fencing at the Pit Wheel site was being constantly vandalised and suggested that members may wish to consider replacing it with a post and steel rail system.

Quotation for the provision of suitable steel fencing had been obtained ranging from £4,226.42 to £5,069.56.

The Parish Clerk went on to explain that officers at the District of Easington Planning Department had already be approached to determine if planning permission would be required. They had advised that an application would need to be submitted.

***Resolved: That an application for planning permission be submitted.***

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<sup>21</sup> Minute 215 of the meeting held on 4th December refers.



**257. Fencing Works – Works Unit (REF: 5202/5203)**

The Parish Clerk explained that no perimeter security fence existed around the works making it vulnerable to direct attack and suggested that members may wish to consider erecting a suitable fencing system

Quotation for the provision of suitable steel fencing had been obtained ranging from & £3,889.37 to £8,385.50 respectively.

The Parish Clerk went on to explain that officers at the District of Easington Planning Department had already been approached to determine if planning permission would be required. They had advised that an application would need to be submitted.

***Resolved: That an application for planning permission be submitted.***

**258. Request for Donation (REF: 5211)**

A request was received from Danielle Stokoe of Wheatley Hill to fund a trip to Peru as part of a world challenge program.

Total cost involved £3,895.

***Resolved: That a donation be refused as the application did meet not comply with existing council policy.***

**259. Vacancies for Parish Councillors**

A letter of resignation was received from Councillor J. Williams.

In addition the Parish Clerk reported that Councillor T. Smith had failed to attend any meeting of the council for a period of six months and as a result had ceased to be a member of the council under the Local Government Act.

The vacancies had been reported to the District of Easington and they would advise on the procedure for filling these vacancies in the near future.

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

**260. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5160)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 29/10/2007. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these would be ordered and fitted in due course.

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

**261. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5161)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 29/11/2007. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these would be ordered and fitted in due course.

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

**262. Contributions from S106 Agreements (REF: 5184)**

The District of Easington advised that a contribution of £6,500 had been earmarked under a S106 33 agreement for the development of Ashford Grove Stables.

The amount may be used for the enhancement of recreational facilities in Thornley or other planning purposes consistent with the application.

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

**263. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5199)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 12th December 2007. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these would be ordered and fitted in due course.

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

**264. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5200)**

A letter of thanks was received from Peterlee Women's Refuge relating to the council's recent donation.

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

**265. Community Engagement Advisory Group (REF: 5204)**

Durham County Council provided a leaflet introducing the work of the group which meets 4 times a year to help improve the ways they listen and respond to the people of County Durham.<sup>22</sup>

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

**266. Consultation Document – Conduct of Local Authority Members (REF: 5205)**

The Department of Communities & Local Government provided a consultation document on the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England.<sup>23</sup>

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

**267. 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.***

**268. 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.*

**269. Insurance Review**

The Parish Clerk reported that in order that the assets of the Parish Council were adequately covered by insurance it will be necessary to include the newly commissioned storage unit and additional items on the insurance documents 2008/9.

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<sup>22</sup> The leaflet is available to members requiring additional information.

<sup>23</sup> A copy of the document is available for members wishing to provide comments.





***Resolved: That the Parish Council's insurance company be advised accordingly.***

**270. Planning Permission (REF: 5222)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to K. Bennett to construct a private garage at 4, Hilltop Bungalows, Thornley.

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

**271. Seat at Crossways**

Members were asked to recall that a resident requested the Parish Council to install a roadside seat on the highway verge adjacent to the public right of way on the A181 near the Crossways Hotel.

The Parish Clerk reported that Durham County Council had agreed to the placing of the seat providing the Parish Council insured them against any liability.

The Area Management board of the District of Easington had been asked to fund the purchase of the seat.

***Resolved: That the seat be purchased and installed as soon as possible.***

**272. Review of Council Standing Orders**

The Parish Clerk reported that it was appropriate at this time to review Standing Orders of Council.

***Resolved: That no alterations were required at this time.***

**273. Review of Risk Management (Financial & Manual)**

The Parish Clerk reported that it was appropriate at this time to review both the Financial & Manual Risk Assessment documents.

***Resolved: That the documents be reviewed as required and if any changes were required these be reported to a subsequent meeting of council.***

**274. Request for Donation (REF: 5236)**

Ages Concern Youll House submitted a request for a donation stating that the groups was finding difficult to manage its affairs under the prevailing conditions. Although members were aware of the situation regarding Youll House they expressed concern that the group had approached that council on previous occasions for donations to help overcome shortfalls.

The Parish Clerk outlined the Section 137 policy and its purpose.

***Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £500.***

**275. Request for Donation (REF: 5235)**

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



The Karen Mullender School of Dance submitted a request for a donation in order to provide mirrors in the main hall of Thornley Community Centre from which they operate. It was suggested that other groups also using the facility would benefit from there purchase.

The Parish Clerk explained that the dance school could be regarded as a commercial venture and if members were mindful to agree a donation it may cause difficulties in future.

It was suggested that if the Thornley Centre Management Committee considered that the mirrors were justified that they provide them. If necessary they submit a request to the Parish Council for consideration.

***Resolved: That a donation be refused as the application did meet not comply with existing council policy.***

**276. Request for Donation (REF: 5234)**

The Butterwick Hospice submitted a request for a donation to help fund its operation in the coming year.

The Chairman pointed out that a donation had been made to the organisation following the Remembrance Day service in November 2007.

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

**277. Allotment Clearance**

The Parish Clerk reported that in accordance with instruction given previously<sup>24</sup> County Court papers had now been served on Mr. Crisp.

A court date was awaited.

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

**278. Town & County Planning Act 1990: S247 Section**

Government Office North East advised that it was proposed to stopping up of the highway at 2, Fairview, Thornley to allow planning development to take place.

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

**279. Gore Hill Play Area**

Members were reminded that in accordance with instructions the swings on the Gore Hill children's play area had not been replaced over a period of 10 months because of constant vandalism<sup>25</sup>.

The Parish Clerk reported that to prepare the play area for use by children in Spring and Summer 2008 it would now be necessary to purchase and re-erect swings etc which had been removed over the Winter period.

Members considered that the replacement of the swings would only give rise to further vandalism in the play area and suggested that the swing frames be removed entirely.

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<sup>24</sup> Meeting held 6 November 2007 refers

<sup>25</sup> Meeting held 8yh May 2007 minute 35 refers.

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It was pointed out that the play area had been updated and reinstated in collaboration with residents of the area and it was felt that they be consulted before any decision was made to remove the swings.

***Resolved: That the residents on the Gore Hill Estate be advised of the Parish Council's proposal before any further course of action be taken.***

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
4TH MARCH 2008**

**PRESENT**

**G. Wilson. (Chair) Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull,**

**APOLOGIES**

Councillor	Reason for Absence	Resolved
J. Ollett	Illness	Approved
Mrs. J. Unsworth	Work	Approved

**280. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th February 2008 were accepted as a true record.

**281. Public Question and Answer Session - Faculty**

Members were asked if the Parish Council had been notified of a decision by the Diocese of Durham on its application for a Faculty Order.

The Parish Clerk reported on the current status and indicated that a decision was awaited.

No other details were available.

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

**282. 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	2
Criminal Damage	4
Theft	3
Anti-social Behaviour	5

In addition they had investigated the report of 2 youths sleeping rough in the village and of youths gathering at the rear of Stanley Terrace. No evidence could be found but they were continuing to monitor the situation.

As a result of "Operation Milkshake", 14 warrants relating to drug offences had been served and 13 arrests were made. A quantity of drugs had also been seized. In addition action had been taken relating to 40 off road motorcycles.

Because of the success of the operation it had been suggested that the Wheatley Hill and Thornley areas be targeted in the next operation.

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

**283. Street Wardens Report**

The Street Wardens reported that the report of incidents in Thornley was very low compared to other villages.

They were continuing to monitor problems of youths in and around Stanley Terrace, Youll House and the Community Centre.

Members highlighted concerns at the difficulty for residents in trying to report incidents because of the extremely poor service on the 0845 contact telephone number. Residents could not get through and as a result reports were not being logged.

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

**284. New Thornley**

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chairman of the Partnership) reported that the Annual General Meeting had taken place and gave the names of those appointed as officers.

Councillor Mrs. Attey reported that the Thornley Moving Forward group were continuing with their preparations to hold an event in Easter but pointed out that response from local traders had been disappointing.

The efforts made by of members of the group had been noted.

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

**285. District Councillor**

Councillor T. Unsworth reported on the "Revenue Budget" and on the "Building Program Survey Results" and indicated that £80,000 had been earmarked to cover consultant's fees.

Approximately £1.5 million had been earmarked in both 2009/10 and 20010/11 to support the findings of the survey.

The urban development program (outside Youll House) had been held up because of the results of resident comments. Further appraisals were to be undertaken in the Greenwood Cottages area to help determine what further action could be taken to progress the scheme.

Developers were to be approached in relation to both the Thornlaw North and Thornlaw South estates.

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

**286. County Councillor**

Councillor Nicholls reported on the outcome of surveys undertaken at the A181/Crossways road junction and indicated that the speed of traffic did not warrant any additional measures to be taken.

Work on the footpath on Gore Estate had been programmed for the next financial year.

A trial bus service had been implemented to provide for a late bus between Durham City and Thornley on Friday's and Saturday's from 11:20pm and efforts were being made to provide a 215 service.

A fund was being provided in order to determine what type of youth service should be provided in Wheatley Hill.



A meeting was to be held with D. Gallagher and Phil Wilson on 17th March 2008 regarding the provision of a new clinic in Wheatley Hill.

The community charge for the county council had increased by 2.9% and a substantial amount of money had been earmarked for community centres.

Councillor Mrs. Attey suggested that in relation to the A181 junction, motorists were ignoring the "chevrons" and that as a result it was an accident waiting to happen.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill pointed out that a recently erected road sign at the Cassop junction was a hazard to motorists because it blocked a driver's view of approaching traffic.

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

**287. Consultative Meeting**

The Chairman reported that no meeting had taken place.

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

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

The Chairman reported that no meeting had taken place.

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

**289. T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill referred to an earlier request for a dog litter bin to be placed on a lamppost on Dunelm Road and reported that as 10 bins were already in place no additional ones would be provided by the district council in this location.

Councillor Unsworth reported that one of the existing bins was to be relocated to alleviate the situation.

The fines for allowing dogs to litter the street had been increased to £80 per offence and wardens were now patrolling in plain cloths to identify offenders.

A new refuse service was to be implemented on 1st April 2008 one aim of which was to increase the amount of recycling by residents in the district as current levels were well below average.

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

**290. West Area Forum**

The Chairman reported that no meeting had taken place.

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

**291. Youll House**

The Chairman reported that the operation was running smoothly and that a coffee morning was to be held on the following Saturday to help raise funds.

The meal on wheels service was now being provided by Wheatley Hill Community Centre and that each meal would be subsidised by £2 for the next 2 years.



**292. 75th Anniversary of Thornley Cemetery**

The Parish Clerk advised members the first burial took place in Thornley Cemetery on 28th April 1934 and therefore 28th April 2009 would mark its 75th anniversary.

It was suggested that to celebrate the event a carpet bedding scheme was constructed on the highway verge.

***Resolved: That the scheme be approved if necessary permissions could be obtained from Durham County Council.***

**293. Operation and Management of Youll House.**

For the benefit of new members, the Parish Clerk gave a summary of the situation and reminded members that this issue had been raised several times in recent years.

He went to some lengths to explain the importance of resolving the outstanding issues and emphasised the need to address and redefine how the centre was managed on a day to day basis. In view of the current state of the roof the potential health & safety risks to users of the building was also highlighted.

Whilst members were cognisant of the various issues they considered that the present arrangement with Youll House Age Concern was acceptable.

***Resolved: That a decision be deferred pending the outcome of surveys currently being undertaken by the District of Easington and East Durham Homes to determine the future redevelopment of the Greenwood Cottages and the area around Youll House.***

**294. Request for Donation (REF: 5241)**

East Durham Community Transport Ltd requested a donation to support the work of the charity 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 £50.00.***

**295. John Scott Youll**

A request was received from F. Mackay seeking the Parish Council's permission to use photographs of the John Scott Youll memorial in a book to be written by him. Full acknowledgement will be given.

***Resolved: That permission be granted.***

**296. Invitation to Stakeholders Meeting (REF: 5245)**

The Local government Programme Office invited representatives of the Parish Council to attend a meeting at Shotton Hall, Peterlee on 12th March 2008 at 6:00pm regarding the various aspect and implementation of the unitary council for County Durham.

***Resolved: That Councillor Mrs. Brunskill attend.***

**297. Request for Donation (REF: 5246)**

Thornley & District Community Association requested a donation to help fund the refurbishment of the dining room and dance hall.

Various groups using the facility will benefit from the work being undertaken.

Members were advised that a donation of £25 was made to the Association 2 October 2007.

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

**298. Request for Donation (5250)**

Crimestoppers requested a donation to aid the work of the organisation over the next 12 months.

Members were advised that a donation of £50 has been made to Crimestoppers each year for the last 4 years.

***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.***

**299. Additional Administrative Support – New Thornley Partnership**

New Thornley Partnership informed the Parish Council that it had recently formed a sub-group to provide annual events and activities for residents of Thornley.

As they now intend holding meetings on a monthly basis they required additional administrative support and requested that the Parish Council considers increasing the Clerks hours accordingly.

***Resolved: That the request be refused.***

**300. Planning Application (REF: 5255)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. C. Kelly had applied for planning permission to construct a two storey front extension at 1, St. Bede's Street, Thornley.

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

**301. 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.***

### **302. 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.*

### **303. Drainage Coopers Close Allotments**

The Parish Clerk reported that the installation of a land drainage system had recently been completed.

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

### **304. Casual Vacancies (REF: 5257)**

The District of Easington advised that no formal election had been called and that it would be in order for the Parish Council to fill the 2 vacancies for councillors by co-option.

The Parish Clerk asked for names to be submitted to him in time for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting.

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

### **305. Roadside Seat – A181**

The Parish Clerk reported that Durham County council had granted permission for the seat to be installed at this location.

The East Durham Management Board had agreed to fund its purchase and installation would take place as soon as it could be programmed into the works schedule.

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

### **306. Request for Overtime**

The Parish Clerk reported that it would be necessary for him to work an additional number of hours to finalise the accounts and prepare the annual audit. He would also be attending a number of meetings of the Society of Clerks and undertaking additional administrative duties at this time.

***Resolved: That working of necessary overtime be approved.***

### **307. Allotment Clearance**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill requested an update on action being taken against Mr. Crisp.

The Parish Clerk reported that a hearing at the County Court was scheduled to take place on 23d May 2008 at 10:00am.

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

### **308. Water Voles**

The Chairman reported that the water-course at the rear of Coopers Close allotments needed to be cleared of rubbish as water voles had been seen in the area.





The Parish Clerk pointed out that that the water course was not on Parish land and therefore they had no responsibility of jurisdiction in this instance. He suggested that the matter be reported to the Countryside officer at the District of Easington.

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

**309. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5267)**

A letter of thanks was received from New Thornley Partnership (Thornley Moving Forward) for the Parish Council donation of £500.00

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

**310. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5268)**

A letter of thanks was received from Youll House Age Concern for the Parish Council donation of £500.00

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

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
1ST APRIL 2008**

**PRESENT**

**J. Ollett (Chair) Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wilson.**

**APOLOGIES**

*No apologies submitted*

**311. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councillor G. Wilson referred to minute 291 and reported that "... each meal would be subsidised by £2 for the next year" not two years.

Mrs. Brunskill referred to minute 285 and asked if District Councillor Unsworth could clarify his report made in relation to the developments taking place in Thornley.

Having noted these alterations and comments the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th March 2008 were accepted as a true record.

**312. Co-option of Parish Councillors**

The Parish Clerk reported that three of the prospective candidates were present and that the fourth candidate had offered his apologies but was unable to attend because of prior commitments. He would however like to be considered for the post.

Members determined that the fourth candidate not be considered on this occasion because of his absence and that the two vacant posts be filled by secret ballot.

***Resolved: That the Mrs I. Hind and Mrs Margaret Ingram be co-opted to the Parish Council for the remaining term of the Council.***

**313. Public Question and Answer Session - Faculty**

Members were asked if the Parish Council had been notified of a decision by the Diocese of Durham on its application for a Faculty Order.

The Parish Clerk reported on the current status and indicated that a decision was awaited.

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

**314. Police Report**

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

Burglary	2
Criminal Damage	15
Theft	1

Anti-social Behaviour	5
Drinking in the Street	2
Motor Vehicle related incidents	1

In view of continuing reports of incidents in the Greenwood Cottages and Youll House area the police would provide extra patrols.

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

### **315. Street Wardens Report**

The wardens reported that when attending an incident at Greenwood Cottages they had been harassed and bricks had been thrown at their vehicle. As a result wardens had been advised by their line managers at the District of Easington not to approach youths in this area for the time being because their personal safety may be put at risk.

Patrols in the remainder of Thornley would continue as normal.

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

### **316. New Thornley**

The Chairman of the partnership (Councillor T. Unsworth) and the Treasurer (Councillor A. Attey) reported on the success of an event organised over the Easter period.

Retailers in the village had provided a number of prizes for the various competitions and the event was well attended. Feedback from residents had also been favourable.

The Thornley Moving Forward group was now in the process of organising its next event.

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

### **317. District Councillor**

Councillor T. Unsworth reported that development in the village was slow due in some part to the changes being made to the unitary authority.

An insight into a new system for the allocation of housing being implemented by East Durham Homes commencing 1st April 2008 was provided.

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

### **318. County Councillor**

Councillor Nicholls reported that there had been a problem issuing bus passes to the elderly but that the situation was now being resolved.

As a result of discussions with social services and the implementation of a new system the number on the referrals list was now almost nil.

Talks with the police were continuing in the hope that the police station in Wheatley Hill could be opened more regularly in order that residents could report incident direct to police officers.

Discussions with Arriva were continuing with regard to the provision of late night bus services to and from Durham. The 325 service was now back in operation.

Delays to the bus service through Hart Village caused by the implementation of a new road system had now been rectified and services were back to normal.



Proposals for the construction of a new clinic in Wheatley Hill were progressing and it had been suggested that the survey being undertaken by the District of Easington should include details of what was being proposed as it may influence the result. More discussions were to be held in late April.

***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**

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

**321. T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that she had been unable to attend as she had a prior engagement at Shotton Hall relating to the implementation of a unitary authority in County Durham.

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

**322. West Area Forum**

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

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

**323. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the operation was running smoothly and the meals on wheels service was back to normal now that a new supplier had been appointed.

Problems with youths were continuing and vandals had pulled out the telephone lines. Repairs had been undertaken. The broken windows had also been repaired by the Parish Council using polycarbonate material in an effort to reduced future breakage.

Quotations had been obtained for the repair to the roof and Age concern was to process an application to the District of Easington to effect repairs.

Applications for £900 to fund bus trips for members of the group had been submitted.

Grants of totalling £433 had been obtained to help finance the operation over the next 12 months.

The Parish Clerk reported that the planning application submitted by the Parish Council was now being considered by the District of Easington.

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

**324. Planning Application (REF: 5275)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. K. Bentham had applied for outline planning permission to construct a two bedroom bungalow at land rear of Thornlaw House Dunelm Road, Thornley.

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



**325. Administrative Support – New Thornley Partnership**

***Councillors G. Wilson & Mrs A Attey declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.***

The Parish Clerk reminded members that the Parish Council currently provided 6 hours administrative support bi monthly to New Thornley Partnership and that in accordance with the meeting held on 2nd October 2007<sup>26</sup> the arrangement should now be reviewed.

***Resolved: That the required administrative support be provided for a period of 12 months when it would be reviewed.***

**326. Proposal to Divert Public Right of Way Footpath.**

Members were made aware that a planning application had been made to the District of Easington to develop land at Fairview, Thornley and that Durham County Council were to object because it would cut off a Public Right of Way that exists in this location.

The Parish Clerk reported that Durham County Council would withdraw its objection if the right of way could be re-routed over adjacent land in the ownership of Thornley Parish Council.

***Resolved: That the permission be granted to re-route the public footpath over Parish Council land with the proviso that any cost incurred should be paid by the applicant.***

**327. Invitation (REF: 5293)**

Haswell & District MENCAP Society has invited the Parish Council to send representatives to their "Hollywood Ball" which will take place on 16th January 2009 at Peterlee Leisure Centre.

Tickets are £25 per head.

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

**328. Gore Hill Play Area – Removal of Swings**

For the benefit of new members the Parish Clerk provided background information on this matter.

The Parish Council had written to all households on the Gore Hill Estate advising of problems of vandalism in the play area and asked tenants to provide the Parish Council with their views. These would then be taken into consideration by members when determining an appropriate course.

Four letters were received. Two requested that the swings (or all equipment) be removed. The remaining two letters requested that the swings be retained. One of these was signed by 64 residents.

***Resolved: That the swings be retained and efforts be made to minimise damage by purchasing alternative types of chains and swing seats if possible.***

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<sup>26</sup> Minute 169 refers



**329. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5281)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 27/01/2008. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these would be ordered and fitted in due course.

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

**330. Maintenance Report**

A written report of the Chargehand Gardener was considered by members who agreed that work and projects being undertaken had improved the village. It was suggested that a larger workforce may be able to improve matters further if finance could be made available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Clerk prepare a report on options available to increase the number of workers employed and the financial implications.***

**331. 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.***

**332. 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 Permission (REF: 5309 )**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. C. Kelly to construct a two storey front extension at 1, St. Bede Street, Thornley.

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

**334. Planning Application (REF: 5310 )**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. I. Mudd had applied for retrospective planning permission to construct a conservatory at "Armaclaire" Dunelm Road, Thornley.

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

**335. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5311)**

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

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

**336. Diversion of Public Footpath No: 17 Order 2008 REF: 5312)**

Durham County Council provided a notice of an Order & relevant plan for information.

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

**337. Development Strategy for Change (REF: 5313)**

Durham County Council provided information on a consultation relating to ambitions for primary education over the next 15 years<sup>27</sup> and asked that responses be provided by 28th April 2008.

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

**338. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5314)**

A letter of thanks was received from Thornley & District Community Association for the Parish Council's recent donation.

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

**339. Planning Application (REF: 5315)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. A. R. Robinson had applied for planning permission to construct an agricultural building at Thornley Hall Farmhouse, Wheatley Hill.

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

**340. Parish Precepts**

The Parish Clerk provided members with a list for information purposes detailing the precept amounts raised by parish councils within the District of Easington for 2008/9.

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

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<sup>27</sup> Available to members via the Parish Clerk





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