

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
4TH MAY 2010**

PRESENT

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

Apologies

No apologies were recorded.

GUESTS

Councillor M. Nicholls (Durham County Council), T. Unsworth, (New Thornley Partnership)

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th April 2010 were accepted as a true record.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

2. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Steve Rowe to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the police had received 29 calls relating to Thornley.

Criminal damage	2
Burglary	1
Vehicle Nuisance	7
Anti Social Behaviour	4

The owner of a quad bike had been arrested for traffic offences and the vehicle seized and subsequently crushed by the police.

Constant fly-tipping on the Heritage Walkway was becoming a severe problem and the police were currently investigating who the culprits might be.

Resolved: That the information be noted

3. Street Wardens Report

As the wardens were not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted

4. New Thornley

Terry Unsworth reported that the last scheduled meeting of the partnership had been cancelled and that the next meeting would be held on 18th May 2010.

Resolved: That the information be noted

5. Travellers

Councillor Nicholls reported that the Durham County Council was in the process of installing bollards around the open space areas at Coopers Close in an effort to prevent further access to the site.

Members expressed concern that by preventing access to the Coopers Close area there was a distinct probability that travellers would gain access to the former Pit Site at the rear of Thornlaw South now that the houses had now been demolished by East Durham Homes.

In an effort to prevent access to the area members suggested that a sufficient number of large boulders be purchased and that they be placed on the boundary between the former Pit Site land and the homes (now demolished) at this location.

In addition members and wanted to obtain a greater knowledge of the procedure to be followed for evicting trespassers.

Councillor Nicholls recommended that Gerald Tomkins the Traveller Liaison Officer at Durham County Council be invited to a meeting of the Parish Council to fully explain what this may entail.

The Parish Clerk reported that he had received a number of complaints that travellers had on more than one occasion camped on the triangular piece of land at the rear of Thornley Library belonging to the county council and that fly-tipping was becoming a nuisance.

In an attempt to prevent further access it was suggested that if the county council could provided suitable machinery the Parish Council may be able to provide a sufficient number of large boulders to place around the perimeter.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk obtain estimates for providing the required number of boulders to prevent access to the area and that the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised make the appropriate determination. Furthermore, Gerald Tompkins be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to provide members with details of the measures required to evict travellers from Parish Council land should this become necessary.

6. Unitary County Councillor

Councillor Nicholls reported that the door and window replacement programme had been delayed until June 2010 pending the final draft of the housing report.

The police had been asked to investigate problems associated with youths at Thornley Community Centre.

He also pointed out that if grants available to the Community Centre were not claimed there was a possibility they would be lost not only for this year but for all future years.

The problem of fly-tipping on the Heritage Walkway at the rear of Dunelm Road¹ was currently being investigated by the police and a site meeting was to be arranged with local residents to discuss surface repairs.

¹ Minute 2 refers

Councillor G. Wilson requested clarification on repair works to un-adopted roads. Councillor Nicholls reported that the cost of repairs must be funded by the owners. Durham County Council may however be able to provide old road chippings.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the land at Gore Hall Farm was still in a deplorable condition.

The Chairman reported that the roadside fencing between Ludworth and Thornley was in need of repair or replacement following a number of traffic accidents over the winter period.

Resolved: That the information be noted

7. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

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

Resolved: That the information be noted

8. Youll House

The Chairman reported on the outcome of discussions with Youll House Age Concern regarding the operation and use of the facility.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk arranges for a suitable firm to provide a structural survey of the building for consideration by members.

9. Public Question and Answer Session

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

10. Use of Welfare Park (REF: 6079)

Thornley Community Centre requested the use (provisional) of the Welfare Park for 1 week during the school summer break to hold a "Champs and Camps" event for local children in conjunction with Durham County Council.

Resolved: That approval be granted free of charge on the proviso that the user complies with the specified statutory legislation and obtains adequate insurance indemnifying the Parish Council.

11. Statement of Accounts 2009-2010

The Parish Clerk provided a Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure Summary Account to 31st, March 2010 for member's consideration.

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

12. Request for Donation (Ref:6089)

The George Elmy Lifeboat Restoration Project requested a donation to support their project.

Full details of the application were provided by the Parish Clerk.

Resolved: That the request be received.

13. Request for Donation

Haswell FC has requested a donation to establish a football club in Haswell catering for local children aged 8 to 16 from Easington district.

Resolved: That the request be received.

14. Proposal to Establish Planning Sub-Committee

The Parish Clerk provided details of the procedure adopted by Durham County Council for notifying the Parish Council of planning applications and approvals.

Copies of the electronic information could be provided to Councillors who required it providing they had an e-mail address and computer access.

Resolved: That the existing arrangement for reporting and consideration of planning matters by the parish council be retained except that in cases of major issues effecting the whole of the village the Chairman & Vice Chairman on the advice of the Parish Clerk arranges for a special meeting of the parish council to be convened.

15. Telephone Communication

In order for the Chairman of the Parish Council and staff to maintain communication with the Parish Clerk, members were asked to sanction the use of the office telephone to make international calls to his mobile or landline telephone if and when required.

Resolved: That the use of the office telephone to make international calls as required be approved.

16. Planning Application

Durham County Council advised that planning permission had been granted to Mrs. A. McCarroll to increase the roof height approved under PL/5/20009/0188 at 38, Gore Hill Estate Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

17. Statement of Accounts 2009-2010

The Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure Summary Account and other related information to 31st, March 2010 was considered.

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

18. Auditor Report of Accounts ending 31st March 2010(REF: 5789)

The Parish Clerk reported that the Internal Audit of accounts from 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010 had been completed by W.J. Smith. The accounts were in order and his report and observations were made available to members for consideration.

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

19. Annual Audit of Accounts Ending 31st March 2010 (REF: 6068)

The Parish Clerk reported that the external auditor BDO STOY HAYWARD LLP had advised that the annual audit of the 2009/2010 accounts would take 11th June 2010.

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

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

Members were also advised that arrangements were in hand to inform residents of their rights to inspect the accounts etc., in accordance with the statutory regulations, from 10th May 2010 to 7th June 2010.

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.

20. Review of Allotment Rents

The Parish Clerk reported that it was appropriate at this time to consider arrangements for reviewing allotment rents 2011/2012.

Resolved: A meeting with the Coopers Close Allotment Association representatives be arranged to obtain their views.

21. Review of Welfare Park Hire Charges

The Parish Clerk reported that it was appropriate at this time to consider arrangements for reviewing the Welfare Park hire charges 2010/2011.

Resolved: A meeting with representatives of the football teams using the facility for home games be arranged to obtain their views.

22. Letter of Thanks

A letter of thanks was received from Wheatley Hill History Club for the parish council's recent donation.

Resolved: That the letter be received.

23. Financial Risk Assessment

The Parish Clerk reported that it was appropriate at this time to review the Financial Risk Assessment procedures.

Resolved: That as no further risks had been identified the document remain unchanged but that it be reviewed in twelve month time.

24. 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.

25. Repairs to Allotment Fencing

The Parish Clerk reported that two allotment tenants (Coopers Close and the Library sites) had requested the parish council to repair perimeter fencing abutting their particular allotment gardens.

The Parish Clerk explained the current practice was to only repair perimeter fencing in order to let a vacant allotment and if it was in a particularly poor condition.

He pointed out that any decision made by the parish council in these two cases could set a precedent for other existing allotment tenants to request the same consideration and commented on the potential costs.

Resolved: That no action be taken to repair the fences at this time.

26. Parking Restrictions – Stanley Terrace

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

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Mrs Attey took the chair.

The Parish Clerk reported on the content of a letter from Durham County Council that provided details of a proposal to remove yellow parking restrictions on certain areas of Stanley Terrace following representations by owners of business premises.

The Parish Council was asked to confirm its' position by either agreeing to the removal of the lines or not.

Resolved: That the Parish Council disagree with the removal of the yellow lines and that the County Council be notified accordingly.

27. Planning Matters (REF: 6097)

Durham County Council advised that although they had taken into account the Parish Council's concerns in respect of a proposal to build 20 dwellings at Gore Hall Farm the proposal was acceptable and that planning permission had been granted.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

28. Planning Approval (Ref: PL/5/2010/0177)

Durham County Council advised that planning permission had been granted to CM. Yuill Ltd. to erect a free standing sign on the site of the former Crossways Hotel, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

29. Repairs to Playground Equipment

The Parish Clerk reported that an estimate totalling approximately £3,900 for repairs to two roundabouts on the Gore Hill and Bow Street children's play areas had been obtained.

Resolved: That before accepting the quotation, New Thornley Partnership be requested to make a donation to the cost of repairs.

30. Winter Maintenance (REF:)

An enquiry from Easington Parish Council was received seeking information on whether Thornley Parish Council had entered into any agreements with Durham County Council regarding winter maintenance.

Resolved: That Easington Parish Council be advised as appropriate and that they be asked to notify the parish council should it transpire that they subsequently negotiate an agreement with Durham County Council to carry out winter maintenance on their behalf and the conditions applied.

31. Request for Donation

Haswell FC requested a donation to help establish a football club for the 8 to 16 year olds in the Easington District catchment area.

Resolved: That the letter be received.

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PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
6TH JULY 2010**

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. E. Laidler, G. Wilson.

Apologies

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
Mrs. A. Attey	Other Commitments	Approved
Mr. J.F. Ollett	Work	Approved
Mrs. J. Middleton,	Other Commitments	Approved

GUESTS

Councillor M. Nicholls (Durham County Council),

32. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th May 2010 were accepted as a true record.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

33. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Godber and SPC Usher to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the police had received 91 calls relating to Thornley.

Burglary	1
Theft	2
Anti Social Behaviour	13

A number of leaflets were provided to members on Crime Reduction.

Members highlighted concern concerning the travellers in the village and that their encroachment onto County Council land at the rear of the library had necessitated the relocation of "Blitz Bus" and asked if the police could intervene in any way.

It was also reported that a number of children from Thornley visiting the Blitz Bus had been barred from Thornley Community Centre.

Councillor Nichols reported reiterated his comments given at previous meetings of the parish council that £4,000 in grants aid for the Thornley Community Centre had not being claimed from Durham County Council. If this grant was not claimed immediately it would cease to be available to the centre in future years.

Members again expressed concern that car were seen to be speeding on a regular basis on Hartlepool Street and requested the police to take appropriate action to curtail the activity.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that the Parish Council contacts Thornley Community Association in an attempt to ascertain the reasons why the grant had not been claimed and why children were being barred from the centre.

34. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed Faye Dalglish to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the wardens had received 9 calls relating to Thornley.

Motor Cycles/Quads	5
Youths	1
Anti Social Behaviour	1
Flytipping	1
Animal Related Nuisance	1

Resolved: That the information be noted.

35. New Thornley

No report was available

Resolved: That the information be noted.

36. Travellers

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill highlighted the concern of residents concerning then influx of travellers to Thornley and that if they were not moved it could jeopardise the running of a village event being organised by Thornley Moving Forward.

Councillor Nicholls reported that the situation was being closely monitored by the travellers liaison officer at County Hall and suggested that they would be moving from the site by 14th August. 2010.

Resolved: That the appropriate Cabinet Member at Durham County Council be contacted in an attempt to manage the situation.

37. Unitary County Councillor

Councillor Nicholls updated members with regard to the unemployment figures in Wheatley Hill and Thornley and reported that the Housing Strategy would proceed despite recent Government cutbacks.

The construction of a new Clinic in Wheatley Hill would also proceed along with a new Resource Facility in Thornley.

The pursuance of grants to undertake a 5 year plan covering the housing areas was to be discussed by Cabinet later in the month.

The school redevelopment plan was now in jeopardy due to cutbacks announced by central government and Durham county Council now had to find £38 million over the next 5 years to fund a Social Inclusion program.

Although extremely busy, Councillor Nicholls reaffirmed his intension to attend as many Housing Association meetings as possible.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

38. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

It was reported that the Annual General Meeting would take place on Tuesday 13th July 2010.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

39. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the operation was performing well and that a Pie & Pea Supper was to be held on Tuesday 13th July 2010 in order to boost funds. Ticket were £3.00 each.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

40. Public Question and Answer Session

A period of up to 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or raise items of concern.

A member of the public sought clarification on the situation of travellers using a triangular section of land immediately behind Thornley Library.

The Parish Clerk explained that the land in question was owned by Durham County Council and outlined what had been done by the parish council in this regard.

A member of the public requested that additional dog litter bins be placed on routes regularly used by dog owners walking their animals.

Councillor Nicholls assured members of the parish council that he would investigate the situation and see if additional bins could be installed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

41. Unauthorised Items on Graves

The Chairman explained that despite extensive work being undertaken by the parish council in recent years to improve the dignity of the cemetery the relatives of a number of people interred there were infringing cemetery regulations by continually placing unauthorised items on graves.

Current practice was to try and identify those carrying out the practice and notifying them that unauthorised items must be removed.

Unfortunately on some occasions this took an inordinate amount of time and in the meantime relatives of other deceased persons thought the practice acceptable and the situation became progressively worse and more and more difficult to police.

It was suggested that the Cemetery Regulations in relation to the removal of un-authorized items from graves in Thornley Cemetery be re-affirmed and that all unauthorised items be removed from graves by parish employees without prior notification.

Resolved: That the Cemetery Regulations be re-affirmed and that all unauthorised items be removed from graves by parish employees without prior notification.

42. Permission for a Wooden Cross in Thornley Cemetery

Mrs. Julie Anderson sought retrospective permission to retain a wooden cross on the grave of her relatives in Thornley Cemetery.

The Parish Clerk explained that existing Cemetery Regulation precluded the erection of wooden crosses and that the applicant was not the owner of the Exclusive Rights of Burial for the grave in question. Furthermore, no fees had been received.

Resolved: That permission be denied on the grounds that the applicant was not the owner of the Exclusive Rights of Burial for this particular grave and that it would set a precedent.

43. Request for Donation

Thornley Housing Association advised that Doctor Patel, who had served the communities of Thornley and Wheatley Hill for many years, was to retire in the near future.

It was therefore suggested that a memorial flower bed be constructed or a memorial seat be placed in a suitable location in recognition of his dedication to the communities.

Councillor Nicholls provided additional information and explained that Wheatley Hill Parish Council were considering making a donation to fund the purchase of watches for presentation to both Mr. and Mrs. Patel.

A meeting to discuss the proposal was to be held on 23rd July 2010.

Resolved: That Councillors Mrs Ann Attey and Margaret Ingram be authorised to attend the meeting and that the Parish Council would match any donation made by Wheatley Hill Parish Council toward the purchases of watches to mark the occasion.

44. Request for Donation

Finchale Collage requested a donation toward the cost of a Fitness Room Regeneration Project.

Resolved: That the request be received.

45. Request for Donation

East Durham Citizens Advice Bureau requested a further donation of £300.00 toward the upkeep of the service .

Members were advised that a donation on £150.00 was made to the bureau as recently as 6th April 2010.

Resolved: That the request be received.

46. Annual Audit Ending 31st March 2010

BDO Stoy Hayward the external auditor has requested some minor alterations be made to the annual audit return for 2009/10.

The Parish Clerk explained that since this notification had been received the issues raised had been resolved and that alterations were no longer required.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

47. Invitation

An invitation was extended to Thornley Parish Council by the Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council of St. Paul's Church, Haswell and Thornley to attend a Celebration of Holy Communion by The Right Reverend Mark Bryant, Bishop Suffragan of Jarrow at St. Paul's Church, Haswell on Sunday 11th July 2010 at 10:00am. To mark 140 years of the Parish of Haswell St. Paul.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

48. Invitation

Haswell & District MENCAP Society invited Thornley Parish Council to be represented at their third Anniversary Event at the Lisa Dixon Centre, Haswell on Saturday 26th June 2010 commencing 2:00pm.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

49. Parish & Town Councillor Register of Interests (Revised)

The Monitoring Officer advised that members were required to complete a revised form in relation to the registered interest.

Copies of these forms were to be sent for retention by Durham County Council.

All members were requested to complete one of the revised forms as a matter of urgency and return it to the Parish Clerk who would make arrangements for their onward transmission to the County Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

50. Fly-tipping Rear of Library

Durham County Council advised that they were investigating instances of fly-tipping at the above mentioned location and considering what preventative measures could be taken to avoid further occurrences.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

51. 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.

52. 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.

53. Cemetery Benches

The Parish Clerk reported that three public benches installed many years ago in the cemetery were now in a deteriorating condition and that consideration should be given as to the manner of their replacement.

Resolved: That finance permitting one bench be replaced each financial year for the next three years, with one of the standard prescribed in according to existing council policy.

54. Council Depot – Future Rent & Rates

The Parish Clerk reported that he had received verbal notification from the Chairman of Thornley Community Association that he was currently in negotiations with Durham County Council concerning a number of matters relating to the Thornley Community Centre.

These negotiations were not yet finalised but he gave advance notification that at some time in the future the Association or Durham County Council may require that a separate rateable value be placed on the Parish Council Depot and that in addition a rental for the land on which the depot stood may be required.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

55. Request for Donation (REF: 6149)

A request for a donation was received from Tracy Marks (Thornley Community Centre) seeking a donation to provide summer activities for a minimum of 10 children from Thornley.

Full details of the project were provided to members.

Resolved: That the request be received.

56. Request for Donation

Councillors Mrs. Marion Brunskill, Irene Hind and Margaret Ingram declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.

A request for a donation was received from Thornley Residents Group to aid with the set up costs for this newly created group servicing the needs of residents in the village.

Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £300.

57. Invitation

Durham County Council gave advance notice that the Chairman Councillor Mac Williams JP was to invite representatives of the Parish Councils to an event in early September 2010.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

58. Transfer of Former Pit Land to Thornley Parish Council.

Councillor G. Wilson requested that an agreement entered into between British Coal, Durham County Council and Thornley Parish Council in circa 1985 relating to land formerly occupied by Thornley Pit should be reviewed. It was his understanding that the terms of the agreement stated that after a period of time (thought to be 25 years) the land should be wholly transferred to Thornley Parish Council.

Resolved: That the terms of the agreement be reviewed and if appropriate, arrangements be made to request transfer the land to Thornley Parish Council.

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PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
7TH SEPTEMBER 2010**

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. A. Attey (Chair), Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, G. Wilson.

Apologies

Councillor	Reason for Absence	Resolved
Mrs. J. Unsworth	Work	Approved

GUESTS

Councillor M. Nicholls (Durham County Council),

59. Death of a Former Parish Councillor

Councillor G. Wilson reported the recent death of the former Parish Councillor Les Mitchell and asked for a one minute silence as a mark of respect.

Resolved: That a one-minute silence be observed for Ex- councillor Les Mitchell.

60. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor G. Wilson referred to the apologies record and pointed out that Councillor Mrs Attey's apologies had been recorded when in fact she had been in attendance at the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Brunskill referred to minute 41 and highlighted that the word "president" had been used instead of the word "precedent".

Having noted these changes the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th July 2010 were accepted as a true record.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

61. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Mellenthin to the meeting who reported that since the last meeting the police had received 91 reports relating to Thornley.

Burglary	1
Theft	9
Criminal Damage	4
Stolen Vehicles	1
Anti Social Behaviour	35

Patrols in the area of Youll House were to be increased in an effort to reduce anti social behaviour.

Members highlighted concern over the number of vehicles that were speeding through the village. To bring the situation under control it was suggested that the police should have a presence in the village from 8:00pm until 10:00pm.

P.C. Mellenthin asked that residents make a note of the times vehicles are seen speeding as it would assist the police in bringing the situation under control.

Members also suggested that residents had a lack of confidence in the police force and suggested that a greater police presence in the village might go some way to restore the situation.

Resolved: That the police report be noted and that the Chief Constable be advised of the residents lack of confidence in the police force in Thornley.

62. Street Wardens Report

As the Wardens were not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

63. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs Attey reported that the next meeting was to take place on 21st September 2010 when it was anticipated that Adam White (DCC) would provide an update on the construction of a new Resource Centre in Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

64. Travellers

Councillor Mrs Attey reported that numerous residents had contacted the Travellers Liaison Officer and reported incidents as soon as they had occurred and this had resulted in swift action been taken to remove the travellers from the village.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

65. Unitary County Councillor

As Councillor Nicholls was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

66. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

Councillor Mrs Brunskill reported that no meeting had taken place.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

67. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the premises had been closed over the summer holiday period. It had also been closed as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of infection because some of the members had been ill. The Parish Clerk reported that as instructed he had arranged for a structural survey report on the premises but this had not yet been received.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

68. Public Question and Answer Session

There were no questions from those members of the public who were present.

69. Resignation of Councillor (REF: 6153)

Members were advised that Councillor W. Turnbull had tendered his resignation.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Clerk notifies the Monitoring Officer in accordance with defined policy.

70. Resignation of Councillor (REF: 6153)

Members were advised that Councillor J. Ollett had tendered his resignation.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Clerk notifies the Monitoring Officer in accordance with defined policy.

71. Flowers of Condolence

The Parish Clerk reported that after consultation with the Vice Chairman and other members of the Parish Council a bouquet of flowers had been purchased for the Chairman of the Council following the sad loss of her mother.

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

72. Invitation (REF: 6161)

The Chairman of Durham County Council invited representatives of the Parish Council to attend a Civic Reception at County Hall on 8th October 2010 commencing 7:00pm.

Resolved: That the Vice Chairman Councillor Ann Attey represent the Parish Council on this occasion.

73. Invitation (REF: 6177)

The Chairman of Durham County Council invited the Parish Council to a Fish & Chip Supper charity event at Durham Town Hall on 26th August 2010 commencing 7:30pm. Tickets are £10.00 each.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

74. Invitation (REF: 6189)

The Chairman of Durham County Council invited the Parish Council to enter a golf team to participate in a charity event at Crook Golf Club on 1st October 2010. Entry fee is £25.00 commencing 7:00pm.

Resolved: That the invitation be received.

75. Request for a Donation (REF: 6190)

Hartlepool & District Hospice requested a donation to aid vital services over the next 12 months.

Members were advised that a donation of £50.00 was made on 1st September 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 £50.00.

76. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 6184)

Durham County Council has provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 9th June 2010. In most cases the equipment has no defects. Where parts are required these have been ordered and will be fitted in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

77. Casual Vacancies (REF: 6196)

Durham County Council advised that no nominations had been received for the election of Councillors to fill vacancies on the Parish Council created by the resignations of John Ollett and William Turnbull.

As a result it would be in order for the Parish Council to fill the vacancies by co-option.

Resolved: That Notices be posted throughout the village and that co-option would take place at the meeting to be held on 2nd November 2010.

78. 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.

79. 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.

80. Annual Audit Ending 31st March 2010

BDO Stoy Hayward the external auditor has requested some minor alterations be made to the annual audit return for 2009/10.

The Parish Clerk provided details and sought permission to amend the Annual Return accordingly.

Resolved: That the Annual Audit Return be amended as required.

81. Resignation of Parish Councillor (REF: 6202)

Members were advised that Councillor Mrs. Evangeline Laidler had tendered her resignation.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Clerk notifies the Monitoring Officer in accordance with defined policy.

82. Donation (REF: 6208)

The Parish Clerk referred to minute 42 and reported that Wheatley Hill Parish Council had donated £150.00 to the retirement gift for Dr. Patel.

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.

83. Invitation

Councillor Mrs. Attey reported that the Parish Council had been invited to send a representative to the presentation of a retirement gift to Dr. Patel.

Resolved: That Councillor Mrs. Marion Brunskill represent the Parish Councillor this occasion.

84. Trespass onto Former Pit Site

Councillor Mrs. Attey sought clarification in respect of the reinstatement of the gate at the entrance to the former pit site.

The Parish Clerk explained that Durham Council had approached the Parish Council some months previously concerning a proposal to reinstate the gate at the entrance of the site to prevent fly-tipping and unauthorised access by travellers.

It had been explained that there were some inherent difficulties regarding the issue of keys to allotment holders and the locking and unlocking of the gate. Furthermore, a tenant of Durham County Council constantly used the entrance to gain unauthorised access to the site.²

Resolved: That Durham County Council be asked to provide an update on the proposal.

85. Reinstatement Works Coopers Close.

Councillor Mrs Attey suggested that Durham County Council been requested to complete the erection of barriers on land between the Gospel Hall and Coopers Close to prevent access to the land by travellers.

Resolved: That Durham County Council be requested to complete the works.

86. Dry Stone Wall

The Parish Clerk reported that a section of dry stone wall was now a focus for vandalism and as a result sections were constantly being damaged.

Resolved: That an estimate be obtained for the replacement of the wall with a suitable steel fence.

87. Provision of Christmas Tree

The Parish Clerk reported sought members opinion on the merit of erecting a village Christmas tree later in the year because of previous vandalism.

Resolved: That a Christmas tree be purchased and erected as in previous years.

² Meetings held on 7th July 2009 minute 73 and 6th July 2010 minute 49 refers.

88. Review of Welfare Park Hire Charges

The Parish Clerk reported that it was necessary to set the Welfare Park hire charges 2010/2011 football season.³

Resolved: That following the meeting held earlier in the year with representatives of the football teams that used the facility for home games, no increase be made.

89. Remembrance Day Wreaths (REF: 6201)m

The Parish Clerk reported that it was appropriate to determine how many wreaths the Parish Council required for placing on the War Memorial on Remembrance Day 2010.

Resolved: That one wreath be purchased and that this be laid at the War Memorial by the Chairman of the Council.

90. Letter of Thanks (REF: 6203)

A letter of thanks was received from Thornley Residents Group for the Parish Councils recent donation.

Resolved: That the letter be received.

91. Planning Application PL/5/2010/0410

Durham County Council advised that Mr. P. Young had applied for planning permission for a rear and first floor side extension at 1, Shinwell Crescent, Thornley. Co. Durham.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

92. Cemetery Paths

The Parish Clerk reported that whilst some remedial work to the footpaths in the cemetery had been undertaken it would be appropriate to consider complete refurbishment of the paths in the capital program as they were now deteriorating quite badly in certain areas.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

93. Replacement of Parish Clerk – Update

The Parish Clerk reported that the recommendation of the Personnel Sub Committee was to continue to accepting applications via Job Centre Plus program but in an effort to attract applications from appropriately qualified members of the general public consideration be given to advertising the post more widely at the appropriate time.

Resolved: That the recommendations of the Personnel Sub Committee be accepted.

³ Meeting held on 4th May 2010 minute 21 refers.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
2ND NOVEMBER 2010**

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. I. Hind, G. Wilson.

Apologies

Councillor	Reason for Absence	Resolved
Mrs. M. Brunskill	Holiday	Approved
Mrs. M. Ingram,	Holiday	Approved

GUESTS

Councillor M. Nicholls (Durham County Council),

94. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th July 2010 were accepted as a true record.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

95. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Rowe to the meeting who reported that since the last meeting the police had received 64 reports relating to Thornley.

Burglary	3
Anti Social Behaviour	4
Theft	1
Damage to Vehicles	3

Additional funding was to be allocated to monitoring of off road vehicles.

Operation "Winter Nights" aimed at providing security advice or crime prevention measures to vulnerable members of society was now in effect.

The police were to monitor incidents when fireworks were being used prior to 5th November 2010.

Monitoring of speeding vehicles on Stanley Terrace and Hartlepool Street on 11th October 2010 between 3:00pm and 4:15pm had resulted in 83 cars being processed.

60	under 30mph
15	between 33/35mph
4	over 36 mph
1	over 40mph

The operation is to be repeated on two more occasions later in the year.

Resolved: That the information be noted

96. Street Wardens Report

On behalf of the Wardens (who were not in attendance) the police reported that anti-vandal paint was to be applied to specific locations in the Gore Hill area.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

97. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. Attey reported that a Children's Remembrance Day Service was to be held at the War Memorial in Thornley on 11th November 2010.

It was suggested that in line with previous policy a donation be made to the Butterwick Hospice.

A Christmas Fayre was to be held in the Community Centre on 20th November 2010.

A Christmas Party was being arranged by the Thornley Moving Forward Group in the Working Men's Club on 30th November 2010.

Resolved: That the information be noted. and 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

98. Travellers

This item was reported on by Councillor Maurice Nicholls. See below.

Resolved: That the information be noted

99. Unitary County Councillor

Councillor Nichols reported that travellers had returned to the village recently and although it had taken some time they were eventually moved on.

Complaints had been received from the Cooper's Close Allotment Association that these travellers had been using water from the allotments.

Councillor Nicholls suggested that if the Parish Council would care to analyse the water charges from the allotment site, he would ascertain if reimbursement could be arranged for the additional water consumed by the travellers.

Durham County Council were considering at a number of locations, with hard-standing, outside the settlement areas that travellers could use.

As a result of reductions in budget allocations by Central Government the County Council had to reduce its expenditure by £47 million over the next 4 years. Local residents were to be consulted on which services should be effected at a meeting arranged by the A.A.P. in Seaham on 8th December 2010.

The bus services provided by Arriva were still causing problems for some resident trying to get to work on time. In an attempt to improve services a further meeting was being arranged with Arriva.

A site meeting was to be arranged to investigate what measures could taken by Durham County Council to reduce speeding in Gore Hill Estate.

The installation of traffic calming measures were being considered in the vicinity of the roundabout on the A181 in an attempt to slow traffic.

The construction of a new Resource Centre in Thornley was still being actively pursued along with a library and a health centre.

Resolved: That the information be noted

100. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

As no meeting had been held a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

101. Youll House

Councillor George Wilson reported that a coffee morning was to be arranged to raise funds and a Christmas Party for members would take place on 6th December 2010.

Resolved: That the information be noted

102. Public Question and Answer Session

A member of the public asked if the Parish Council could undertake road surface repair works on Public Rights of Way behind Dunelm Road.

In response the Chairman advised that Rights of Way were the responsibility of Durham County Council and regrettably the Parish Council could be of no assistance.

Resolved: that the information be noted.

103. Leadership Funding

Louise Johnson who was to report on this program had offered her apologies and was not in attendance to provide information.

Resolved: That the item be deferred until the meeting to be held on 11th January 2011.

104. Allotment Rents

The Parish Clerk reminded members that the views of the Allotment Association had been consulted concerning allotment rents for 2011 and that that in an attempt to negate any increase the allotment association has indicated a willingness to undertake a certain degree of general maintenance on the allotment sites.

It is suggested that there is no increase in rents for 2011/2012.

Resolved: That the Allotment Rents for 2011/2012 remain at £30.00 per allotment.

105. Charter Event

Durham County Council invited members of the Parish Council to an event to be held on 2nd October 2010.

Because of the timescale Councillors Mrs. Attey, Mrs. Brunskill, Mrs. Hind and Mrs. Ingram volunteered to attend.

Resolved: That the information be noted

106. Remembrance Day Service

It was suggested that in accordance with previous practice the Chairman of the Parish Council be authorised to attend the Remembrance Day Sunday Service on 14th November 2010 to lay a commemorative wreath at the War Memorial.

This year's Remembrance Day Service was to be held on Sunday 14th November 2010 at 11:00am when a bugler would play the last post.

Resolved: That the Chairman be authorised to attend and 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

107. Maintenance Report

The report of the Chargehand Gardener was considered.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that the refurbishment of the Welfare Park changing facilities be included on the Capital Works Program.

108. Capital Program 2010/2011

The report of the Parish Clerk on the Capital works Program was considered in order that the amounts required could be incorporated into the 2011/2012 budget.

Resolved: That the suggested levels of expenditure contained in the report be approved excepting that the contributions of £1,000 for the Resource Centre and £3,000 for Security Fencing be transferred to the Refurbishment of the Welfare Park Changing Facilities.

109. Parish Precept 2011/2012

The Parish Clerk reported that in order to set the precept for 2011/12 the budget estimate should be considered.

The budget for 2010/11 was £116,086.

Resolved: That there be no increase in the Parish Precept for 2011/12.

110. Letter of Commendation (REF: 6220)

A letter of commendation was received on the appearance of the village in 2010 from Stan & Joyce Ward.

Resolved: That the letter be received.

111. Youll House Structural Survey (REF: 6228)

A structural survey report provided by Maughan, Reynolds Partnership Ltd was considered.

Resolved: That the information contained in the report be noted and that the suggested repairs be reviewed at a later date.

112. Bee Keeping on Allotments (REF: 6236)

A tenant of an allotment requested permission to be permitted to keep bees. Members were advised that there was no specific reference in the Tenancy Agreement to allow or prohibit the keeping of Bees on Thornley Parish Council Allotments.

Members were also reminded that there was worldwide recognition that there had been a significant decline in Bee population in recent years and as a result individuals were being encouraged to become Bee Keepers.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred to allow time for the observations of Coopers Close Allotment Association, individual allotment holders on the Library allotment site and residents whose homes were adjacent to the allotment sites could be obtained.

113. County Durham Strategic Housing Land Availability Strategy Assessment Consultation Document (REF: 6238)

Durham County Council provided a copy of the strategy document for consideration by members.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

114. Annual Audit of Accounts Ending 31st March 2010 (Ref: 6231)

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 2010.

No issues had been raised by the auditor and the accounts were in order.

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

115. 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.

116. 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.

117. Planning Application PL928/5/166(6)

Durham County Council advised that Neighbourhood Services had applied for planning permission for a single storey extension to the existing nursery at Thornley Primary School Coopers Terrace, Thornley. Co. Durham.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

118. Planning Application PL/5/2010/0482

Durham County Council advised that Mr. G. Miller had applied for planning permission for a house at the rear of Glenside, The Villas, Thornley. Co. Durham.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

119. Planning Application PL/5/2010/428

Durham County Council advised that Mr. J.R. Wigham had applied for planning permission for a replacement private garage at 4, St. Chad's Square, Thornley. Co. Durham.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

120. Planning Approval PL/5/2010/428

Durham County Council advised that Mr. J.R. Wigham had been granted planning permission for a replacement private garage at 4, St. Chad's Square, Thornley. Co. Durham.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

121. Planning Approval PL/5/2009/0328

Durham County Council advised that Mr. Turner had been granted planning permission for a change of use of land to fairground storage, Thornley, Co. Durham.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

122. Cemetery Fees 2011/12

The Parish Clerk reported that it was appropriate at this time to consider if the Cemetery Fees and Charges should be increased for the forthcoming financial year.

He reminded members that because of the current financial climate fees and charges for the allotments and the use of the Welfare Park had not been increased.

Members highlighted the work already undertaken by the Parish Council to improve the cemetery in recent years and the program of works still to be carried out.

It was pointed out that because of limited available finance these improvements could be jeopardised unless charges were raised.

Resolved: That individual Cemetery Fees and Charges for 2011/2012 be increased by 2.5% (rounded off to the nearest pound).

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE
ON
6TH JANUARY 2011**

EXEMPT ITEMS NOT FOR PRESS OR PUBLICATION

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

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill

Terms of Reference

To review the current position and role of the Apprentice Gardener; consider the implications of employing him as a full time gardener at the end of his apprenticeship; determine if the apprenticeship scheme should be continued in the current financial climate.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
11TH JANUARY 2011**

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. P. English, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. J. Middleton, T. Unsworth.

Apologies

Councillor	Reason for Absence	Resolved
G. Wilson	Sickness	Approved

GUESTS

Councillor M. Nicholls (Durham County Council),

124. Co-option of Parish Councillors

The Parish Clerk informed members that there were three vacancies on the Parish Council following the resignation of members.

These vacancies had been advertised throughout the village and two applications had been received.

Resolved: That Mrs. P. English and Mr. T. Unsworth be co-opted onto the Parish Council and that notices be posted seeking applications for the remaining vacancy.

125. Declarations of Office

Following their appointment Councillor Mrs. P. English & Councillor T. Unsworth signed their declarations of office.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

126. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor Mrs. Attey referred to minute 96 and pointed out that the Christmas Fayre had been held on 18th December 2010 not 30th November 2010 as shown.

Having noted this correction the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd November 2010 were accepted as a true record.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

127. Minutes of the Personnel Sub Committee

Members considered the minutes of the Personnel Sub Committee held on 6th January 2011.

Resolved: That the minutes be approved.

128. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Rowe to the meeting who reported that in the previous two months the following incidents had been reported in Thornley.

Burglary	6 (1 arrest)
Theft	2
Criminal Damage	1
Stolen Motor Vehicles	1
Anti Social Behaviour	18

Additional speed surveys were to be carried out in the village in future months in an attempt to curtail speeding by drivers of all forms of motor vehicles.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill asked for reassurance from the police that they would still report to the Parish Council meetings now that the PACT meeting was now taking place at the Residents Group.

P.C. Rowe reported that the PACT meeting had been merged with the residents meeting as a greater number of people attended. He confirmed that the report would still be given to the Parish Council.

Members pointed out that because several new housing developments had recently been completed the population of Thornley was steadily increasing along with the number of motor vehicles and they were concerned that as more cars enter and leave the village via the already busy and dangerous "Crossways" junction there is an ever increasing risk of accidents occurring.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that Councillor Nicholls be asked to investigate if a further traffic survey could be arranged to determine if the junction should be altered in the interest of safety.

129. Street Wardens Report

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

130. Leadership Funding

The Parish Clerk reported that he had been notified that Louise Johnson was on long term sickness and was not able to attend to give her presentation.

Adam White (who had first-hand knowledge of the initiative) provided members with a broad outline of the scope of the project and indicated that uptake had been slow.

To date there was approximately £370,000 left in the budget but this would only be available until April 2011.

Projects aimed at job creation or training schemes would be welcomed but all applications would be processed on a "needs" basis.

Initial expressions of interest could be sent to the Durham Rural Community Council (the host organisation).

Some match funding would be required.

It was suggested that the Parish Council may be able to seek funding for the reconstruction of the 5-a-side multi purpose facility and a youth leader.

The Chairman thanks Mr. White for this insight.

Resolved: That the information be noted and D.R.C.C. be approached regarding the possibility of funding.

131. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. Attey reported that the Christmas event held in the Workingmen's Club had been poorly attended.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

132. Travellers

As Councillor Nicholls was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

133. Unitary County Councillor

As Councillor Nicholls was not present no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

134. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's – 23/11/2010

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that the main item of discussion at the meeting held on 23rd November 2010 had been travellers to various locations throughout the district.

There had been a lively discussion but the concerns of delegates' had not been resolved.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

135. Youll House

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

Councillor Mrs. Middleton asked if repairs to the guttering could be undertaken as this was causing concern to members of user groups.

The Parish Clerk reported that on instruction from the Parish Council an estimate for all necessary repairs identified in a recent structural survey was being obtained. On receipt this would be considered by the Parish Council and acted upon as determined by members.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

136. Public Question and Answer Session

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

137. Bee Keeping on Allotments

The Parish Clerk reported that in accordance with a previous decision of the Parish Council, residents living in close proximity of the allotments had been asked if they had any objections. The Allotment Association had also been asked for their views.

Only one resident had objected to the proposal.

Resolved: That the keeping of bees on the Parish Council allotment sites be permitted and that the applicant be advised accordingly.

138. Request for Donation (REF: 6263)

Harbour (Peterlee Women's Refuge) applied for a donation toward their Christmas Appeal.

The Parish Clerk advised members that a similar request was made in December 2009 when £50.00 was donated.

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

139. School Admission Arrangements (REF: 6265)

Durham County Council advised that it was holding consultation on School Admission Arrangements.

Closing date for comments is 16th January 2011.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

140. D.C.C. Standards Sub Committee – Training for Members (REF: 6268)

Durham County Council requested notification on whether members of the Parish Council required training in order to carry out their duties as Councillors.

Resolved: That training would be undertaken by all members when the Council was up to full strength

141. Section 106 Agreements

Following a meeting arranged by Durham County Council the Chairman updated members on the arrangements for funding provided via Section 106 Agreements.

A copy of the slide presentation issued by D.C.C. was made available to members.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk obtain a status report on 106 Agreements in relation to recent developments in Thornley.

142. Society of Local Council Clerks Practitioners Conference

The Parish Clerk informed members that the conference was to take place in Stoke-on-Trent on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th February 2011.

He went on to explain that the Chairman and Parish Clerk had attended in 2009 as it was a very worthwhile event for Clerks and Councillors as it provided up-to-date information through practical sessions covering a range of Legal, Financial and other topics.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk & a Councillor be authorised to attend.

143. Request for a Donation (Ref: 6260)

Wheatley Hill & Thornley Health Forum has requested a donation towards transport costs for a Christmas Celebration.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred to allow time for additional information to be obtained.

144. Appointment of Parish Clerk

Members considered a proposed timetable for a possible replacement of the Parish Clerk.

Resolved: That the timetable be approved and that the number of applications be limited to 50.

145. D.C.C. Plan - Feedback Report

Durham County Council provided a copy of the feedback report for the attention of members.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

146. D.C.C. Housing Strategy Report 2010/2015

Durham County Council provided a copy of the feedback report for the attention of members.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

147. Planning Permissions (REF: 928/5/166(6))

Durham County Council advised that Neighbourhood Services Durham County Council had be granted Planning Permission for a single storey extension to the nursery at Thornley Primary School, Coopers Terrace, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

148. Resource Centre

The Chairman welcomed Adam White to the meeting who reported that the project construct a new Resource Centre in Thornley was approximately 18 to 20 months behind schedule.

The master plan had been approved by the Cabinet members of Durham County Council and that £499,000 had been “ringfenced” for the project.

Due to a number of factors it was now proposed to build the centre onto a redesigned library as it was considered that a standalone facility was not sustainable.

Further updates would be provided to the Parish Council in the future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

149. 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.

150. 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.

151. 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 four members of staff receive a £50 Christmas bonus for 2010.

152. Request for Donation

East Durham Play Network requested a donation to aid the work of the service during 2011.

Resolved: That the request be received.

153. Request for Donation

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

Members were advised that a previous donation of £100 was made on 2nd February 2010..

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

154. Planning Approval (REF: 928/5/166(6))

Durham County Council advised that planning permission had been granted to Neighbourhood Services to construct a single storey extension to the nursery at Thornley Primary School, Coopers Terrace, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

155. Sale of 5-a-side Land

The Parish Clerk reported that he was in receipt of the planning approval granted to Mr. K. Turner by Durham County Council to store showmen's vehicles on the 5-a-side pitch.

As a result the proposed sale of the site to Mr. Turner could now proceed.

Resolved: That the Council's solicitor be advised to proceed with the sale of the 5-a-side site (as previously determined) to Mr. Turner at a cost of £40,000. Furthermore the receipts from the sale be "ringfenced" for the purpose of constructing a multi-purpose games facility on a suitable site within Thornley as soon as practicable.

156. Snow Clearance

Members expressed concern at the low level of snow clearance undertaken by Durham County Council within Thornley during the recent severe weather conditions.

The Parish Clerk informed members of the roles and responsibilities of both the county council and the parish council.

It was understood that the county council may have entered into service agreements with a number of parish council's in the area and had provided them with snow clearing machines to ease the situation for residents.

Resolved: That entering a service level agreement with Durham County Council be investigated.

157. Commendation

The Chairman reported that she had received a verbal commendation from a resident congratulating the parish council and its' staff for the high standard of maintenance being undertaken within Thornley Cemetery and asked that this be noted in the minutes.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

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PURPOSES**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE
ON
23RD FEBRUARY 2011**

EXEMPT ITEMS NOT FOR PRESS OR PUBLICATION

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

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill

Terms of Reference

To review the position and role of the Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer and submit options and recommendations for consideration by Full Council on possible courses of action to ensure continuity of service.

[REDACTED]

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PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
1ST MARCH 2011**

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. P. English, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, T. Unsworth G. Wilson.

Apologies

Councillor	Reason for Absence	Resolved
Mrs.J. Middleton	Holiday	Approved

GUESTS

Councillor M. Nicholls (Durham County Council),

159. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor Mrs. Attey referred to minute 130 and pointed out that the Christmas event was organised by Thornley Moving Forward not the New Thornley Partneship. Councillor Mrs. Brunskill referred to minute 152 and pointed out that the date should read 2nd February 2011 not 2nd February 2110 shown.

Having noted this correction the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th Janauary 2011were accepted as a true record.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

160. Minutes of the Personnel Sub Committee

Members considered the minutes of the Personnel Sub Committee held on 23rd February 2011.

Resolved: That the minutes be approved.

161. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Paul Gooden to the meeting who reported that in the previous two months the following incidents had been reported in Thornley.

Burglary	1
Theft	6
Criminal Damage	2

It was reported that a quantity of underground fibre optic cable had been stolen from the road between Thornley and Ludworth. The cost of replacement was estimated to be in the region of £40,000.

Parking enforcement notices and fixed penalty fines were now being issued to vehicle owners who parked on the yellow lines on Hartlepool Street.

Resolved:That the information be noted.

162. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed Faye Dagleish and Kirsty Topping to the meeting who advised that in the previous 2 months the follow issues had been dealt with by the Street Wardens in Thornley.

Vehicle Obstruction	2
Off Road Vehicles	3
Anti Social Behaviour	2

Councilor Mrs. Brunskill requested that more visist be made to Gore Hall Farm as it was becoming a focus for vandalism.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

163. Leadership Funding

The Parish Clerk reported that Louise Johnson had offered her apologies but would be willing to attend the May meeting if required to provide members with details of the scheme and the available funding.

Decision Required: That An invitation be extended to attend the May Meeting.

164. New Thornley

Councillor T. Unsworth reported that regular meeting were being held but lack of funding was happering the development of the new Resouce Centre.

The Annual General Meeting was to be held in April 2011 and an Easter Event was currently being organised.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

165. Travellers

No further information had been received.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

166. Unitary County Councillor

Councillor Nicholls reported that Section 106 Agreements entered into with firms undertaking developments in Thornley were as follows:-

Crossways	£6,000 and an additional £7,000
Ash Grove	£6,000

Thornlaw North Amount in dispute

It was anticipated that because of the need to reduce the County Council budget in 2011/12 by £125 million changes in the bus routes and timetables were anticipated.

The times when FREE BUS PASSES could be used were also likely to be changed or restricted.

A site meeting at the A181 Crossways Junction was to be held on 16th March 2011 at 7:30am to determine traffic flow and the potential hazards to motorists when entering or leaving Thornley.

Decisions on a permanant settlement of travellers in County Durham and in particular in the vacinity of Thornley and Wheatley Hill had been delayed as no finance was available. As a result Councillor Nicholls warned that the travellers may visit Thornley again during 2011.

Councillor Mrs. Attey requested that a soil bank be erected around the green at Coopers Close to prevent access. It was also pointed out that the boulders in this same location were ineffective.

Councillor Nicholls reported that a site meeting was to take place at this location the following week to investigate the situation.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

167. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that no meeting had taken place. She further advised that the dates of the meetings had now been changed and that as a result any report presented to the parish council could in effect be up to two months late because of the timing of both the association meetings and those of the parish council.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

168. Youll House

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

The Parish Clerk reported that in accordance with previous instruction he had obtained a quotation totalling to £2,822.36 to undertake those repairs (excluding tiling etc to the roof) reported to the parish council in a recent structural survey.

A further quotation covering the roof repairs was still being awaited.

Members expressed concern at the sums involved and were of the opinion that not all repairs were essential.

Resolved: That only repairs to the guttering and fascia boards be undertaken.

169. BIG Spring Clean Up REF: 6319)

The Parish Clerk reported that Durham County Council had called on all councils to organise a litter pick up in their area between 19th March & 16th April 2011 in an effort to not only improve the villages but to help minimise the expenditure incurred on the service.

Resolved: The request be noted.

170. 5-a-side Pitch- Sale of Land (Plan Attached)

The Parish Clerk reported a verbal approach has been made by the prospective purchaser to have included in the sale an additional section of land measuring approximately 25 square metres in order to gain vehicle access to the former 5-a-side facility.

This area in question is at the end of the back lane adjacent to Newman's retail outlet.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred and that a site meeting meeting be arranged to take place on Monday 7th March 2011 at 2:00pm.

171. Vehicular Access (Plan Attached)

The Parish Clerk reported that a verbal approach had been made by the prospective purchaser of the former 5-a-side facility to purchase sufficient land from the Parish Council to construct a vehicle access for heavy Showman's vehicles or ride equipment to the site.

The area in question is across the coppiced land adjacent number 1 Hartlepool Street North.

Resolved: That a decision be deferred and that a site meeting meeting be arranged to take place on Monday 7th March 2011 at 2:00pm.

172. Public Question and Answer Session

A period of up to 15 minutes was allowed for members of the public to ask questions or raise items of concern.

No questions were asked by those members of the public who were in attendance.

173. Letter of Thanks (REF: 6296)

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

174. Letter of Thanks (REF: 6299)

A letter of thanks has been received from Harbour (formally Peterlee Women's Refuge) for the Parish Council's recent donation.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

175. Durham County Settlement Report (REF: 6300)

Durham County Council provided a copy of the report for members attention.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

176. Site Depot Rental (REF: 6321)

Members were asked to recall that at the meeting held on 6th July 2010⁴ it had been reported that the Parish Clerk had received verbal notification from the Chairman of Thornley Community Association that he was currently negotiating with Durham County Council on a number of matters relating to the Thornley Community Centre.

Although the negotiations had not been finalised, he had given advance notification that at some time in the future the Association or Durham County Council may require a separate rateable value be placed on the Parish Council Depot and that in addition a rental for the land on which the depot stood may be required.

The Parish Clerk reported that Thornley Community Association had now provided a copy of an agreement for the use of the land and invoiced the Parish Council for £1,200 for the first quarter rental of the site.

It was further reported that there had been no formal or informal discussion between the Community Association and the Parish Council on this matter other than previously minuted.

⁴ Minute 53 refers

Resolved: That a decision on this matter and payment of the invoice be deferred until such time as formal discussions could be held with the Thornley Community Association Management Committee, Thornley Parish Council and representatives of Durham County Council to ascertain the reason(s) why a charge was now being levied, negotiate the terms and conditions of the proposed agreement and discuss the formula or basis used to calculate the sums involved.

177. Request for Donation (REF: 6290)

The Butterwick Hospice requested a donation to help with the running costs of their service during 2011.

The Parish Clerk reported that a donation of £50.00 was made on 2nd November 2010 relating to the Remembrance Day Service albeit that this was in lieu of payment for the bugler who played the last post etc.

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.

178. Auditors Report of Accounts 1st April 2010 to 30th September 2010 (REF: 6291)

The Parish Clerk reported that the Internal Audit of accounts from 1st April 2010 to 30th September 2010 had been completed by W.J. Smith.

The accounts were in order.⁵

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

179. 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.

⁵ A copy of the report was made available to members.

180. 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.

181. Request for Donation (REF: 6326)

MENCAP requested a donation to support the work of the Charity during 2011.

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.

182. Lease of Tractor

The Parish Clerk reported that the 5 year lease on the John Deere tractor and ancilliary equipment used to dig graves and undertake grasscutting operations was to end in the near future.

A number of options had been investigated including the purchase of the equipment at residual lease value and entering into another lease for new equipment.

As the residual value (over £10,000) was beyond the reach of the parish council at this time it was recomended that a new lease should be arranged.

Resolved: That arrangement s be made to obtain comparible equipment on a new 5 year lease.

183. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2010/0588)

Durham County Council advised that Mr. G. Miller had applied for planning permission (resubmission) to construct a house on land at the rear of Glenside, The Villas, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

184. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2010/0586)

Durham County Council advised that Mrs. Burgin had applied for planning permission to construct a single storey rear extension at 82, Gore Hill, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

185. Planning Approval (REF: PL/5/2010/0586)

Durham County Council advised that planning permission had been granted to Mrs. Burgin to construct a single storey rear extension at 82, Gore Hill, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

186. Training

Durham County Training Partnership advised that a Data Protection Workshop would take place in County Hall Durham on Wednesday 9th March 2011 from 6:15pm to 8:15pm.

Members of the Council and Parish Clerk were invited to attend.

Resolved: That Councillors and the Parish Clerk be authorised to attend.

187. Training

Durham County Training Partnership advised that a free training was available to the Chairman and Clerks of Parish Councils'.

Workshops would include Roles and Responsibilities, Finance Matters & Budgets, Roles & Responsibilities and Powers & Duties.

The event would take place at the Thistle Hotel Middlesbrough on 22nd March 2011 between 10:00am and 3:00pm.

Resolved: That the Chairman and Parish Clerk be authorised to attend.

188. Minutes of the Personnel Sub Committee

Members considered the minutes of the Personnel Sub Committee held on 23rd February 2011.

Resolved: That the minutes be approved.

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PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE
ON
31ST MARCH 2011**

EXEMPT ITEMS NOT FOR PRESS OR PUBLICATION

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

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill

Terms of Reference

To review the position and role of the Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer and submit options and recommendations for consideration by Full Council on possible courses of action to ensure continuity of service.

[REDACTED]

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PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
ON
5TH APRIL 2011**

190. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were recorded

191. Sale of Land

The Parish Clerk reported that members had attended a site meeting on 7th March 2011 to view two additional areas of land that Mr. Turner had requested to purchase to allow vehicle access to the former 5-a-side pitch.

Members were expressed concern that the proposed access for the large showmwn's vehile would cause some inherant difficulties and were not disposed to sell the area requested for that purpose.

With regard to the second area, (at the rear of the fish shop & newsagents) members pointed out access could only be gained via a narrow public highway which way not in the ownership of the Parish Council. There was also a telecommunication post located in the verge, again not owned by the Parish Council and that if vehicle were to gain entry this would have to be re-located at Mr. Turners expense. If Mr Turner wished to proceed however no objection would be raised.

Resolved: That the request to purchase the second area be approved.

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PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
ON
5TH APRIL 2011(CONTINUED)**

EXEMPT ITEMS NOT FOR PRESS OR PUBLICATION

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

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. P. English, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. J. Middleton, T. Unsworth G. Wilson.

[REDACTED]

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[Redacted content]

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