

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
6TH MAY 2008**

PRESENT

Councillor J.F. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

No apologies were recorded.

GUESTS

Councillor T. Unsworth (District of Easington) Councillor M. Nicholls (Durham County Council)

APOLOGIES

No apologies were recorded.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st April 2008 were accepted as a true record.

2. Public Question and Answer Session - Faculty

Residents 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 still awaited.

Resolved: That the information be noted

3. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Steve Rowe and C.P.S.O. Andy Hartland to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the police had dealt 87 calls from Thornley relating to the following incidents:-

Youths Congregating	12
Attempted Burglary	1
Criminal Damage	4

Six youths had been arrested for public order offences and two houses had been raided in relation to possible drug offences.

The police reported that burglary from garages and sheds was on the increase and that residents should be extra vigilant in locking away valuable equipment used for garden maintenance etc.

To ensure a greater police presence in the village it was essential that all crimes be reported to the police.

The Help the Aged project which proved very successful in previous years was being undertaken again in 2008.

In response to questions from members, P.C. Rowe explained that whilst P.C. Bowman (off-road motor cycle team) had been relocated to undertake other duties, he was confident that the position would be re-filled as it provided an essential tool in combating crime in the area.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

4. Street Wardens Report

As the Wardens were not present a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

5. New Thornley

The Chairman of the Partnership (T. Unsworth) thanked the Parish Council for providing the funding necessary to cover the administration costs of the Partnership for the foreseeable future

District of Easington were in the process of appointing consultants to undertake work in the village relating to the development of a new resource facility.

The Treasurer (Mrs. Attey) reported that a Summer Fete and Garden Competition was now being arranged to take place. The proposed date being the 16th August 2008.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

6. District Councillor

Councillor Unsworth reported that whilst the election of councillor for the Unitary Authority had taken place recently the District of Easington would continue to operate until official handover of powers in 2009.

Redevelopment of the Greenwood Cottages area of the village was still under consideration and consultants would be appointed at an appropriate time.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

7. County Councillor

Councillor Nicholls reported on the election of councillors for the unitary authority and pointed out that appointment to the cabinet etc would be undertaken in the very near future. This would enable staff appointments to be made and the transition from several district councils to a unitary authority to be undertaken in accordance with the prescribed timetable.

A "Gypsy" family had now been moved from the village and the associated problems caused were still being investigated.

A problem of subsidence in the vicinity of Hilltop Bungalows was currently being investigated.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

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8. Consultative Meeting

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

9. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

10. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the outstanding problem of a delivery of dog litter bins had been raised. No immediate solution was likely as the supplier was having difficulty obtaining these items.

Because of changes to the operation the Estate Wardens would no longer be deal with reports of litter etc. These must now be reported to the District of Easington via the Envirocall Service.

The issue of "green" recycle bags was discussed and that the district council was awaiting a delivery of a further supply of blue bins for residents who did not have one.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

11. West Area Forum

Councillors G. Wilson and district Councillor Unsworth reported that the problem of horses on bridleways had been raised. Residents with concerns should raise them with officers at the District of Easington.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

12. Youll House

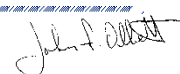
Councillor G. Wilson reported that the facility would be closed for the last week in July and the first week in August 2008 to allow for a summer break and for the premises to be cleaned etc.

A trip to Whitby and a Pie & Pea Supper was being arranged for members later in the year.

The District of Easington was considering making a donation to cover the cost of necessary roof repairs. A decision was expected in the very near future.

The meals on wheels now being provided from Wheatley Hill were of very high quality and had been commented on by members.

Resolved: That the information be noted.



14. Parish Remuneration Panel (REF: 5307 & 5333)

The District of Easington advised that in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Easington Remuneration Panel had carried out a review of the allowances payable to Parish & Town Council Members for 2008/9.¹

Members were asked to recall that the current policy of Thornley Parish Council was that members did not receive remuneration amounts and were reminded that no budget provision existed in the current year's financial budget.

Resolved: That the existing policy be reaffirmed that Councillors would not receive allowances for 2008/9

15. Planning Application (REF: 5340)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. P. Morton had applied for planning permission to construct a two storey side extension at 20, Ashwood Grange, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

16. Planning Application (REF: 5346)

The District of Easington advised that Ms N. Van Den Bremer had applied for planning permission to construct a two storey side extension at Bankdam Farmhouse, Wheatley Hill.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

17. Planning Application (REF: 5347)

The District of Easington advised that Mrs. L. Dunning had applied for planning permission to construct a rear extension (retrospective) at 30, Shinwell Crescent, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

18. Planning Application (REF: 5348)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs. S. Wardle had applied for planning permission to construct a rear conservatory at 25, East Lea, Thornley DH6 3EA.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

19. Planning Application (REF: 5349)

The District of Easington advised that Ms. N. Van Den Bremer-Hornsby had applied for planning permission to construct a detached garage at 2, The Old Hospital Bankam Farm, Wheatley Hill.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

¹ Details to be provided at the meeting

20. Replacement Trailer

The Parish Clerk reported that the small trailer used to transport various materials around the village to undertake routine maintenance is now in need of replacement at an estimated cost of £3,000.

He further explained that no specific budget existed for this item in the 2008/9 budget although some finance was available from various tools and equipment headings.

Resolved: That the trailer be purchased on lease if possible or alternatively outright and that viament between budget heads be approved to cover the cost as required.

21. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5294)

A letter of thanks was received from East Durham Community Transport for the Parish Councils recent donation.

Resolved: That the letter be received

22. Planning Permission (REF: 5334)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. K. Bentham had been refused outline planning permission to construct a two bedroom bungalow on land rear of Thornlaw House, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

23. Auditor Report of Accounts ending 31st March 2008(REF: 5355)

The Parish Clerk reported that the Internal Audit of accounts from 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008 had been completed by W.J. Smith. The accounts were in order and his report and observations has been provided.²

Resolved: The report be received and the actioned as appropriate

24. Statement of Accounts 2007-2008

The Parish Clerk provided a copy of the Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure Summary Account and other related information to 31st, March 2008 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.

25. Annual Audit of Accounts Ending 31st March 2008 (REF: 5318)

The Parish Clerk reported that the external auditor (BDO STYOY HAYWOOD) had advised that the annual audit of the 2007/2008 accounts would take 27th June 2008.

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

² A copy of the full auditor's report was available to members.

Members were asked to approve Section 1 and Section 2 of the Annual Audit Return and for authorise 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 27th May 2008 to 23rd June 2008.

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.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. Application to Construct a Building on C11 Coopers Close Allotments (REF: 5363)

The tenant applied for permission to construct a brick building measuring 16feet X 8feet on the allotment.

Members expressed concern at both the size and proposed building materials and questioned whether formal planning permissions would need to be obtained from the District of Easington.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred pending information from the district council planning officers.

29. Order for costs – Faculty Application (REF: 5361)

The Diocese of Durham advised that additional costs totalling £630.00 had been expended on determining the application for a faculty at the Thornley cemetery.

Members expressed concerns that these costs were not attributable to the Parish Council because they had been brought about by residents seeking information from the diocese relating to graves in the unconsecrated ground not covered by the faculty.

Resolved: That the judge be advised of the councils concerns and that he be requested to make an order for costs.



30. Retrospective Planning Permission (REF: 5358)

The District of Easington advised that retrospective planning permission had been granted to Mr. I. Mudd to construct a conservatory at Armaclaire, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

31. Request for Donation (REF: 5306)

The Great North Air Ambulance requested a donation to help fund the service.

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.

32. Request for Donation (REF: 5364)

Councillors J. Ollett, Mrs Hind, Mrs Ingram and G. Wilson declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.

Wheatley Hill & Thornley Health Forum requested a donation to aid its work in both villages.

It was pointed out that the Wheatley Hill Parish Council already contributes to the forum

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 £400.00.

33. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5294)

A letter of thanks was received from East Durham Community Transport for the Parish Councils recent donation.

Resolved: That the letter be received.

34. Street-safe Board

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that at a recent meeting of the Street-safe Board it had been reported that the reason for damage to Youll House caused by youths playing football was a result of the Parish Councils decision to sell the outside 5 a side playing pitch.

Members expressed dismay at this and pointed out that

a) the pitch had not been sold (although it was being considered)

b) the facility had been damaged by youths to such an extent that it was now not suitable for the purpose for which it was built

c) there was a perfectly adequate grassed area, marked out for the playing of football on the pit wheel site.

In the opinion of members the damage caused to Youll House was inexcusable and should not in any way be attributed to the loss of the 5-a-side pitch.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
3RD JUNE 2008**

PRESENT

Councillor J.F. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

No apologies were recorded.

GUESTS

Councillor T. Unsworth & Adam White (District of Easington) Councillor M. Nicholls (Durham County Council)

APOLOGIES

No apologies were recorded.

35. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Chairman referred to minute 19 and asked if the trailer had been purchased. The Parish Clerk reported that a lease purchase was being arranged and that delivery could be expected in the next 2/3 weeks.

The Chairman referred to minute 31 and pointed out that the declaration of member's interest should read Councillor Mrs. Middleton and not Councillor Ollett.

Councillor Wilson referred to minute 13 and sought clarification as to whether the unclaimed expenses could be allocated to other projects.

The Parish Clerk briefly explained the financial budgetary process and pointed out that this was not possible.

If members considered that additional resources were required for donations etc., appropriate sums should be incorporated when setting the budget. This would ensure that an adequate amount could be raised via the precept.

Having noted these observations the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th May 2008 were accepted as a true record.

36. Public Question and Answer Session (Item 1)

Residents 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 anticipated in the near future as the papers had now been passed to the Chancellor along with a request to award costs.³

Resolved: That the information be noted.

37. Public Question and Answer Session (Item 2)

The tenant of an allotment on the Coopers Close site requested an update on the provision of a perimeter Fence.⁴

Resolved: That the information be noted.

38. Police Report

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

Youths Congregating 16

Criminal Damage 7

Theft 3

Stolen Motor Vehicles 3

Operation Milkshake was currently underway again in Thornley and neighbouring villages and to date it was proving extremely worthwhile. In one village alone £19,000 of drugs had been seized and various motoring offences documented.

In answer to questions, P.C. Rowe reported that the "Off Road" police service would continue for the time being and that should P.C. Bowman be called to other duties he would probably be replaced.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

39. Street Wardens Report

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

40. New Thornley

District Councillor T. Unsworth (Chairman of the Partnership) and Councillor Mrs Attey (Treasurer) reported that a fun day event would take place in the village on 15th August 2008. A number of sports events for adults and children were being organised.

The Parish Council was requested to allow use of the "Pit Wheel" site on the day.

Resolved: That the information be noted and permission to use the Pit wheel Site be granted.

³ See also minute 49.

⁴ The Chairman pointed out that this item was on the agenda for discussion. Refer to minute 47 for resolution.

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41. District Councillor

Councillor T. Unsworth reported that a firm of consultants was to be appointed to undertake the next phase of the Renewal Strategy for Thornley & Wheatley Hill.⁵

A DVD offering help and advice to families on low income was available from the District Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

42. County Councillor

Councillor Nicholls gave an update on the transition to a single unitary authority and indicated that the “shadow authority” was now functioning.

Discussions with the various Trade Unions were underway in order that issues relating to the transfer of staff could be aired.

A list of roads where traffic calming measures were considered appropriate was distributed. It was suggested that the Parish Council may wish to add any other they thought desirable. It would be necessary for a satisfactory survey to be undertaken at each location before works would be approved.

A small contribution was available (£2000) from Councillor Nicholls to enable works to be undertaken but other sums required would need to be provided by the parish council.

New European Legislation would require changes to the number of hours bus drivers could drive vehicles for a continual period. This would impact on the public transport in the area. A meeting between the County Council and the bus companies was to be held on 4th June 2008 to try and minimise possible disruption and reduced or possible loss of services.

The Parish Council was requested to write in support of changing the termination point of the 215 service to Thornley in order to benefit residents.

Members requested Councillor Nicholls to investigate the installation of a “Speed Detection & Warning” sign on at Stanley Terrace and the construction of traffic calming measures between the roundabout and the War Memorial.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

43. Consultative Meeting

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

44. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

⁵ See also minute 66 for additional information.



45. T.E.D.

A refuse skip, requested over a month ago had still not been placed at Gore Hill for use by residents.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that members of the group had expressed their disappointment that non or very few of the items discussed at the TED meetings were being actioned by the District of Easington and that there was little positive feedback. As a result members were becoming discontent and attendance at meetings was declining.

The June meeting had been cancelled due to holiday commitments.

It was agreed that Keith Parkinson (EDC) be requested to attend the next meeting to explain the situation and discuss what could be done to improve matters.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

46. West Area Forum

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

47. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that a Pie & Pea Supper and a trip to Whitby was being arranged for members.

Anti-social behaviour was preventing some members attending functions in the centre.

The District of Easington had provided the funds to undertake the necessary repairs to the roof. The cheque would be passed to the Parish Council in order that they could action the work.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that roof repairs be undertaken immediately following the installation of the security fence.⁶

48. Allotment Fencing (REF: 5381)

Members were advised that the new tenant of plot C11 Coopers Close Allotments had requested that 2 sections of perimeter fence be replaced in order to secure the site.

The Parish Clerk reported that it had been normal practice for the Parish Council to provide the perimeter fence in order to maintain the security and outward appearance of the site and that a quotation for the sum of £968.10 excluding VAT had been obtained.

Resolved: That the fencing be ordered and erected as soon as possible.

⁶ Refer to minute 52



49. Planning Permission (REF: 5384)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. P. Morton to construct a two storey side extension at 20, Ashwood Gardens, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

50. Application for Faculty (REF: 5385)

The Durham Diocese Registry advised that the council's application had now been passed to the Chancellor with a view to deciding the matter.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

51. Planning Permission (REF: 5388 & 5399)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Thornley Parish Council to construct a 1.2, post & rail fence at former Pit Wheel Site, High Street, Thornley.

The Parish Clerk explained that the possible construction of a new community facility on this site would require the removal of any fencing to allow building works on the site. In addition it was likely that plans/cost for a building would include a perimeter fence. It was therefore recommended that the installation of this fence be deferred until the outcome of proposals for a new building was made known.

Resolved: That the installation of the fence be deferred.

52. Planning Permission (REF: 5389 & 5398)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Thornley Parish Council to construct a 2m steel fence and access from classified road at Parish Council Depot, Moor View, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that an order be placed to have the fence erected as soon as possible.

53. Planning Permission (REF: 5390 & 5397)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Thornley Parish Council to construct a 1.8m fence at Youll House, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that an order be placed to have the fence erected as soon as possible.

54. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports

Members were asked to note that as this was the first report of the new Financial Year no Budget Control information was yet available.

The Finance report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting was considered.

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

55. Resignation of Councillor J. Hogg (REF: 5409)

A letter has been received from Councillor John Hogg offering his resignation as a Parish Councillor.

It will be necessary it advise the District of Easington that a vacancy now existed on the Parish Council in order that arrangements can be made for an election to take place.

In the event that no nominations (or insufficient nominations) are received it would then be possible for the Parish Council to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk advise the District of Easington of the vacancy.

56. 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.

57. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5393)

A letter of thanks was received from the Great North Air Ambulance for the Parish Council's recent donation.

Resolved: That the letter be received

58. Request for Donation (REF: 5394)

The Hartlepool & District Hospice requested a donation from the Parish Council to aid its work over the next 12 months.

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

59. Diversion of Footpath 17 (REF: 5395)

Durham County Council has provided confirmation of the order diverting footpath 17.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

60. Stakeholders Conference (REF: 5396)

County Durham Primary Care Trust requested the Parish Council to send a representative to a stakeholder's conference on 13th June 2008 between 10:00 am and 4:00pm. The venue, in county Durham, had not been determined.

Resolved: That invitation be received.

61. Planning Permission (REF: 5400)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr & Mrs S. Wardle to construct a rear conservatory at 25, Eastlea, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

62. Planning Permission (REF: 5401)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mrs. L. Dunning to construct a rear extension at 30, Shinwell Crescent, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

63. Planning Application (REF: 5404)

The District of Easington advised that Mr S. Moody had applied for planning permission to construct a detached garage at Garden Lodge, Bow Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

64. Planning Application (REF: 5405)

The District of Easington advised that Mr T. Sayers had applied for change of use from a living room to a barbers shop at 35, Hartlepool Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

65. Core Strategy & Development Framework (REF: 5406)

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

66. Request for Donation (REF: 5407)

Durham Miners Heritage Group requested a donation toward their School project aimed at pupils between ages 7 to 10.

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.

67. Contributions from Section 106 Agreements (REF: 5414)

The District of Easington advised that with the current uncertainties over the administrative arrangements of the new Council it was hoped that all of the monies would be spent before the commencement of the new financial year. In view of this the district council requested that the parish council provide an update so that the matter can be reported as part of the next quarterly update for members of the Development Control Panel on the 1st July 2008.

Resolved: That the District of Easington be advised that Thornley Parish Council requires all of its Section 106 Agreement contributions of £6,500 to be allocated to the development of a new community facility in Thornley.

68. Request for Donation (REF: 5410)

A request for a donation was received from 3 residents who were developing a self defence program for children in Thornley Primary School.

Members considered the various aspects of the application but were not able, under current policies, to donate funds to individuals or groups who did not have a bank account.

Never-the-less members were disposed to assist the group if a suitable arrangement could be found.

Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £150.00. The funds to be paid direct to the Instructor on production of his invoice detailing the number of children attending classes @ £3.00 per session.

69. Vote of Thanks

Councillor G. Wilson highlighted work undertaken by the Chargehand Gardener (A. Stevens) who had assisted a resident whilst attending a relative's grave in the cemetery.

Resolved: That a vote of thanks be recorded in the minutes for Mr. Stevens.

70. Refurbishment of War Memorial

The Chairman requested an update on the refurbishment of the War Memorial. The Parish Clerk reported that a works order had been issued to a bona fide firm of stonemasons and it was anticipated that works would be commenced in the near future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

71. Renewal Strategy for Thornley & Wheatley Hill

The Chairman welcomed Adam White to the meeting who provided members with information on the strategy and explained why the District of Easington considered it necessary.

In an initial survey of 411 residents of Thornley (39% of the populace) 89% expressed the view that a new community facility should be constructed in the village.

Seventeen consultancy firms had submitted tenders to undertake the work and a short list of 3 would be determined by the District of Easington by the end of the week.

Public consultation and implementation of the findings would follow. It was anticipated that delivery of the project would take approximately 9 months.

All sections of the community were encouraged to participate in the various consultations that would be undertaken in order that their views and aspirations could be taken into account when a new centre was being planned.

Resolved: That the information be noted

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
1ST JULY 2008**

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Mrs. I. Hind</i>	<i>Work</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. M. Ingram</i>	<i>Away on Business</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>County Councillor M. Nicholls</i>		

72. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June, a copy of which had been previously circulated were considered and approved.

73. Public Question and Answer Session

Residents 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 anticipated in the near future as the papers had now been passed to the Chancellor along with a request to award costs.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

74. Police Report

The Police gave a detailed report of all criminal activity in the village in the previous month.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

75. Street Wardens Report

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

76. New Thornley

As Councillor Unsworth (Chairman of the Partnership) was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

77. District Councillor

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

78. County Councillor

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

79. Consultative Meeting

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

80. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's (5431)

The Parish Clerk reported that the AGM was due to take place at the offices of Easington District Council on Tuesday 8th July 2008 commencing at 6:30.pm. Members were advised that the Parish Council does not currently have a representative on the association.

Resolved: That Councillor Mrs. Brunskill represent the Parish Council at future meetings.

81. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill gave a detailed report on issue discussed at the previous meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

82. West Area Forum

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

Resolved: That the information be noted

83. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the operation was running well although members were still encountering problems with youths outside the premises. It was anticipated that this activity would cease or be curtailed once the security fence had been installed around the perimeter by the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted



84. Apprentice Gardener

Members were advised that the current manual staff establishment comprised a full **time Chargehand Gardener and a full time gardener working a 37 hour week.** During the spring summer months (generally March to September) an additional full time environmental assistant was employed as and when required to undertake grass cutting and ancillary work.

In the long term it was suggested that the parish council may benefit if they were to consider employing an apprentice gardener trained in the various techniques to work alongside the existing staff.

It would be necessary to pay the successful candidate the appropriate rate of pay and cover all training costs including college and exam fees some of which could be offset by grants available for this purpose.

Resolved: That the Parish Council appoint an apprentice gardener at such time when adequate financial resources can be made available.

85. Cemetery Management Seminar

The Parish Clerk reported that a number of seminars were being arranged by the Society of Clerks in conjunction with the Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management to provide local authorities administering cemeteries and burial grounds with up-to-date legislation and to demonstrate best practice. Fee for attending is £85.00.

With changes currently envisaged within the parish council's own cemetery at Ludworth Road it was considered essential that the Parish Clerk attends the next available seminar along with the Chairman **or** Vice Chairman.

Resolved: That the Chairman or Vice Chairman attend along with the Parish Clerk.

86. Repainting of Playground Equipment.

Members were advised that the playground equipment in both the Gore Hill and Bow Street play areas was in need of repainting.

In an effort to minimise expenditure, it was suggested that the parish council's two manual employees be granted sufficient overtime to undertake the work before Spring 2009.

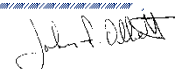
All paints designed for use on children's play equipment would be used for the purpose.

Resolved: That arrangements be made to undertake the work required and that staff be paid overtime at the appropriate rate.

87. Watering of Summer Bedding - Overtime Payment

Members were advised that at this time of year a number of hanging baskets and flower beds were installed in the village.

The Parish Clerk reported that it was normal practice to water these on a regular basis at the commencement of the working day on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Although not excessively time consuming this work limited the amount of other work the staff were able to perform during the day.



It was suggested that the 2 members of staff be granted two hours per week overtime during the flowering season to perform the task before commencement of their normal working day.

Resolved: That arrangements be made to undertake the work required and that staff be paid overtime at the appropriate rate.

88. Members Travel & Subsistence Allowances when on Council business.

The Parish Clerk reminded members that it was current policy that attendance at all conferences and meetings outside the parish were considered on merit and that Councillors were prohibited from claiming the recognised levels of travel & and subsistence allowance should they be nominated to attend.

It was also pointed out that Local Government as a whole was currently undergoing significant change and that this was particularly true in County Durham with the onset of a Unitary Authority.

For the parish council to continue to serve its residents it was considered essential that its members be fully prepared to deal with these changes.

The Parish Clerk suggested that because of the current policy members may feel constrained and be of the opinion that they had little or no opportunity to influence the decision making process. The limited interaction with councillors from other authorities could also prevent members gaining greater knowledge and understanding of the issues and how other council's intended to address them. Quite often information only became available to the Parish Council once decisions had been made and written documentation provided by the relevant body.

It was proposed that the current policy be amended to allow members to claim a recognised level of travel and subsistence allowance when attending approved meetings in the future.

Resolve: That members be eligible to claim a recognised level of travel and subsistence allowance when carrying out official duties approved by the parish council.

89. Request for Donation (REF: 5421)

MENCAP requested a donation from the Parish Council to aid their work over the next 12 months.

Resolved: That the request be received.

90. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5425)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 29/05/2008. Where defects had been reported the parts required were on order and would be fitted in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted

91. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5429)

A letter of thanks has been received from the Hartlepool & District Hospice for the Parish Councils recent donation.

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.

92. Thornley Reclamation Site (REF: 5430)

Information on a proposal by Premier Waste to develop a composting unit in a field behind the pond at Wheatley Hill was provided by Durham county Council. Additional information is to be provided at a later date.

Resolved: That the information be noted

93. 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.

94. 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.

95. Retrospective Planning Application (REF: 5452)

The District of Easington advised that Mrs. D. Ramsey had applied for retrospective planning permission construct a garden shed at 2, Cedar Court, Thornley, Co. Durham. DH6

Resolved: That No objections be raised.

96. Buildings on Allotments (REF: 5459)

The Parish Clerk referred to the meeting held on 6th May 2008⁷ and reported that the District of Easington had advised that in general terms buildings on allotments would require planning permission.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

⁷ Minute 27 refers.



97. Casual Vacancy (REF: 5460, 5461 & 5478)

The District of Easington advised that the Parish Council could fill the Casual Vacancy for a Parish Councillor by means of Co-option.

Resolve: That the information be noted and filling of the vacancy be undertaken as soon as possible.

98. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5463)

A letter of thanks was received from the Durham Miners Heritage Group for the Parish Council's recent donation.

Resolved: That the letter be received.

99. Request for Donation (REF: 5462)

A request for a donation was received from Mr F. Bromilow and Mr. O. Rowland to support a planned event to be held on Tuesday 11th November 2008 at the War Memorial as part of the Remembrance Day Service.

Resolved: That on receipt of an invoice the Parish Council would settle the account in respect of the poppies purchased for the event.

100. General Form of Judgement (REF: 5458)

The Parish Clerk reported that the Durham County Court had found in favour of the Parish Council in respect of its claim against Mr. W. Crisp (former allotment tenant) and that he had been served a General Form of Judgement to pay a sum totaling £610.00 at a rate of £10 per week.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

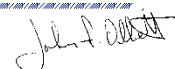
101. Section 106 Agreements

The Chairman reported that contact had been made in relation to £6,500 due in respect housing development in the village.

As this item had already been discussed by the Parish Council it was not clear if this was an additional amount or if it was a duplication.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk clarify the situation.⁸

⁸ Following the meeting the District of Easington was contacted and it was found to be a duplication of the original amount. No further action was therefore required.



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
YOULL HOUSE, THE VILLAS, THORNLEY
22ND JULY 2008**

PRESENT

Councillor J.F. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

No apologies were recorded.

102. Co-option of Parish Councillor

The Parish Clerk advised that 2 applications had been received and that both candidates were present.

Mr. Ian Lowther 36, East View, Thornley DH6 3EA

Mrs. Evangeline Laidler 54, Gore Hill Estate, Thornley DH6 3DU

The chairman asked that candidates withdraw from the meeting whilst voting took place.

Resolved: That Mrs. E. Laidler be co-opted as a Parish Councillor for the remainder of the Parish Council term.

103. 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.

104. Additional Fencing Works

The Parish Clerk advised that in consultation with the Chairman it was considered advisable that an additional amount of fencing be purchased so as to provide extended security around the Parish Council Depot.

Resolved: To endorse the action of the Parish Clerk and that additional fencing at the depot site be purchased at a cost of £1,799.38.

105. Speeding Concerns (REF: 5479)

The Durham County Council Area Engineer provided details of proposals relating to speeding vehicles in Thornley.

Resolved: The information be noted.

106. Planning Application (REF: 5477)

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

Resolved: That no objections be raised.



107. Faculty Order (REF: 5472)

The Parish Clerk reported that Rupert Hingston Bursell Q.C. Chancellor of the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Durham had granted a Faculty in relation to the removal of unauthorised items from graves in Thornley Cemetery.
In compliance with the Faculty all works must be completed within 6 months.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

108. Request for Donation (REF: 5499)

The British Red Cross requested a donation from the Parish Council to further its various campaigns.

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.

109. Active Partnerships (REF: 5514)

The Local Government Reorganisation Programme Office invited representatives to attend a Stakeholder event to be held at The Glebe Centre, Murton on 20th August 2008 commencing 6:00pm.

Resolved: That Councillor Mrs. Brunskill be authorised to attend.

110. Planning Permission (REF: 5489)

The District of Easington advised that change of use planning permission had been granted to Mr. T. Sayers from a living room to a barbers shop at 35, Hartlepool Street North, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

111. Regional Spatial Strategy (REF: 5488)

The Parish Clerk reported that the Communities & Local Government Office had published the North of England Plan and provided a copy on CD.⁹

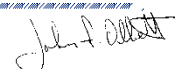
Resolved: That the information be noted.

112. Proposals for Election of Parish Councillors (REF: 5515)

The Parish Clerk reported that the Communities and Local Government Office were seeking the views of all Parish Council's via the Local Government Associations on the desirability of holding parish council elections in 2009 as part of Structural Change.

Resolved: That the Parish Council does not agree with election for councillors in 2009 and the County Durham Association of Local Councils be advised accordingly.

⁹ The CD was made available to any member requesting to view it.



113. Consultation on Demolition (REF: 5500)

DKS Architects provided information on a proposal to demolish an existing farmhouse and to erect 20 houses at Gore Hall Farm.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

114. Parish Clerk Terms & Conditions

The Parish Clerk gave advance notice of his intention to resign from his position in due course.

To minimise inconvenience and ensure a smooth handover to his successor he sought instructions from Councillor on what alterations, if any, they wished to make to existing Terms & Conditions of Employment. These would then be included in an advertisement and the information to be provided to prospective candidates for the position.

Members considered that it would be appropriate to review all aspects of the Terms and Conditions of the Parish Clerk before advertising the post.

Resolved: That the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Councillor Mrs. M. Brunskill and Parish Clerk convene a working party to review the post and report back in due course and that overtime be approved for the Parish Clerk to cover the additional workload.

115. Repairs to Youll House Roof

The Parish Clerk reported that the security fence around Youll House had been ordered and would be erected in the very near future.

Councillor Mrs. Laidler reported that youths had continued to damage the roof and as a result rainwater was entering the building and had made contact with the electrical system.

The Parish Clerk reminded members that a decision to replace the roof had been deferred on a number of occasions pending ongoing discussion concerning the possible redevelopment of the area around Youll House by the District of Easington.

Although a capital fund had been set up to cover the roof replacement there was insufficient funds available to replace it at present.

It was further explained that although a sum of approximately £1,300 had been raised by Youll House Age Concern to cover minor repairs to the roof this sum would not cover cost of the additional repairs that were now required.

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth expressed concern that health and safety of users of the building was being jeopardised and that until such time as the roof was replaced or adequately repaired the building should be closed.

Resolved: That a revised quotation be obtained and if the Chairman and Vice Chairman considered it acceptable the repair works be undertaken without further delay.

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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
YOULL HOUSE, THE VILLAS, THORNLEY
26TH AUGUST 2008**

PRESENT

Councillor J.F. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

No apologies were recorded.

116. Planning Application (REF: 5523)

The District of Easington advised that Ms. L. Beresford had applied for planning permission construct 20 dwellings at Gore Hall Farm, Gore Lane, Thornley. DH6 3DR.

Members expressed concern that it would be hazardous, particularly in wintertime to allow vehicles to enter the estate from the road leading to Gore Hill Estate.

Resolved: That whilst the Parish Council has no formal objections to the development the District of Easington be advised of their concerns and ask that the entrance/exit road onto Gore Hill Estate made into a hammerhead.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
2ND SEPTEMBER 2008**

PRESENT

Councillor J.F. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. E. Laidler, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, Mr. G. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Mrs. A. Attey</i>	<i>Annual Holiday</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. I. Hind</i>	<i>Annual Holiday</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. M. Ingram</i>	<i>Annual Holiday</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. J. Unsworth</i>	<i>Away on Business</i>	<i>Approved</i>

GUESTS

Councillor T. Unsworth District of Easington

Councillor M. Nicholls (Durham County Council)

117. Minutes of Previous Meeting held 3rd July 2008

Because of a computer error the minutes for this meeting were not available. It was agreed that they be considered at the meeting to be held on 7th October 2008.

118. Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 22nd July 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July 2008 were accepted as a true record.

119. Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 26th August 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th August 2008 were accepted as a true record.

120. Public Question and Answer Session

Mr. Hoole, Mrs. Ramage and Mrs. Rylands addressed the meeting in relation to the Parish Council's application to the Diocese of Durham for a Faculty Order to remove unauthorised items from around graves in Thornley Cemetery.



They expressed concern at the proposal and suggested that the Cemetery Regulations had been poorly communicated to relatives. As a result relatives did not know that they were in contravention of the regulations when they placed items on graves.

It was pointed out that some of the items had been on graves for a number of years and members may wish to waive implementation of the order in these cases.

They acknowledged that other local authorities in other parts of the country had also found it necessary to remove unauthorised items from graves in their cemeteries.

Members were asked to show compassion, see reason and not go ahead with the proposal until such time as graves were not maintained by relatives and became untidy.

Mrs. Rylands pointed out that with hindsight items should have been removed shortly after being placed on graves.

They suggested that the parish council could monitor the situation and remove only unauthorised items placed on graves as from a given date leaving those already in place and that the parish council might find it difficult to implement the proposal.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

121. Faculty Order (REF: 5472)

The Diocese of Durham advised that the Parish Councils application for a Faculty Order to remove unauthorised items from graves in Thornley Cemetery had been now granted.

Resolved: That decision, made at a previous meeting of the Parish Council to remove unauthorised items be from graves in Thornley Cemetery be reaffirmed.

122. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C.S.O. Darren Guest and P.C.S.O. Robert Ramshaw to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the police had dealt with the following incidents:-

Youths Congregating	6
Criminal Damage	1
Theft	4
Stolen Motor Vehicles	1
Drink related incidents	1
Vehicle nuisance	4

Councillors Mrs Brunskill and Laidler highlighted nuisance caused by youths congregating and consuming alcohol at the bottom of Gore Hill bank and the resultant disturbance to residents.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that she had raised concerns about certain residents in Gore Hill Estate driving across the public footpath to gain access to their houses to the District of Easington but they had suggested that this was an issue for the parish council or police.

Officers said they would investigate.

Councillor Nicholls said that bollards may need to be installed as a preventative measure but at the present there was a backlog of works due to staff sickness.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

123. Street Wardens Report

The police reported on behalf of the Street Wardens that they had dealt with 3 incidents in the last month. No other details were available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

124. New Thornley

Councillor T. Unsworth the Chairman of the partnership reported the partnership was in recess and no meeting had been held.

A "Fun Day" had been held for residents that had been well attended and it was anticipated that similar events would be held in the coming months.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

125. District Councillor

Councillor T. Unsworth reported that the District Council was in summer recess and no meetings had been held.

Consultants appointed by the council in relation to Thornley & Wheatley Hill revitalisation schemes were to hold a meeting with residents at Youll House on Monday 8th September 2008 from 2:30 to 6:30.

A similar event was to be held at the same venue in relation to the development of the "Crossways Hotel site" the following week.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

126. County Councillor

Councillor Nicholls reported that a new bus service was now in operation. Timetables were to be distributed as soon as information could be collated.

Newly designed buses that were easier to board were to be put into service on various routes in the area.

Another service designed to transport residents to health services was also to be put into operation in the near future.

Active Partnerships were to hold a number of meetings with various stakeholders to discuss clustering of bids for the development of community related projects.

"Dengrow" were to hold a consultation with the Wheatley Hill and Thornley Parish Council's in October 2008 in relation to a proposal to develop a composting site in the vicinity of the fishing pond at Wheatley Hill.



Councillor Ollett asked if any progress was being made concerning the Premier Waste Reclamation site at Shotton.

Councillor Nicholls stated the matter was ongoing.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

127. Consultative Meeting

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

128. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

129. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that problems with dogs on the Gore Hill Estate (including photographs) had been handed into the district council. Unfortunately these had been lost and no further progress was being made. A full report on other items discussed was provided including the emptying of the blue and green recycling bins.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

130. West Area Forum

Councillor Nicholls reported that the question of travellers camping in various villages had been discussed and that every effort was being made to find a solution to this ongoing problem.

It was being proposed that a centralised site in the Easington area could be located.

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the next meeting would take place in October 2008.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

131. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the operation was ticking over and that a pie & pea supper was being arranged for members.

A trip to Redcar was also being planned.

Problems with water entering the electricity meter had also been repaired.

The newly erected security fence was proving successful and vandals were no longer damaging the roof of the building.

The Chairman reported that Streetsafe Board which had previously pledged £3,000 toward the cost of the fence had now stated that it may not now be paid.

Although efforts were being made to obtain £3,000 if it was not forthcoming the Parish Council would have to suffer the cost.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

132. Planning Application (REF: 5507)

The District of Easington advised that Haswell Moor Developments had applied for planning permission to demolish ancillary storage buildings & construction of garage with first floor storage unit at Unit 1 Thornley Moor Farm, Cassop, DH6 4RQ.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

133. Planning Application (REF: 5508)

The District of Easington advised that Haswell Moor Developments had applied for planning permission for a residential extension to create extended living areas & garage to include change of use of agricultural access to domestic residential access at Unit 2 Thornley Moor Farm Road leading to Thornley Moor Farm, Cassop DH6 4RQ

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

134. Planning Application (REF: 5509)

The District of Easington advised that Haswell Moor Developments had applied for planning permission for change of use of land to form extensions to domestic gardens & planting of trees to create woodland at Units 2 and 3 Thornley Moor Farm, Cassop DH6 4RQ.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

135. Planning Application (REF: 5523)

The District of Easington advised that Ms. L. Beresford had applied for planning permission construct 20 dwellings at Gore Hall Farm, Gore Lane, Thornley. DH6 3DR.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

136. Provision of Christmas Tree

Members were asked to recall that in previous years a Christmas tree had been erected in the village over the festive season and that on a number of occasions the children from the local schools had been involved in its decoration or a in carol service when the lights were switched on.

There has also been discussion on whether a live Christmas tree should be purchased and be planted on the village green located near the war memorial or outside the proposed new resource centre on the pit wheel site. This would negate the need to purchase a tree every year.

The estimated cost of a purchasing a suitable tree is between £500 and £750 plus the cost of providing a suitable power supply.

The Parish Clerk reported that that in conjunction with the Thornley Moving Forward Group local schools were already in the process of designing and making suitable decorations for this years Christmas tree.

Members were asked to determine what type of tree if any is to be provided this year and where it is to be located.

Resolved: That both a cut tree and a tree suitable for planting on the existing site on the village green be purchased. The New Thornley Partnership be advised that they should make their own arrangement with the local schools to provide decoration and a carol concert if they wished.

137. 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 Parish Clerk reported that the current fees were £300 per team and that to date 3 teams had expressed an interest to use the facilities during 2008/9.

The Parish Council's net expenditure on the facility during 2006/7 was £10,642 and a further £2,824.00 had been expended since 1st April 2008.

In addition to the normal fixtures teams had also requested use of the pitch for a number of pre-season friendly matches. As there had been no charge levied for these matches in the past it was suggested that a cost of £25 per match was appropriate.

Resolved: That the fees for the 2008/9 season be fixed at £350.00 per team and £25.00 be charged for each friendly match.

138. 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 £20 per annum. The Parish Council's net expenditure on allotments during 2007/8 was £3,695.00 and a further £1,370.00 had been expended since 1st April 2008.

Resolved: That the annual rent be fixed at £30 per allotment for 2009.

139. Annual Audit Return 2007/8 (REF: 5526)

BDO Stoy Hayward LLP Auditors requested minor adjustments be made to the Annual Audit return 2007/8 to reflect changes that were necessary to balance the accounts.

In view of the timescales the auditor had agreed that it was acceptable for the Chairman to authorise the changes providing his actions were endorsed by the full council.

Resolved: Endorsement of the Chairman action.

140. Annual Playground Inspection (REF: 5504)

RoSPA provided their Annual Inspection report of play equipment in the village. In all cases the faults identified were either very low or low risk items. The Parish Clerk reported that where attention was required it would be addressed as soon as possible.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

141. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5516)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 26th July 2008. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these have been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

142. Proposed Development – Fishing Pond Site (REF: 5525)

Premier Waste advised that it was their intention to consult the Parish Council with regard to their proposed development of the fishing pond site at Wheatley Hill.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

143. Youll House Roof Repairs

The Parish Clerk reported that in accordance with a previous decision¹⁰ a further quotation had been obtained for additional repairs on the roof. The quotation had been discussed with both the Chairman and Vice Chairman and it had been accepted by them.

Members were asked to endorse the action of the Chairman & Vice Chairman in approving further expenditure of £400 to undertake additional roof repairs required at the centre.

The Parish Clerk reported that unfortunately the contractor appointed to carry out repairs had gone into liquidation and would not therefore carry out the work. An alternative contractor was to inspect the roof on Monday 8th September 2008. It was hoped that the price obtained would be the same as that previously obtained.

Resolved: That the action of the Chairman & Vice Chairman be endorsed.

144. 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.

¹⁰ Minute 84 refers



145. 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.

146. Durham Association of Local Councils (REF: 5536)

The association advised that an executive meeting was to be held in Sedgefield Town Council Offices on 3rd September 2008 commencing 1:00pm

Resolved: That the information be noted.

147. Planning Application (REF: 5534)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. & Mrs J. Bell had applied for planning permission to remove condition 7 agricultural occupancy attached to planning permission 99/92 at the Dunelm Stables, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

148. Cemetery Management Seminar

In the absence of Councillor Mrs. Unsworth, the Parish Clerk gave a detailed report on the Cemetery Management Seminar attended recently by himself and the Vice Chairman.

A great deal of knowledge and information had been obtained that would be useful for the parish council's own operation.

It was suggested that if another similar seminar was arranged other members may benefit from attending in order to gain a better insight into cemetery operation.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

149. Heritage Trail

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill asked who was responsible for the trail.

The Parish Clerk reported that the trail had been developed by the Village consortium but this was now no longer in existence.

Resolved: That the Durham County Council be asked to investigate.

150. Unitary Authority Meeting

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported on discussions at the recently held stakeholders meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

151. Appointment of Apprentice

The Parish Clerk reported that at present there were insufficient funds available to enable an appointment to be made.

It was suggested that funds be raised via the precept for 2009 onward.

Resolved: That funds be allocated in the 2009/10 budget.

152. Repairs to War Memorial

The Chairman asked if repairs to the war memorial approved at a previous meeting would be complete by Remembrance Day.

The Parish Clerk reported that he would contact the firm involved.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

153. Plaques - St. Bartholomew's Church

The Chairman asked if any progress had been made to obtain the plaques from the church.

The Parish Clerk reported that no information had been received from the firm involved and further enquiries would be made.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

154. Parish Works Computer

The Chairman suggested it would be appropriate to invest in a new computer for the general office as the existing unit was becoming unstable.

The Parish Clerk reported that technology had moved on since the present machine was purchased and that if it was replaced the software programs used by the council may also need to be updated.

Resolved: That a new computer and software be purchased and virement between budget heads be approved should this be necessary.

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PURPOSES**

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
7TH OCTOBER 2008**

PRESENT

Councillor J.F. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. E. Laidler, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, Mrs. J. Unsworth, Mr. G. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

No apologies were recorded.

GUESTS

Councillor T. Unsworth District of Easington

Councillor M. Nicholls (Durham County Council) sent his apologies.

155. Confirmation of Minutes of the meeting held 1st July 2008

The Chairman explained that because of a computer malfunction the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July 2008 were reproduced for members and these were accepted as a true record.

156. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2008 were accepted as a true record.

157. Police Report

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

Youths Congregating	15
Burglary	1
Stolen Motor Vehicles	2

Resolved: That the information be noted.

158. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed Chris Milne to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the wardens had dealt with problems in Bow Street and with those relating to motor vehicles.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

159. Public Question and Answer Session

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

160. New Thornley

The Chairman of the Partnership (Councillor T. Unsworth) reported that the next meeting would take place on 21st October 2008.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

161. District Councillor

Councillor T. Unsworth reported that no new issues were being discussed at present pending the change to the New Unitary Authority in April 2009.

Councillors had been invited to attend a meeting with School Governors in Wingate to discuss parents concerns at the poor exam results attained by pupils. He also provided background information relating to the issue.

Councillor Mrs. J. Unsworth raised the issue of Section 106 agreements and the amount of money being held by the District of Easington relating to recent or proposed housing developments in Thornley (said to be at the rate of £500 per house) and asked that the situation be clarified.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that the District of Easington be asked to clarify the position.

162. County Councillor

On behalf of Councillor Nicholls, Councillor T. Unsworth reported that Premier Waste Management were to arrange a consultation event for residents who required more information or to express views relating to a proposed development of a composting unit at the site of the fishing pond in Wheatley Hill.

It was also reported that problems created by traffic using the street at the rear of Dunelm Road was being investigated.

Members asked if feedback could be provided from earlier investigations into potential traffic calming measures in other parts of the village.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

163. Consultative Meeting

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

164. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.



165. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that she had not been able to attend as she was at another meeting. She understood however that the T.E.D. meeting had not taken place because only 2 people were in attendance.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

166. West Area Forum

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

167. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the necessary roof repairs had been undertaken by the Parish Council and the premises were now watertight. He further reported that a length of guttering and a waste water soil pipe was in need of repair.

The Chairman reported that an application to the Streetsafe Board for funding the newly erected security fence had been refused and that the Parish Council would have to fund the total sum involved.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the maintenance works be undertaken.

168. Damage to Motor Vehicle

The Parish Clerk reported that a Councillor attending the parish council meeting held on 2nd September 2008 discovered, after leaving, that the passenger side window of her motor vehicle had been damaged.

As the Councillor in question was on official council business at the time the incident took place members were asked to consider refunding the £75.00 cost of the repair.

Resolved: That the Councillor be reimbursed the sum of £75 on production of appropriate documentation.

169. Outline Planning Application (REF: 5549)

The District of Easington advised that P.F. Trading North East Ltd had applied for outline planning permission construct 5 no. dwellings at land adjacent Gore Hall Farm, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

170. Request for Donation (REF: 5555)

Details of a request for a donation from Mrs R. Atkinson to raise funds for the Wingate Stage Stars was considered.

Resolved: That the request be received.

171. Request for Donation (REF: 5558)

St. Godric's R.C. V.A. Primary School has requested a donation to fund the installation of a drainage system on the school playing field.

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.

172. Adoption of Sculpture on the Village Green

The Parish Clerk gave details of a project commissioned by New Thornley Partnership to provide a sculpture of an old lady on the village green.

He further reported that the Partnership now requested the Parish Council adopt the sculpture so as to ensure that it was maintained in the long term.

Resolved: That the Parish Council adopt the sculpture.

173. Capital Program 2009/2010

The Parish Clerk provided details of the existing program and advised that it be reviewed in order that the amounts required to facilitate projects could be incorporated into the 2009/2010 budget.

Councillor Mrs. Attey suggested that the Parish purchase a notice board for erection outside Youll House and that the plinth supporting the "Pit Wheel" be refurbished.

The Chairman pointed out that the Pit Wheel was not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the current reserves for Footpaths, Youll House Security, Youll House Roof and the Garden of Remembrance be transferred to the General Fund to help offset potential increases in the 2009/10. Those for the Cemetery Lodge now be used to refurbish or replace the Cemetery Gates and that a Parish Notice Board be erected outside Youll House.

174. Area Active Partnerships (REF: 5552)

The Parish Clerk reported that Trimdon Parish Council had provided details of a proposal put forward that there should be an additional area for the villages east of the A1M.

As the timescale involved was very short the Parish Clerk had discussed the details with the Chairman and Vice Chairman who agreed that it was in the best interest of Thornley Parish Council to support the proposal.

Resolved: That the action of the Chairman and Vice Chairman be endorsed.

175. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5548)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 25th August 2008. 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

176. Planning Permission (REF: 5565)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. S. Moody to construct detached garage at 3, Thornlaw North, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3EX.

Resolved: That the information be noted

177. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5575)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 5th August 2008. 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

178. 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.

179. 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.

180. Untidy Dwellings – Hartlepool Street

Councillor Mrs. Attey expressed concerns on the external appearance of a number of private dwelling situated on Hartlepool Street and asked if the Parish Council could take any action to improve the situation.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the District of Easington had the procedures in place to deal with private landlords.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

181. Planning Permission (REF: 5565)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. D. Legg had applied for planning permission to construct a front & rear extension at 47, Dunelm Road, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3HW.

Resolved: That the information be noted

182. Invitation (REF: 5581)

Haswell & District MENCAP Society invited members to attend a Carol Service to be held in Durham Cathedral on Saturday 13th December 2008 commencing 2:30pm.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

183. Remembrance Day Wreaths

The Chairman reported that a former Parish Councillor had arranged the purchase of a number of commemorative wreaths for use at the forthcoming service. This was in addition to those already ordered on behalf of the Parish Council. As a result not all of the wreaths would be used.

As the wreaths were artificial they could however be retained for the following year.

Resolved: That the Parish Council purchase all unsold wreaths and that the former Councillor be advised not to involve himself with council arrangements in future.

184. Switching on of Christmas Lights

The Chairman reported that New Thornley Partnership were in the process of arranging the decoration of the village Christmas tree with the assistance of the children that attended the two local primary schools.

He went on to explain that in previous years the Parish Council had made a donation to the schools to cover the cost of the materials used and for gifts for the children.

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 £50.000.

185. Provision of a Seat

Councillor G. Wilson highlighted the need for a seat to be placed on the village green side Hartlepool Street. Opposite the "Pit Wheel.

Members were reminded that in the past there had been a seat in a nearby location but this had had to be removed because of concern expressed by adjacent homeowners.

The Parish Clerk explained that before a seat could be placed in the area permission would have to be obtained from either Durham County Council or the District of Easington as landowner.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred to allow time for the views of residents living near the proposed location to be obtained.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
4TH NOVEMBER 2008**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs. M. Brunskill, (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. E. Laidler, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors:-

Councillor	Reason for Absence	Resolved
J. Ollett	Other Business	Approved
Mrs. J. Unsworth	Away on Business	Approved

GUESTS

Councillor T. Unsworth District of Easington.

Councillor M. Nicholls Durham County Council

186. Minutes of the previous meeting held 7th October 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2008 were accepted as a true record.

187. Public Question and Answer Session

Members of the public questioned the stance of the Parish Council in relation to a proposal to develop a composting centre at the site of the fishing pond in Wheatley Hill by Premier Waste Management.

County Councillor Nicholls provided details of the current position and intimated that the County Council may refuse planning permission because of the amount of opposition from local residents. He suggested that those wishing to express their own objection should do so in writing to the County Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that the Parish Council provide residents with a "standard" letter of objection. These would be made available in Thornley Library.

188. Police Report

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

Youths Congregating	18
Burglary	1

Stolen Motor Vehicles	2
Criminal Damage	5
Theft	2

The police requested owners to remove GPS systems from unattended vehicles as there was an increase in the number of items being stolen.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

189. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed the Street Wardens to the meeting who reported that in the previous month they had received 28 calls from Thornley regarding the following:-

Misuse of Open Space	12
Anti Social Behaviour	7

The Green Team were working in close collaboration with Envirocall and the Police to minimise the construction of bonfire throughout the district. This would continue until 12 November 2008.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

190. New Thornley

The Chairman of the Partnership (District Councillor T. Unsworth) reported that Adam White had provided an update on proposed development of a new Resource Centre in Thornley.

Residents would be consulted in the near future on 3 designs put forward by consultants.

All residents were asked to “come on board” and assist in the management of the centre in the future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

191. District Councillor

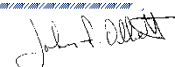
Councillor T. Unsworth reported that the council was operating as normal but the new unitary authority was now being consulted on decisions on future development issues.

The intercom system used by the warden’s had recently being updated by Goldshield in an effort to improve the service provided to the elderly in controlled accommodation.

Houses in the Peterlee Cottages and Greenwood Cottages area of Thornley were to be demolished by East Durham Home in the near future.

All new tenants were to be provided with an Energy Performance certificate for their home.

Resolved: That the information be noted.



192. County Councillor

Councillor Nicholls reported that a site meeting had been arranged to investigate possible traffic calming measures in Thornley. A sum of between £2,000 and £8,000 was available from member's funds to implement schemes put forward by the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

193. Consultative Meeting

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

194. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the meeting was being held this evening and as a result it was not possible for her to attend.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

195. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that a letter had been received from the Chief Executive of the District of Easington advising that the forum would be continuing under the unitary authority.

A presentation on Energy Efficiency had been given by officers of the District Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

196. West Area Forum

It was reported that the next meeting would take place on 12th November 2008.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

197. Youll House

In the absence of Councillor G. Wilson Councillor Mrs Laidler reported that the operation was functioning normally.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

198. Audit for the Year Ended 31 March 2007 (REF: 5593)

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 2008. 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.¹¹

¹¹ **Total balances at the financial year end plus 50% of the following years' precept.**



It was suggested that cover be increased again (subject to the level of premium required) in order to keep place with the increased sums held by the Parish Council

Arrangements must now be made for residents to view Notice of Conclusion of Audit.

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

199. 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.

200. 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.

201. Request for Donation (REF: 5595)

Peterlee Women's Refuge requested a donation to their Christmas Appeal organised to provide a Christmas event for women and children who had 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 £50.00

202. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5597)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 30th September 2008. Where defects had been reported the parts required were on order and would be fitted in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted

203. Withdrawn Planning Application (REF: 5599)

The District of Easington advised that Haswell Moor Developments had withdrawn their application for planning permission to construct a second vehicular access at, Thornley Moor Farm, Cassop, Co. Durham.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

204. Planning Permission (REF: 5600)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Haswell Moor Developments to demolish ancillary storage building and construction of garage with first floor storage at Unit 1, Thornley Moor Farm, Cassop.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

205. Area Active Partnerships (REF: 5601)

Durham County Council invited representatives of the Parish Council to a meeting to be held at Wingate Community Centre 55, Front Street, Wingate on 19th November 2008 to determine which A.A.P Thornley Parish Council would be placed.

Resolved: That Councillor Mrs. Brunskill attend to express the wishes of Parish Council.

206. Request for Donation (REF: 5606)

N.E.P.A.C. requested a donation to their fund their appeal in order to provide crèche facilities and activities for children of prisoners.

Resolved: That the application be received.

207. Code of Conduct (REF: 5607)

Communities & Local Government provided details of a consultation document entitled "Communities in Control" and requested that the observations of the Parish Council be provided by the due date.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

208. Seizing the Future (REF: 5608)

The NHS County Durham provided details of a consultation document entitled "Seizing the Future" and requested that the observations of the Parish Council be provided by the due date.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

209. Remembrance Day Services

The Parish Clerk reported that the Chairman (Councillor Ollett) was unable to attend two services to be held at the War Memorial on Sunday 9th November and Tuesday 11th November 2008 to honour those servicemen who lost their lives in various conflicts around the world.

He requested a nomination for which Councillor could represent the Parish Council on this occasion and to lay commemorative wreaths.

Resolved: That Councillor Mrs. Attey represent the Parish Council at both events.

210. Proposed Composting Plant

Members were made aware of the extent of resident's objection to a proposal by Premier Waste Management to develop a composting plant on a site adjacent to the fishing pond in Wheatley Hill.

Resolved: That the Parish Council advise Durham County Council that it formally objects to the proposal.

211. Maintenance Report

A report of the Chargehand Gardener detailing the works recently undertaken was considered by members.

Resolved: That the report be received.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
2ND DECEMBER 2008**

PRESENT

Councillor J.F. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, Mrs. J. Unsworth, Mr. G. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

The Clerk did not receive any other apologies in advance of the meeting.

GUESTS

Councillor T. Unsworth District of Easington.

212. Minutes of the previous meeting held 4th November 2008

The Chairman referred to minute 190 and pointed out that the reference to Peterlee Cottages was in Wheatley Hill not Thornley.

Councillor Attey referred to minute 208 and asked that thanks be recorded for the efforts of the Parish Staff for work undertaken to prepare the War Memorial for the Remembrance Day Services.

Having noted these observations the minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2008 were accepted as a true record.

213. Public Question and Answer Session

Mr F. Bromilow thanked the Parish Council for supporting the Remembrance Days services at the War Memorial on Sunday 9th & Tuesday 11th November 2008.

The allotment holders reported that the surface of the access roads to the allotments were in a poor condition and asked that they be repaired or resurfaced. In addition the lock on the gate be repaired.

Resolved: That the information be noted, that the allotment roads/lock be repaired as soon as possible and that the cost of a tarmac surface be investigated.

214. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Dickinson to the meeting who reported that in the last month a total of 53 calls were received in relation to incidents in Thornley.

Youths Congregating	13
Burglary	1
Criminal Damage	8

Theft

5

This represented a 30% reduction in criminal activity over the month.

Resolved: That the information be noted

215. Street Wardens Report

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

Resolved: That the information be noted

216. New Thornley

The Chairman of the Partnership (District Councillor T. Unsworth) reported that 3 proposals submitted by the firm of Consultants were to be considered by the District of Easington in the near future. Following this residents were to be consulted.

Councillor Attey reported that the following fund raising events were being arranged:-

A 60s Night in the Working Men's Club on 5th December 2008

A Children's Christmas Party (5 to 11 years) in the Working Men's Club on the 13th December 2008.

The village Christmas tree had been decorated by the children of Thornley Infants & Junior School and Wheatley Hill R.C. School earlier in the day but because of inclement weather a Carol Service had had to be postponed.

A number of training course were being planned in conjunction with the Deaf Hill community Group. Content, venue and dates were not finalised.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

217. District Councillor

Councillor T. Unsworth reported that the council was operating as normal but the new initiatives were now being handled by the unitary authority which was coming into service on 1st April 2009.

Resolved: That the information be noted

218. County Councillor

On behalf of Councillor Nichols, Councillor T. Unsworth reported that the issue relating to speeding vehicles at the rear of Dunelm Road, and the possible re-surfacing of Dunelm Road were now being investigated.

The issue of vehicles parking on the public footpaths was a matter for the District of Easington.

Resolved: That the information be noted

219. Consultative Meeting

Councillor g. Wilson reported that the next meeting was to take place on 11th December 2008.

Resolved: That the information be noted

220. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

Councillor Brunskill reported that since meetings of the Association always conflicted with the meeting of the Parish Council it was not possible to have representation.

Both she and Councillor Mrs. Attey had agreed to attend alternative meeting if this was acceptable to the Parish Council.

Resolved: That Councillors Mrs. Brunskill and Mrs. Attey attend future meeting of the association and report back on topics discussed.

221. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill provided a detailed report on the topics discussed at the previous meeting and highlighted issues concerning the Social Tariffs available to all residents via the various fuel providers which could result in reduced fuel bills if criteria could be met.

Resolved: That the information be noted

222. West Area Forum

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the next meeting would take place in February 2009

Resolved: That the information be noted

223. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the premises would be closed over the festive season from 19th December 2008 until 5th January 2009.

A request was made to replace a length of guttering and repair the soil pipe outside the building.

Resolved: That the information be noted

224. Parish Precept 2009/2010

The Parish Clerk advised that it was appropriate at this time to consider the budget for 2009/10 and set the precept to be raised via the District of Easington. Based on the decisions made by members since April 2008 including the appointment of an apprentice gardener the overall estimated expenditure for 2009/10 was £123,428.

For guidance purposes the Parish Clerk went on to explain that a 14% (approximate) increase in the precept from £105,924 to £120,153 plus other estimated income would result in a net expenditure of £0. A 5% increase in the precept from £105,924 to £110,558 of would require £9,595 being expended from General Reserves.

Resolved: That the Parish Precept for 2009/10 be increased by 5% to £110,558.

225. Area Active Partnerships

Councillor Mrs. Attey & Councillor Mrs. Brunskill gave a detailed report on the decisions taken at a recent meeting of the Partnership Group and on the implications for the Parish Council.

Supplementary information provided by the County Durham Association of Local Councils was also given to members.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that Councillors make every effort to attend future meeting in order that the parish councils concerns could be addressed.

226. Remembrance Day – Re-enactment Group

Members were asked to recall that at the meeting held on 1st July 2008¹² it was resolved that the Parish Council would pay for 100 Poppy Crosses to be used in the Remembrance Day Service.

The Parish Clerk reported that the services of a “Re-enactment Group” for the event employed and an account for £120.00 had now been submitted to the Parish Council for payment.

Before payment could be made the Parish Clerk asked for authorisation to settle the account and for a donation of £50 to be made to the nominated charity of the “bugler” in lieu of payment.

Resolved: That the accounts be approved.

227. Planning Application (REF: 5600)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. P. Summerson had applied for planning permission construct pitched roofs over extensions at 37, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised

228. Chairman’s Civic Carol Service (REF: 5601)

The Chairman of the District of Easington invited representatives of the Parish Council to attend his carol service to be held at the Holy Trinity Church Front Street, Wingate on 16th December 2008 commencing 6:00pm.

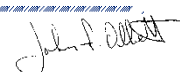
Resolved: That Councillors J. Ollett and Mrs. Brunskill attend to represent the Parish Council on this occasion.

229. Poop Scoop Giveaway (REF: 5602)

The District of Easington advised that 1 million poop scoops were available to the public. Distribution will commence in the near future.

Resolved: That the information be noted

¹² Minute 98 refers.



230. Parish Basic Allowances (REF: 5606)

The District of Easington advised that the award suggested in April 2008 had been referred to ACAS for arbitration. This was likely to delay final agreement and that until such time it had been agreed that an increase of 2.45% would be paid now, backdated to 1st April 2008.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the item be placed on the agenda for further discussion by members at a future meeting of the parish council.

231. Planning Permission (REF: 5608)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to D. Legg to construct front & rear extension at 47, Dunelm Road, Thornley, Co. Durham.

Resolved: That the information be noted

232. Vehicle Speed Survey (REF: 5610)

Durham County Council advised that a speed survey undertaken on the road at the rear of Dunelm Road had had to be abandoned because after several visits little or no traffic was observed.

Resolved: That the information be noted

233. Excess Speed – B1279 (REF: 5615)

Durham Constabulary provided a response relating to the Parish Councils concerns over excess speed on the B1279 between Wheatley Hill and Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted

234. Annual Leave – Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk advised that as there would be no further meeting of the Parish Council until 3rd February 2009 it was an opportune time for him to take annual leave as it would minimise disruption to the service.

He reminded members that it was his intention to resign from his position as Parish Clerk in the New Year and that in order to simplify the handover to a new clerk he had continued to work overtime so as to try and ensure that all outstanding tasks were complete and administrative work was up to date.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that overtime be paid at the appropriate rate.

235. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports

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

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



236. Any Additional Urgent Items of Business

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

237. Planning Application (REF: 5612)

The District of Easington advised that Yuill Homes had applied for planning permission construct 29 dwelling houses & associated landscaping at former Crossways Hotel, Dunelm Road, Thornley. Co. Durham, DH6 3HT.

Resolved: That no objection be raised

238. Request for Donation (REF: 5624)

Easington & District Citizens Advice Bureau sought a donation to assist them in providing a service to residents throughout 2008/9.

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.

239. Auditor Report of Accounts ending to 30th September 2008 (REF: 5626)

The Parish Clerk reported that the Internal Audit of accounts from 1st April 2008 to 30th September 2008 had been completed by W.J. Smith and the accounts were in order. Minor alterations to the administrative functions had also been suggested to improve accountability and recording of information.

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

240. Staff Christmas Bonus

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

Resolved: That the three members of staff receive a £50 Christmas bonus for 2008.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
3RD FEBRUARY 2009**

PRESENT

Councillor J.F. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, Mrs. J. Unsworth, Mr. G. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

<i>County Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>M. Nicholls</i>	<i>Other Business</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mr. T. Unsworth</i>	<i>Other Business</i>	<i>Approved</i>

241. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Chairman referred to minute 215 and pointed out that the reference to Deaf Hill Community Group should read Thornley Community Association.

Councillor Attey referred to minute 231 and pointed out that she disputed that findings and had spoken to Councillor Nichols asking that consideration be given to the erection of speed restriction signs and those indicating that children played in the area.

Having noted these observations the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2008 were accepted as a true record.

242. Public Question and Answer Session

There were no question from the public.

243. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P. Hawkes and P.C. Dunn to the meeting who reported that in the prior 2 months the number of calls relating to incidents in Thornley had reduced dramatically.

Burglary 7

A quantity of drugs had been seized and a number of warrants had been served.

Police surgeries were now being held every two weeks on Thursdays commencing 5th February 2008 in Thornley Community Centre.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill asked the police to investigate the parking of cars on the grassed areas in Hillside Crescent.

Councillor G. Wilson asked that the off road police squad investigate problems caused by motorcyclists' in the Coopers Close area.

Resolved: That the information be noted

244. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed Ken Minter to the meeting who reported that in the previous 2 months the Street Wardens had dealt with:

Anti-Social Behaviour	4
Fly tipping	1
Dog Fouling	1

Resolved: That the information be noted

245. New Thornley

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

Resolved: That the information be noted

246. District Councillor

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

Resolved: That the information be noted

247. County Councillor

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

Resolved: That the information be noted

248. Consultative Meeting

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

Resolved: That the information be noted

249. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

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

Resolved: That the information be noted

250. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the issue of dog fouling in Thornley had been raised along with the issue relating to a lack of communication with residents on the part of the District of Easington concerning the Christmas refuse collection service.

Concern had also been raised over the future of the meetings when the unitary authority takes over on 1st April 2009.

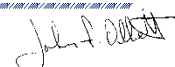
Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Clerk seeks an assurance from Durham County Council and the District of Easington that the operation continues in the future.

251. West Area Forum

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the next meeting would take place in the Heritage Centre, Wheatley Hill on Tuesday 10th February 2009 commencing 6:00pm.

Resolved: That the information be noted

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252. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the number of members attending for various activities was diminishing.

The probation service had been approached to facilitate the internal redecoration of the premises.

Resolved: That the information be noted

253. Proposed Traffic Calming - Coopers Terrace. (REF: 5642)

Durham County Council provided details of proposed traffic calming measures on Coopers Terrace for consideration by members.

Members accepted the proposals but pointed out that measures were still required on Hartlepool Street.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Clerk contact Durham County Council regarding traffic calming measures on Hartlepool Street.

254. Planning Application (REF: 5646)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. Gosal had applied for planning permission for a change of use from shop to dwelling at Yoden House, Coopers Terrace, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted

255. Planning Application (REF: 5648)

The District of Easington advised that Haswell Moor Developments had applied for planning permission alter the elevation to unit 1(respective) and to install 3 oil tanks at Thornley Moor Farm Road leading to Thornley Moor Farm, Cassop DH6 4RQ.

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

256. Planning Application (REF: 5649)

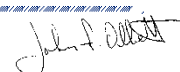
The District of Easington advised that Mr. P. Scott had applied for planning permission construct a sun room extension, stable block and change of use from agricultural land to form garden extension at Woodcutters Cottage, Bankdam Farm, Wheatley Hill, DH6 3LX.

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

257. Request for Donation (REF: 5653)

Victim Support requested a donation from the Parish Council to aid its work in the future.

The Parish Clerk advised that donations of £50 had been made to the organisation for the last four 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.

258. Planning Permission (REF: 5650)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. P. Summerson to construct pitched roof extensions at 37, Dunelm Road, Thornley, Co. Durham .

Resolved: That the information be noted

259. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5657)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 31st October 2008. 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

260. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5651)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 13th December 2008. 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

261. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5659)

A letter of Thanks was received from Peterlee Women's Refuge for the Parish Council's recent donation.

Resolved: That the letter be received

262. Planning Permission (REF: 5660)

The District of Easington advised that outline planning permission had been granted to P.F. Trading to construct 5 number dwellings at land adjacent to Gore Hall Farm, Thornley, Co. Durham.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

263. Proposed Charter Between Unitary Authority & Parish Councils

The County Durham Association of Local Councils provided a draft copy of the proposed charter being developed.

The Parish Clerk informed members that it was similar in content to the one already in existence between the District of Easington and its Parish Council. Any comments or observations members may wish to make should be forwarded by 11 February 2009.

Resolved: That the information be noted



264. 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.

265. Any Additional Urgent Items of Business

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

266. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5664)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 19th December 2008. 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.

267. Planning Permission (REF: 5665)

The District of Easington advised that permission had been granted to Mr. Gosal for a change of use from a shop to a dwelling at Yoden House, Coopers Close, Thornley, Co. Durham.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

268. Planning Application (REF: 5667)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. D.O. Simpson had applied for planning permission construct a kitchen, lobby and bathroom extension at 95, Dunelm Road, Thornley Co. Durham DH6 3HY

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

269. Request for Donation (REF: 5668)

Councillors G. Wilson, Mrs Middleton, and Mrs. Laidler declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.

Age Concern Youll House requested a donation from the Parish Council to help subsidise the meals on wheels service provided to its members in the coming year. This request followed the withdrawal for funding by the District of Easington.

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.

270. Proposed Sale of Land (REF: 5670)

The Parish Clerk advised that after considerable delay the District Valuer had now determined that the value for the land (i.e. the five-a-side-pitch) proposed for sale to Turners Funfairs was £40,000.

He further advised that discussions could now continue between the Parish Council and the purchaser.

The outcome of discussions would be brought back to members to determine if the sale was to proceed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

271. Planning Application (REF: 5671)

The District of Easington advised that Miss. Collingwood had applied for planning permission construct a rear extension at 12, Hawthorn View, Thornley Co. Durham DH6 3HZ

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

272. Health Centre – Wheatley Hill

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill referred to papers relating to the development of a new Health Centre in Wheatley Hill and pointed out that as far as she was aware that contrary to the information provided no resident of Thornley had received information about the proposal.

Parish Council representatives on the Health Forum also stated that they had also not received details of the proposals or been consulted on the findings produced in the report in the possession of Councillor Brunskill.

Resolved: That Councillors Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram and G. Wilson raise the Parish Councils concerns at the next meeting of the Health Forum.

273. Rock Salt Containers

Members raised concerns at the lack of salt containers provided by Durham County Council in the village and the lack of salt in them.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk writes to Durham County Council asking that more containers be sited in the village.

274. Cemetery Update

Councillor Mrs Brunskill sought an update on removal of unauthorised items from graves in Thornley Cemetery in accordance with the Faculty Order issued by Durham Diocese.

The Parish Clerk reported that most of the items had now been removed. Those that remained would be cleared by early March 2009.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

275. Training Courses.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill sought clarification concerning a number of training courses that the New Thornley Partnership had arranged to take place in Thornley Community Centre.

Councillor Mrs. Attey reported that because of sudden bereavement in her family it had not been possible for the Partnership to run the events. Mrs. Briddick from Wheatley Hill Community Association had been asked to make alternative arrangements as a temporary solution.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

276. Community Safety Partnership

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that there would only be one more meeting of the partnership before the unitary authority came into being on 1st April 2009. It was considered that the continuation of the partnership in the future was essential and that the council should seek assurances this would be the case.

Resolved: That Durham County Council be asked to continue the Partnership after 1st April 2009.

277. Re-painting of Playground Equipment

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth sought an update on the proposed re-painting of children's playground equipment in the village.

The Parish Clerk reported that overtime had already been approved by members and that arrangements were in hand for this to commence as soon as weather permitted.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

278. Commemorative Stones – Greenwood Cottages

The Chairman reported that the commemorative stones erected at the construction of the properties in Greenwood Cottages would be lost when demolition commenced.

He considered that these should be preserved if possible and be used in the construction of a monument in the village.

Resolved: That the Parish Council seek to obtain the commemorative stones from East Durham Homes prior to demolition of the properties.



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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
3RD MARCH 2009**

PRESENT

Councillor J.F. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. E. Laidler, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, Mr. G. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

<i>County Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Councillor Mrs. M. Ingram</i>	<i>Other Business</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Councillor Mrs. J. Unsworth</i>	<i>Work Commitments</i>	<i>Approved</i>

GUESTS

Councillor M. Nichols Durham County Council

Councillor T. Unsworth District of Easington.

279. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Chairman referred to minute 242 and pointed out that the officers present were N. Johnson and CPSO D. Dove.

Responding to a question from the Chairman concerning minute 277 the Parish Clerk reported that no information had been received concerning the commemorative stones.

Having noted these observations the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2009 were accepted as a true record.

280. Public Question and Answer Session

There were no question from the public.

281. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed PC. Godber to the meeting who reported that in the month prior the number of calls relating to incidents in Thornley had continued to decline.

Criminal Damage	4
Anti social Behaviour	9

The police were asked to investigate the parking of a vehicle on the corner of Dunelm Road and St. Bede's Crescent that was likely to cause an accident if not addressed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

282. Street Wardens Report

The Street Wardens reported that no incidents had been reported to them in the previous month.

They were asked to investigate the dumping of a large amount of rubbish dumped on in the vicinity of the Library Allotment Site where the culprit could be identified by information on the packaging.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

283. New Thornley

The Chairman of the Partnership (Councillor T. Unsworth) reported that the Annual General Meeting had taken place and the officers and representatives from relevant organisations had been appointed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

284. District Councillor

Councillor T. Unsworth reported the work would be undertaken in St. Bartholomew's closed churchyard in the coming months to make safe any headstones likely to cause injury to visitors.

The alleged fly-tipping in Coopers Close had been investigated and it was found to be legitimate works undertaken by contractors appointed by the district council.

Information on the potential structure of the Area Active Partnerships was provided.

He pointed out that because the District of Easington would be disbanded on the 31st March 2009 to make way for the new unitary authority this was his last attendance at the Parish Council meeting in his capacity as a District Councillor. He therefore took the opportunity to thank members of the parish council and the parish clerk for their help and assistance over the years and wished them every success in the future.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that a vote of thanks be recorded in the minutes for the help and assistance provided by Councillor T. Unsworth in his capacity as representative of the residents of Thornley on the District Council.

285. County Councillor

Councillor Nicholls expressed his gratitude to District Councillor T. Unsworth for his support over the years, wished him well and looked forward to working with him again in the future should circumstances change.

Referring to the composition of the new Area Active Partnerships he expressed his concern that the representation of the local authorities and voluntary sector was low and hoped that this could be reviewed in the near future.

The unitary authority had allocated £25,000 to each member to help address and fund localised projects in their areas.

He had investigated the problem of street lighting in Laurel Crescent area of Thornley and the un-adopted paths in Thornlaw South. It was anticipated that a site meeting would be arranged in the near future to address the situation.

In relation to the development of a new clinic in Wheatley Hill, background information was provided and it was anticipated that after a period of 10 years this project would finally be commissioned.

The unitary authority had now fixed the community charges for each settlement and although it appeared that Thornley residents were being asked to pay more than their neighbouring villages this was a short term measure to redress an imbalance that had occurred. It was anticipated that a "level playing field" could be set in place in the next financial year.

Various initiatives had been put in place to improve services to all residents of the new authority over the coming year.

Whilst there will be no changes to the current bus services in the villages it is anticipated that a better standard of bus will be used will be upgraded in the future.

The possibility of providing a new seat at the entrance to the fishing pond at Wheatley Hill is being investigated.

The Chairman asked if the provision of dropped kerbs and appropriate road signs could be implemented the area of the Working Men's Club and Community Centre.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

286. Consultative Meeting

George Wilson reported that no meeting had taken place.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

287. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that she had attended the meeting earlier in the evening and that the issue of double taxation had been raised and that Peterlee and Horden Council's were to receive a £20,000 & £9,000 refund respective.

The Parish Clerk pointed out that he had made representations on this issue but at present he had not been notified if Thornley Parish Council would benefit. A meeting was to be held at County Hall Durham on 4th April 2009 to discuss the composition and operation of the Area Active Partnerships.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

288. County Durham Association of Local Councils

The Parish Clerk reported that the AGM was to take place on 6th March 2009 but this had now been cancelled because a number of councils could not attend.

The meeting had been rescheduled to take place on Saturday 4th April 2009.

Resolved: That Councillor Mrs. A. Attey attend.



289. T.E.D.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that no issues concerning Thornley had been raised at the last meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

290. West Area Forum

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the final meeting of the forum had taken place and that a request for tarmac standing in certain parts of Thornley had been raised. Councillor Nicholls reported that finance would be allocated for the scheme in the next financial year.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

291. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that requests for donation and grants had been requested from a number of sources to aid the work of the group in the coming year.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

292. Request for Seat on Village Green.

The Parish Clerk provided background information on this subject and reported that each household had been requested to provide their views in order to aid members in their deliberations.

To date only four responses have been received, two in favour of the proposal and two against.

Resolved: That a seat be installed subject to the necessary approvals being obtained from the relevant landowner.

293. Area Active Partnerships (REF: 5675)

John Murphy the Local Strategic Partnerships Manager requested a meeting with Parish Council (or key representatives) before the end of March 2009 to discuss options for the neighbourhood arrangements that will underpin the AAP.

Resolved: That a meeting to be attended by all members be arranged as soon as possible.

294. Request for Donation (REF: 5681)

The Aden Veterans Association (East Durham Group) requested a donation in order to fund transport costs to take veterans to reunion and parades in the UK. Members referred to articles that had appeared in local newspapers that highlighted the fact that donations made to groups by various agencies for similar purposes was concerning and could be controversial.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred to allow additional information to be provided.

295. Request for Donation (REF: 5683)

The Great North Air Ambulance requested a donation to aid the work of the service over the next 12 months.

The Parish Clerk advised members that a donation of £100.00 was made at the meeting held on 6th May 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 £100. Payment to be deferred until April 2009.

296. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5687)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 23rd January 2009. 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.

297. Proposed Stopping Up Order – Fairview, Thornley (REF:5701)

The Department of Transport (GONE) provided a copy of a draft order covering this proposal and asked for any comments to be forwarded within 28 days.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

298. 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.

299. Any Additional Urgent Items of Business

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

300. Planning Permission (REF: 5707)

The District of Easington advised that retrospective planning permission had been granted to Haswell Moor Developments for alterations to elevations to units 1 and installation of 3 no. oil tanks at Thornley Moor Farm, Cassop had been granted.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

301. Replacement of Library Allotment Gate.

The Parish clerk reported that the wooden access gate to the library allotment site had been damaged on numerous occasions and that it was in need of replacement.

Because of the constant abuse and damage it was considered appropriate to replace the gate with a steel unit but the estimated cost was £628.00.

Member were concerned at this sum involved as it was equal to almost the whole of the income from both allotment site administered by the council.

Resolved: *That a decision be deferred to allow for a number of quotations to be obtained.*

302. Request for a Donation.

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

Groundwork East Durham requested a donation from the Parish Council in order to purchase equipment costing £244.68 for a youth service operating within the Thornley Community Centre.

It was pointed out that a grant application had been submitted to the Wheatley Hill and Thornley Health Forum for £150 had been submitted and fundraising activities were also planned.

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. Payment to made upon confirmation that the grant application had been successful and production of receipts detailing the expenditure incurred on the designated items.*

303. Proposed Sale of Land

The Parish Clerk referred to minute 269 and reported that a meeting had been held with the prospective purchaser who had indicated verbally that he was prepared to go ahead subject to him being able to obtain required planning permission from the relevant planning authority.

Resolved: That the sale be agreed pending the outcome of investigations by the applicant with regard to planning permission.

304. Overtime

The Parish Clerk reported that to ensure that outstanding tasks were complete and administrative work was up to date he had continued to work overtime. The Chairman and Vice Chairman had been appraised of the situation.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that overtime be paid at the appropriate rate.

305. SLCC Training Event.

The Parish Clerk reported that after consultation with the Chairman he had attended a very informative and productive training event organised by the Society of Local Council Clerks on current and new legislation effecting Parish Council operations.

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

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
7TH APRIL 2009**

PRESENT

Councillor J.F. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. E. Laidler, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, Mrs. J. Unsworth, Mr. G. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

County Councillor	Reason for Absence	Resolved
Councillor Mrs. M. Brunskill	Other Business	Approved

GUESTS

Councillor M. Nichols Durham County Council

306. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2009 were accepted as a true record.

307. Public Question and Answer Session – Proposed Sale of Land.

A resident requested additional information concerning the proposed sale of the land on which the 5-a-side pitch existed and expressed concern over its potential development by the prospective purchaser.

The Chairman explained that the sale had not been finalised and was subject to planning permission being obtained by prospective purchaser.

It was further explained that the existing 5-a-side was beyond economic repair and that in an effort to provide better facilities for the youths of the village any income obtained from the sale would be earmarked by the parish council to provide a modern replacement in a more suitable location in the village.

The Parish Clerk explained that the area in question covered that existing 5-a-side pitch plus approximately 7 meters in length. There would be no access to the site from the public footpath which ran parallel to the site.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

308. Public Question and Answer Session – Request to waive Cemetery Regulations

Two residents who had recently suffered the loss of their daughter requested the Parish Council to waive cemetery regulations and allow the internment of her cremated remains in a grave of their choosing in section D2 within Thornley Cemetery.

Resolved: That a meeting between the residents and members of the parish council be convened at which full details could be provided and a determination be made.

309. Public Question and Answer Session – Increase in Allotment Rents.

A number of the council's allotment tenants were present who questioned the decision of the parish council to increase the annual rent by 50% from £20 per plot per annum in 2008/9 to £30 per plot per annum in 2009/10 without first consulting the Allotment Association or its members. A petition signed by 27 tenants was received.

The Chairman explained that this decision was made in September 2008 in the light of the budgetary information provided by the Parish Clerk on the anticipated levels of expenditure required to maintain the allotments in 2009/10 and in order that the Parish Precept for 2009/10 could be determined.

He went on to explain that the parish council was not prepared to reduce the rents for 2009/10.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

310. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed PC. Allen to the meeting who reported that in the month prior the number of calls relating to incidents in Thornley had continued to decline.

Burglary	1
Criminal Damage	3
Anti social Behaviour	4

The parking of a milk float reported at a previous meeting of the parish council had been investigated by police. It was found not to be a hazard under the road traffic act and therefore nothing could be done. The police would however speak to the owner and ask that he park in a better location.

Police had been carrying out a survey into underage drinking in the village but no names had been taken. This operation was to continue for the time being.

Police had recently been called to the village to investigate a number of horses that had been allowed to wander on the highway. No action could be taken as the name of the owner was not known and when the police arrived the horses had been moved onto common land.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

311. Street Wardens Report

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

312. New Thornley

The Chairman of the Partnership reported that and Easter Fete was to take place in Youll House on 11th April 2009. It was anticipated that Phil Wilson MP would be in attendance.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

313. County Councillor

Councillor Nicholls reported that under the new Unitary Council there would now be only 2 members serving the needs of residents from 3 villages.

The roadside verges between Thornley and Ludworth were to be attended to and the hedges between Thornley and Wheatley Hill were to be cut back to improve visibility.

Resurfacing works on Dunelm Road would be undertaken in the current financial year.

Investigations into the traffic flow and visibility problems at the site of the former Crossways Hotel on Dunelm Road were continuing.

The public consultation process into revised bus services in Thornley and Wheatley Hill had been extended. In the meantime the existing service would continue. Councillor Nicholls thanks all those who participated in obtaining a petition to address concerns over the bus routes/services.

Repairs to the potholes on the Gore Hall Estate were being scheduled and would be undertaken as soon as possible.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

314. Consultative Meeting

Councillor G Wilson reported that no further meetings were planned and the item could be removed from future agendas.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

315. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

316. T.E.D.

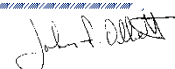
As Councillor Mrs. Brunskill was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

317. West Area Forum

Councillor G Wilson reported that no further meetings were planned and the item could be removed from future agendas.

Resolved: That the information be noted.



318. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that as a result of funding being obtained the luncheon club would be able to continue for the foreseeable future.

Northumbrian Water was investigating a severe leak on the supply.

Thornley Age Concern was to celebrate its 25th Anniversary on 27th April 2009 and a celebration party was being planned.

The Youth Engagement Services had been approached to assist with the decoration of the facility.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

319. Proposal to Introduce a BYLAW

Councillor Mrs. Attey highlighted concerns over the consumption of alcohol in public places and asked if the Parish Council could introduce a suitable Byelaw.

The Chairman outlined some of the difficulties with obtaining a Byelaw.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred to allow further information to be obtained.

320. Planning Application (REF: 5717)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. T. Rowell had applied for planning permission to construct stables, feed store and tack room at land rear of Hilltop Bungalows, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

321. Request for Donation – Aden Veterans Association.

The Parish Clerk referred to the minute of the previous meeting¹³ and reported that he had written to the applicant asking for additional information. It was reported that there were several Aden Veterans in Thornley and the surrounding Villages.

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

322. Request for Donation (REF: 5726)

Councillors J. Ollett, Mrs Hind, Mrs Ingram and G. Wilson declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.

Wheatley Hill & Thornley Health Forum had requested a donation to assist in providing Health Awareness days in the area.

¹³ Minute 293 refers.

Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £300.00

323. Invitation to AAP Launch (REF: 5727)

An invitation was extended to members to attend the launch of the AAPs being held at Shotton Hall, Peterlee on Monday 11th May 2009 commencing 5:30pm. Councillors wishing to attend who had not already registered their interest were asked to notify the Parish Clerk.

Resolved: Councillor J. Ollett and Mrs. J Unsworth provide details as requested to the Parish Clerk.

324. Review of Cemetery Regulations and Charges 2009

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

Details of the proposed increases in charges for the Cemetery 2009 were provided. In addition suggested changes required to update the regulations in relation to kerb sets etc were outlined.

Resolved: That the proposed changes be implemented as soon as possible.

325. Consultation - Change to Bus Services

A report on this item had already been provided by Councillor Nicholls.¹⁴

Resolved: That the information be noted.

326. Consultation on Fouling of Land by Dogs (REF: 5732)

Durham County Council provided details of a consultation document concerning fouling of public land by dogs and requested comments to be forwarded as soon as possible.

Resolved: That the document be received.

327. Replacement Library Allotment Gate (Ref: 5737)

The Parish Clerk referred to a previous meeting and provided details of an additional quotation for the replacement of the Library Allotment gate.¹⁵

Resolved: That the quotation from Peart Fencing for £628.62 be accepted.

328. Use of Library Site for Summer Event

The Thornley Moving Group requested permission to use the Parish Council's Library Site for a Summer Event. The actual date and time is to be advised later.

¹⁴ Minute 310 refers.

¹⁵ Minute 300 of the meeting held on 3rd March 2009 refers.

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Resolved: That permission be granted subject providing Thornley Moving Forward indemnify the Parish Council against any claims and that they obtain appropriate insurance cover for the event.

329. Double Taxation Refund

Durham County Council advised that Thornley Parish Council is to receive a refund of £1,839.00 as a result of double taxation calculations. The amount is to be paid as part of the annual precept.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

330. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5718)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 26th February 2009. 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.

331. Planning Permission (REF: 5722)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. D. O. Simpson to construct a kitchen, lobby and bathroom extension at 95, Dunelm Road, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3HY.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

332. Stopping Up Order – Fairview (REF: 5731)

The department of Transport provided a copy of the order stopping up of the highway at 2, Fairview, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

333. Replacement for 5-A-Side Pitch

Members were advised that details of possible replacements for the existing 5-a-side pitch were now being investigated. Details would be provided as soon as possible in order that members can make an informed choice and budget accordingly.

Members wishing to visit other local authorities' sites to view their facilities were asked to notify the Parish Clerk in order that appropriate arrangements could be made.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

334. Planning Permission (REF: 5744)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Miss. M. Collingwood to construct a rear extension and chimney at 12, Hawthorne View, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3HZ.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

335. Consultation on Future Planning Applications (REF: 5746)

The District of Easington advised that due to the demise of the district council on 1st April 2009 all future planning applications and plans would be listed on the Durham County Council Website. It would now be up to individual parish councils to view these on a weekly basis and provide comment direct to the relevant planning department. For the time being the former Easington Council Offices would be designated the Easington Area Office for planning purposes.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

336. 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.

337. Any Additional Urgent Items of Business

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

338. Request for Donation (REF: 5756)

Councillors J. Ollett, Mrs Hind, Mrs Ingram and Mrs. J. Middleton declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.

New Thornley Banner Society requested a donation to enable the group to participate in various anniversary celebrations in 2009.

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.

339. 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 necessary and if any changes required be reported to a subsequent meeting of council.

340. Appointment of Apprentice Gardener

The Parish Clerk reported that in accordance with earlier decisions of the Parish Council the post of Apprentice Gardener had been advertised through the Job Centre Plus Website. Over 100 application forms had been posted and 45 had been returned.

Shortlisted candidates had been interviewed and Mr. Sean Pickett had been offered the position to commence work on Tuesday 14th April 2009.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

341. Financial Requirements 2009/10

The Parish Clerk reported that in line with previous policy a Summary of Financial Requirements had been produced showing the comparisons between the 2008/9 and 2009/10.

Details would be posted on village notice boards for resident's attention and copies provided to members in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

342. Play Area Thornlaw South

Councillor Attey requested clarification on the replacement of a children's play are in Thornlaw South.

The Parish Clerk explained the history of the situation and reported that the Parish Council was still paying the lease for the site. A decision as to whether the equipment would be provided at some future date by a developer or the parish council had yet to be determined.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
14TH APRIL 2009**

PRESENT

Councillor J.F. Ollett (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. E. Laidler, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, Mrs. J. Unsworth, Mr. G. Wilson.

343. Allocation of Grave Space – Thornley Cemetery

The Chairman welcomed Mr. & Mrs. Whinn to the meeting and explained that it had been convened at their request ¹⁶ to discuss the allocation of a grave space in Thornley cemetery for the internment of the cremated remains of their daughter Jacqueline.

Mr. Whinn explained that following the untimely death of his daughter Jacqueline their Funeral Director had approached the Parish Clerk with regard to the interment arrangements in the Cemetery.

Although the next available space in area of the cemetery designated for the internment of cremated remains had been allocated, this was not where they wanted Jacqueline to be buried. They wanted her to be buried opposite the grave of her friend Tracy Barnett, in a space next to a bench on the other side of the main pathway. To permit the purchase one or more grave spaces in the area designated D2 they requested that the Cemetery Regulations be waived. At the request of the Chairman, the Parish Clerk explained the current policy relating to the allocation of grave spaces and highlighted the relevant sections in the Cemetery Regulations.

Whilst Councillors were very understanding and were in totally sympathy with Mr and Mrs Whinn over the loss of their daughter Jacqueline it was explained that if the parish council acceded to their request a precedent would be set that could impede or impair the future management or operation of the cemetery.

Resolved: Having considered very carefully the delicate nature of the request and all other information presented, members decided unanimously but with much regret that Parish Council could not accede to Mr & Mrs Whinns request and that in line with current policy the next available grave space(s) be allocated for the internment of Jacqueline's cremated remains.

¹⁶ Minutes of the meeting held 7th April 2009 Minute 307 refers.

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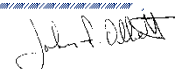
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