

**THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
1ST MAY 2012**

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIES**

Councillor	Reason for Absence	Resolved
Mrs. J. Middleton	Other Commitments	Approved

**PUBLIC**

**County Councillor Maurice Nicholls and 4 members of the public were present.**

**1. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th March 2012 were accepted as a true record.

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

**2. Minutes of the Personnel Sub-Committee**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th March 2012 were accepted as a true record.

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

**3. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Davis to the meeting who reported that the following incidents had been reported in Thornley.

Burglary 1 (The Parish Council Office and Depot)

Theft 2

Criminal Damage 1

Anti-Social Behaviour 10 (All warned and letters sent to parents)

Year on year analysis had shown that crime in Thornley was down by 29%.

Operation Speedwatch had resulted in 24 fixed penalty speeding fines being imposed on motorists and three penalty points imposed on drivers' licences where necessary.

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

**4. Street Wardens Report**

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

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

**5. Unitary County Councillor**

County Councillor Nichols reported a public consultation was to take place in relation to Thornley Transfer Station.

It was anticipated that planning permission for the new Health Centre at Wheatley Hill would be granted within the month.

Talks with the Durham County Council Library Service were progressing with a view to altering the existing structure so as to accommodate community activities. Funding of between £700,000 and £800,000 had been identified for this purpose.

Answering a question from Councillor Mrs Unsworth relating to stakeholders etc., Councillor Nichols stated that it was essential that a "Management Group" was formed to facilitate the development and determine how the new centre would be administered. The process would be managed by Durham County Council.

In relation to road safety measures Councillor Nichols reported that he could designate approximately £4,000 to £5,000 toward a project(s) determined by the Parish Council.

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

**6. Travellers**

Talks were still on-going regarding the location of a permanent site for Travellers in Co. Durham and in particular Ludworth where hard standing could be identified/constructed. Every effort was being made to dissuade travellers coming to Thornley during 2012 although this could not be guaranteed.

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

**7. Easington Association of Town & Parish Councils**

Councillor Mrs Brunskill reported that the A.G.M. had been held on 13th March 2012 and new officials had been elected.

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

**8. New Thornley**

Councillor T. Unsworth reported that the A.G.M. had been held on 17th April 2012 and new officials had been elected.

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

**9. Thornley Residents Association**

Councillor Mrs Brunskill reported that an application for funding to the A.A.P. had been refused.

A prize bingo was to be held in the near future in an effort to raise much needed funding.

A pen was to be presented to every child in the village to mark the Queen's jubilee. To cover the cost, the local County Councillors and the Parish Council were to be asked to make a donation.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See minute 24

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

**10. Youll House**

Councillor Mrs Brunskill reported that the A.G.M. had been held recently and new officials had been elected.

The Parish Clerk reported that although no official notification had been received of the meeting taking place (in accordance with their Constitution - 21 days) two members had attended who raised a number of issues that were of concern to the Parish Council.

The general feedback was that the meeting was poorly organised and conducted and lacking any sense of direction.

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

**11. Public Question and Answer Session**

A member of the public asked if any funding was available from the Parish Council toward the cost of street parties etc.

They were informed that although the Parish Council was to consider setting up a budget for this purpose funding only groups arranging events on a village wide basis may be eligible as the council did not have sufficient funds for individual street parties.

Councillor Mrs. English reported funding was available however from the A.A.P.

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

The Chairman of Youll House (Age Concern) highlighted the fact that some years ago the Parish Council had set up a Capital Reserve for the replacement of the roof on Youll House and asked what the current reserve figure was to date.

The Parish Clerk reported that he could not provide an immediate response as he did not have the information with him at the meeting. He would however provide a written response as soon as possible.

***Resolved: That a written response be provided.<sup>2</sup>***

**12. Parish Plan**

The Parish Clerk provided several copies of the Parish Plan produced by Castle Eden Parish Council for member's information.

It was pointed out that production of plans had to be "resident" led and that in the case of Castle Eden production had not been without problems as no outside funding had been available.

Members expressed the view that production of a plan for Thornley would have long term benefits and therefore the Parish Council help offset some of the costs.

***Resolved: That the Parish Council instigates the setting up of a residents group for the purpose of producing a Thornley Parish Plan.***

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<sup>2</sup> Response provide on 7th May 2012 – Meeting held 7th October 2008 minute 172 refers

### 13. NALC Conference

The National Association of Local Councils advised that it was to hold a conference entitled "People in Action" at venues in London on 24th May, Bristol on 5th July and Sheffield on 20th September 2012<sup>3</sup>.

Bob Neill MP, Communities and Local Government Minister is confirmed to be headline speaker at the Bristol (5 July) event.

Cost per delegate was £97.50.

The Parish Clerk reminded members that in line with current policy attendance at conference was considered on merit.

***Resolved: That Councillors Mrs. English, Mrs. Unsworth and M. Quinn be authorised to attend (as personal circumstances permitted), along with the Parish Clerk.***

### 14. Parish Newsletter

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth provided details of the proposed content and publication dates for consideration.

***Resolved: That the format be approved and arrangements be made for the production of the spring /summer edition as soon as practicable.***

### 15. Replacement 5-a-side facility

The Chairman highlighted the need to begin the process for replacing the existing 5-a-side pitch with a more up-to-date multi-use games area (MUGA).

It was suggested that the local youths be encouraged to participate in the process via links with officers of the Durham County Council Outreach program who were currently operating in the village.

***Resolved: That arrangements be made to meet interested groups and that Councillors Mrs. English, Mrs. Unsworth and M. Quinn be authorised to represent the Parish Council in the development process.***

### 16. Planning Permission REF: PL/5/2011/0365

Durham County Council advised that Planning permission had been granted to Mr. C. Henderson to increase the height of an existing 1.8 fence to 2.3m by fitting trellis.

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

### 17. Small Medium Local Council's Forum

The Parish Clerk reported that the next Small & Medium Local Councils Forum was scheduled for the 18 May 2012 at 14:00 in Seaham Town Council Offices, 3/4 Adelaide Row, Seaham, County Durham, SR7 7EF

***Resolved: That the information be noted and that the parish representatives attend.***

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<sup>3</sup> Details were provided to members

**18. Annual Audit Year Ending 30th April 2012**

The external auditor (BDO LLP) advised that the annual audit of the 2011/2012 accounts would take place 30th June 2012

The Parish Clerk reported that accounts had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2006 (SI2006/564).

Members were asked to approve Section 1 and Section 2 of the Annual Audit Return and to authorise the Chairman to sign it and the Balance Sheet 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 23rd April 2012 to 6th May 2012

***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.***

**19. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports**

The Parish Clerk reported that because of a break-in at the Parish Council Depot it had not been possible to produce the detailed report normally considered by members.

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

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

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

**21. Internal Audit Report of Accounts ending 31st March 2012**

The Parish Clerk reported that internal audit of accounts from 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012 has been completed by W.J. Smith<sup>4</sup> and the accounts were in order.

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

**22. Floral Gesture**

The Chairman reported that Councillor Mrs. Middleton had recently suffered a stroke and sought the views of members in relation to a floral gesture.

***Resolved: That the Chairman arrange a suitable floral gesture on behalf of the Parish Council.***

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<sup>4</sup> A copy of the Internal Auditors report was provided to members.

**23. Request for Donation**

Thornley Residents Association requested a donation to offset the cost of presenting a pen to every child in the village to mark the Queen's Jubilee.

***Resolved: That a donation be approved in principal to cover any shortfall in funding.***

**24. Break-in Parish Office & Depot (Endorsement of Action)**

The Parish Clerk reported that on the night of the 24th April 2012 the parish office & depot had been broken into.

The matter was reported to the police and a crime number obtained in order that a claim could be made on the council's insurance company.

The full extent of the loss had not yet been calculated but an initial survey had revealed that the office computers and other I.T. equipment had been stolen or damaged along with plants and equipment used for grounds maintenance.

The alarm system had also been damaged beyond repair.

The Parish Clerk had discussed the situation with the Chairman of the Council and had sought permission to replace all necessary items pending settlement of the insurance claim.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and that the action of the Parish Clerk be endorsed.***

**25. Replacement of Goal Posts – Pit Wheel Site**

The Parish Clerk reported that in accordance with a previous decision of council<sup>5</sup> the costs for the replacement of a set of junior and senior goalposts had been obtained. The Chairman and Vice Chairman had been consulted and they had determined that because of the minor difference in prices a set of senior goal posts be obtained.

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

**26. Young Persons Jubilee Fund**

Members considered the merit of setting up a budget to provide funding for village wide events organised by local groups to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

Applications would be invited from "bona fide" groups who were arranging suitable events.

***Resolved: That the Parish Clerk be authorised to create new heading with a budget of £1,000 and to revise the existing overall budget accordingly. In view of the timescales the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to determine the eligibility of applications and to approve the amount of funding to be donated.***

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<sup>5</sup> 6th March 2012 Minute 198 refers

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE  
ON  
1ST MAY 2012**

**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, M. Quinn, Mrs. J. Middleton, T. Unsworth, G. Wilson.**

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PURPOSES**



**THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
3RD JULY 2012**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth, (Chair), Mrs. P. English, Mrs. I. Hind, M. Quinn, T. Unsworth, G. Wilson.**

**APOLOGIES**

Councillor	Reason for Absence	Resolved
Mrs. Attey	Holiday	Approved
Mrs. Brunskill	Clash of Meetings	Approved
Mrs. Ingram	Illness	Approved
Mrs. J. Middleton	Illness	Approved

**PUBLIC**

**County Councillor Maurice Nicholls and 4 members of the public were present.**

**28. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

On behalf of Councillor Mrs Brunskill, the Chair referred to minute 9 and pointed out that the funding agency should have been the County Durham Foundation not the A.A.P. Having noted this alteration the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st May 2012 were accepted as a true record.

**29. Police Report**

The Chair welcomed PC Ramshaw to the meeting who reported that the following incidents had been reported in Thornley.

Anti-Social Behaviour	3
Off Road Motor Vehicles	2

Year on year analysis had shown that crime in Thornley was down by 50%.

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

**30. Street Wardens Report**

The Chair welcomed Faye Dagleish to the meeting who reported that the Street Wardens had been called to following incidents in Thornley.

Anti-Social Behaviour	18
Off Road Motor Vehicles	8
Fly tipping	1

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

**31. Unitary County Councillor**

Councillor Nicholls had provided £8,000 in funding to enable a summer program of events for the children of Thornley.

The development of the new Resource Centre in Thornley was still progressing but little progress was being made.

In relation to the County Council budget arrangements £66 million had to be saved overall with £26 million in cuts in 2013/14. In order to achieve these savings hard decisions would need to be made that would impact on all families in the region.

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

**32. Travellers**

Councillor Nicholls reported that a tremendous amount of work was still being undertaken in trying to find a designated site for travellers in the area. Numerous sites had been identified but it was proving difficult to overcome the many obstacles in either acquiring or developing any particular one.

To prevent travellers encroaching onto the Coopers Close area in Thornley it had been estimated that between £27,000 and £31,000 would be required to construct an earthen mound around the perimeter.

Meeting between interested parties and officers of the County Council would take place on a fortnightly basis.

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

**33. Easington Association of Town & Parish Councils**

It was reported that no meeting had taken place.

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

**34. CDALC Medium & Small Councils Forum**

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

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

**35. County Durham Association of Local Councils**

It was reported that no meeting had taken place.

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

**36. New Thornley**

Councillor T. Unsworth reported that in order to progress the development of the new Resource Centre a residents Management Committee had to be formed. This group would work alongside officers from Durham County Council to oversee the development and take on the long term management of the centre once it was completed. Advertisements had therefore been placed throughout the village to encourage residents to come forward and participate in the process.

Councillor Unsworth also thanked Councillor Nicholls for his contribution of £8,000 toward the cost of the summer play program in Thornley.

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

**37. Thornley Residents Group**

The Chair reported on behalf of Councillor Mrs. Brunskill that all necessary funding had been obtained to meet the costs of providing commemorative pens for the children of Thornley for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and therefore the Thornley Residents Group would no longer require a donation from Thornley Parish Council to meet any shortfall.

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

**38. Youll House**

The Chair reported that representatives of the Parish Council had endeavoured to attend the meetings of the Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee. However notice of meetings and agendas were not being received in accordance with their alleged Constitution and the minutes of previous meetings were not a true reflection of proceedings. It was generally considered by Parish Councillors elected to the management committee that it was poorly organised, managed or controlled and that its members had very little real understanding of their role or that of the Committee on which they served.

These comments and observations only served to underline the extreme difficulties faced by the Parish Council in trying to get the Committee to adhere to Agreement that existed between Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee and the Parish Council and to resolve outstanding problems.

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

**39. Public Question and Answer Session**

The Chairman of Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee John Williams enquired why the Parish Council was so concerned about the operation of Youll House.

In response the Parish Clerk gave examples relating to non-compliance with the agreement that existed between the Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee and the Parish Council.

He went on to explain that many of these issues had been raised on numerous occasions with the Management Committee to no avail.

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

**40. Parish Newsletter**

The Chair reported that the first edition of the newsletter had recently been published. Copies had been placed on all council notice boards, in local businesses and community venues where possible.

All Councillors had also received a copy.

Additional copies were available on request from the Parish Clerk.

Members were asked to provide either the Chair or the Parish Clerk with details of items that may be of interest to residents for inclusion in the Autumn/Winter edition.

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

#### **41. Members Code of Conduct**

The Parish Clerk reminded members that the Members Code of Conduct had been under revision for some time.

The National Association of Local Councils was not happy with the Local Government Association version of the Code of Conduct and had therefore produced its own (draft) version. NALC recommends that ALL parish councils should use their version of the Code of Conduct. The County Council recognises that, to ensure consistency between parish councils across the Country and in the County, the NALC version should be recommended to all parish councils in County Durham. This was ratified by the CDALC Executive Committee on the 6 June 2012. Therefore two versions of a Code of Conduct will be in operation in County Durham - one for County Councillors and one for Parish Councillors. Durham County Council's Monitoring Officer is happy with this situation.

The Code of Conduct is a draft copy as NALC (and the County Council) required further information from the Government before it can be completed. This information was issued by Government in the form of [The Relevant Authorities \(Disclosable Pecuniary Interests\) Regulations 2012](#) which was made on 6 June 2012 and laid before Parliament on the 8th June 2012 and will come into effect on the 1 July 2012. This now gives NALC the information needed to complete the Code of Conduct for Parish Councils.

Copies of the full version of the Code of Conduct will be distributed to all members in due course.

Every Council will need to adopt the revised Code of Conduct as soon as possible

There will remain a compulsory requirement for all councillors to complete a Declaration of Interests form. The information on this form must be made publicly available.

The County Council will also be obliged to make all of this information publicly available on their website.

***Resolved: That the Revised Code of Conduct for members as produced by the National Association of Local Council's be adopted.***

#### **42. Replacement 5-a-side pitch (MUGA)**

The Chair provided a progress report (verbal) of a recent meeting with Brenda Hodgson (D.C.C. One Point Youth Worker). She went on to explain that youths from the village were to visit a number of similar facilities in the area to see what could be developed in Thornley.

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

#### **43. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2012/2017)**

Durham County Council advised that Mr. M. Quinn had applied for planning permission to erect a two storey side extension & pitched roof to the existing single storey rear extension at 3, Ashford Grove, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3AD.

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

**44. Request for Donation (REF: 6640)**

Hartlepool & District Hospice requested a donation to help fund their work over the next 12 months.

Members were advised that similar request was made in September 2011 when £100 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 £100.00.***

**45. Request for Donation - Young Persons Jubilee Fund**

Applications for funding were received from Thornley Primary School and St. Godric's RC School towards the cost of their Queen's Jubilee Celebrations.

After discussing the applications with both the Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council it was determined that the sum of up to £200.00 be awarded to each on receipt of appropriate documentation.

***Resolved: That the action Parish Clerk be endorsed 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 up to £200.00.***

**46. Application for Use of Welfare Park**

The Sport & Physical Activity Development Officer of Durham County Council requested the use of the Welfare Park on Wednesdays 6pm until 7pm for a period of 6 weeks.

In view of the timescales the Parish Clerk had discussed this application with the Chair of the Council and approval had been granted.

A fee of £60.00 for the six week period had been negotiated and it was proposed that the sum be ring fenced in the budget for funding the West of the A19 Project activities in Thornley.

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

**47. Standing Orders of Council – Revision**

Following comments made by the Internal Auditor it had been necessary to revise Standing Order No: 35 so as to delete references to the former District of Easington Council.

A copy of the Revised Standing Orders was handed to all members.

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

#### 48. **Housing Development – Greenwood Cottages**

David Siddle (Durham County Council) provided members with details of a development due to start in September/October 2012 by Three Rivers Housing Association to construct 8 X 2 bedroom bungalows in the Greenwood Cottages area the funding for which was from the proceeds of the "Crossways" development. He went on to explain that Youll House (owned by Thornley Parish Council) stood at the end of the site and suggested that should the council wish to consider the sale of Youll House to the developer an enhanced scheme could be considered. This would have a major impact on improving the visual appearance in the central part of the village.

It was pointed out that Youll House was one of the few remaining centres in the village for use by residents and until the construction of a new Resource Centre by D.C.C. was complete some form of community facility would need to be maintained. A sale, should one be considered by the Parish Council, would therefore have to address this requirement.

Members were mindful of the need to redevelop the central part of the village and the obvious benefits it would bring but were also cognisant of the fact that until the Youll House operation was brought back into the Parish Council's control from Youll House (Age Concern) no progress could be made and no decision on a sale could be considered.

The Parish Clerk expressed growing concern that the Council's written requests for specific items to be placed on Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee agendas and for information to be provided were being ignored. As a result it was proving almost impossible to make progress on any issue or resolve outstanding problems.

It was noted that the Parish Council had tried on numerous occasions over a period of approximately ten years to resolve matters amicably but to no avail. There was clear reluctance on the part of the Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee to negotiate a settlement and unless the Parish Council took legal measures to terminate the agreement the farcical operation of Youll House would continue unabated.

Under the circumstances members considered it appropriate to instruct the Parish Clerk to take the necessary measures to bring control of Youll House back to the Parish Council and to set up a **Facilities Sub-Committee** comprising all members, the Terms of Reference for which would be to recommend policy, set out Rules & Regulations, determine fees and charges and generally oversee the operation of all Parish Council facilities.

***Resolved: That the Parish Clerk be instructed to take the necessary measures to bring control of Youll House back to the Parish Council and that a Facilities Sub-Committee comprising all members, the Terms of Reference for which would be to recommend policy, set out Rules & Regulations, determine fees and charges and generally oversee the operation of all Parish Council facilities be convened.***



#### **49. 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 makes arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.***

#### **50. 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.*

#### **51. Annual Audit of Accounts Ended 31st March 2012**

The Parish Clerk reported that BDO Stoy Hayward had requested minor amendments be made to the Annual Audit Return 2011/12. These must be brought to the attention of the Parish Council for authorisation.

***Resolved: That the alterations be approved.***

#### **52. Adoption - Ellerby Mews Play Area**

The Chair welcomed Alan Dobie (D.C.C. Planning Officer) to the meeting to provide additional information on this matter should members require.

The Parish Clerk reminded members that some time ago Persimmon Homes, who had re-developed the former Thornlaw North Estate had included a children's play area in their planning application. They had subsequently approached the Parish council to adopt the scheme and take on the responsibility for long term maintenance. At the time members resolved to await the outcome of a resident's survey the results of which would indicate whether residents wanted the play area to be developed on the estate.<sup>6</sup>

Alan Dobie provided an analysis of the survey which had now taken place:

160 residential properties

52 replies

33% in favour of a play area

4 for a scaled down play area

15 did not approve of a play area

Members expressed concern that the type of equipment being proposed only catered for a limited age range and this was considered detrimental to the objective of providing adequate facilities for children of all ages.

It was determined that £55,000 had been earmarked for the provision of the play area by the developer.

***Resolved: That subject to Persimmon Homes altering the design to include a range of play equipment suitable for all ages and that any residual funds up to £55,000 be transferred to the Parish Council after completion to offset the long term maintenance costs, the Parish Council adopt the play area at Ellerby Mews.***

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<sup>6</sup> Meeting held 5th July 2011 minute 36 refers.

**53. Request for Donation**

The East Durham Citizen's Advice Bureau (C.A.B.) requested a donation from the Parish Council to aid its work in the village for the next 12 months.

The Parish Clerk explained that a similar request was made to the meeting held on 6th September 2011 when £300.00 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 £400.00***

**54. Card of Thanks**

The parish Clerk reported that Councillor Mrs. Middleton had sent a thank you card for floral arrangement sent recently following her illness.

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

**55. Councillor's Illness**

The Chair reminded members that Councillor Mrs. Ingram was seriously ill and suggested that a floral arrangement be sent to her.

***Resolved: That a floral arrangement be sent to Councillor Ingram.***

**56. Road Traffic Accident – Damage to Dry Stone Wall**

The Parish Clerk reported that as a result of a traffic accident a section of the dry stone wall opposite the War memorial had been damaged.

A quotation for the repairs was being obtained and the owner of the vehicle had been contacted who had agreed to pay for the costs incurred.

***Resolved: That the damage be repaired as soon as possible on receipt of payment be the vehicle owner.***

**57. Dry Stone Wall – Other**

The Parish Clerk reported that a large section of the dry stone wall barring access to the "pony field" was in need of repair the estimated cost of which was approximately £10,000.00

***Resolved: That the repair works be added to the Capital Program for consideration at a later date.***



**THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
4TH SEPTEMBER 2012**

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIES**

**No apologies were submitted.**

**PUBLIC**

**County Councillor Maurice Nicholls and 1 member of the public were present.**

**58. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd July 2012 were accepted as a true record.

**59. Police Report**

As the police were not in attendance no report was available.

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

**60. Street Wardens Report**

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

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

**61. New Thornley**

It was reported that the Summer program had been a great success as it had been well attended and enjoyed by all the children who had participated.

Thanks were recorded to all groups who had funded the event.

The partnership encouraging residents to participate in the consultation process for the new Resource Centre.

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

**62. Travellers**

Members reported that the behaviour of travellers who had visited Thornley recently was deplorable and could not be condoned in any circumstances. Because D.C.C. had not provided portable toilets woodland areas had been used as latrines and human waste was left exposed.

Local publicans were also permitting alcohol to be consumed on the public paths and highways outside their premises.

Councillor Nichols reported that senior officers of D.D.C. were now involved in trying to find a solution to the problem and that a zero tolerance approach was under consideration.

A 40 to 50 caravan park was being constructed at Cornforth in an attempt to keep travellers out of Thornley and other villages in the area.

The Chair reported that a public meeting was being called and that it was hoped the D.C.C. Travellers Liaison Officer would be in attendance.

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

**63. Unitary County Councillor**

Councillor Nichols reported that talks were on-going concerning the existing Thornley Community Centre.

Gordon Elliot had been requested to allocate £50,000 toward the construction of the new Resource Centre.

Efforts were also being made to contact the former owner of the Crossways Hotel as he had given assurances that he would make a donation towards the construction of the new centre following the re-development of the crossways site for affordable housing.

The owners of Gore Hall Farm had been served notice to improve the visual aspect of the site as it was an eyesore.<sup>7</sup>

Talks were on-going with Arriva concerning a proposal to revise the bus timetable and routes servicing villages west of the A19.

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

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

It was reported that the next meeting was to be held on Tuesday 11th September 2012.

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

**65. CDALC Medium & Small Councils Forum**

It was reported that as no meeting had been held a report was unavailable.

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

**66. County Durham Association of Local Councils**

It was reported that as no meeting had been held a report was unavailable.

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

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<sup>7</sup> Copy of the Notice was made available to members.

**67. Thornley Residents Group**

It was reported that a project to restore the War Memorial was still under consideration. It was hoped that the Parish Council would become a “partner” in the project if a “Friends of the War Memorial Group” could be formed and sufficient funding could be obtained.

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

**68. Youll House**

A verbal report was provided on the previous Management Committee Meeting and details of the treasures financial report was provided.

Representatives had again outlined the Parish Council’s position regarding the “agreement” that was in existence between the Parish Council and the Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee and asked that consideration be given to amicable termination.

In members opinion this had been agreed to in the meeting but this had been subsequently denied by its Chairman. As a result it was unlikely that a solution could be reached without resorting to the legal action.

A further meeting of the Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee was to be held on Friday 7th September 2012 at which Parish Council representatives would seek clarification of the minutes.

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

**69. Public Question and Answer Session**

A member of the public sought to ask a number of questions pertaining to the personal details and employment contract of the Parish Clerk.

The Chair pointed out that under the “Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act this information was “exempt” and as a result no answers could be provided.

Having been given this information the individual became extremely belligerent and used threatening language to members of the Council and threw his papers in the direction of members.

The Chair requested the individual to leave the meeting otherwise she would have no alternative but to call the police.

On leaving the person concerned used his walking stick in a threatening manner by slamming it down on the service counter and slamming doors.

Some members were distraught having been subjected to such behaviour and expressed their concern at the action they had witnessed.<sup>8</sup>

***Resolved: That the action of the Chairman be approved.***

**70. Resource Centre**

Julie Anson from Durham County Council will be present to update members on recent developments.

A public consultation exercise was currently underway and the results would be known shortly after the 6th September 2012.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> It was noted that the individual was the Chair of the Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee.

<sup>9</sup> Copy left for members.

There was a budget allocation of £521,000 and two locations for the new centre were under consideration and two designs were proposed. One costing £524,00 and the other £590,000.

Some user groups were also requesting that a meeting room or rooms were required.

Durham County Council requested the Parish Council to give consideration to allowing the facility to be constructed on parish land and on completion lease it from D.C.C.

The Chair pointed out that the Parish Councils had not been consulted on any aspect of proposal so far and as a result had had no input into design or location. It was made clear that before approval could be granted D.C.C. would need to provide specific details of the terms of the lease in order that the implications for the parish council could be discussed.

It was suggested that a meeting of the Parish Council's Facilities Sub-Committee be convened as soon as possible to give the proposal further consideration.<sup>10</sup>

***Resolved: That the information be noted and that Durham County Council be requested to provide full details of the content of the proposed lease for further consideration.***

#### **71. Youll House Agreement**

The Chair and the Parish Clerk informed members that an appointment had been made with the Parish Council's solicitor on Friday 7th September 2012 at 2.00pm to further proceedings.

However it was still anticipated that legal action would not be necessary if, at the meeting of the Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee being held on Friday 7th September 2012 at 3.20pm, members could be made to understand the position.

If they could not then, in accordance with previous resolutions of the Parish Council legal proceedings would be instigated without further discussion.

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

#### **72. Request for Donation**

The Butterwick House Children's Hospice requested a donation to meet the costs of £162,500.00 to care of 13 children & families from our area.

Members were asked to recall that a donation of £100.00 was awarded previously at the Parish Council meeting held on 6th September 2011.

***Resolved: That the action of the Parish Clerk be endorsed 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 £100.00***

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<sup>10</sup> Subsequently arranged for Friday 7th September.

**73. Queens Diamond Jubilee – Memorial Bench**

It was suggested that to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee a memorial bench be installed within Thornley Cemetery.

Members were asked to recall that the existing benches, which were nearing the end of their usefulness were to be replaced when finance allowed.

The only additional expenditure would be the cost of the inscription estimated at £200

***Resolved: That a new bench when purchased be inscribed to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.***

**74. Sale of Land 5-a-SidePitch**

The prospective purchaser requested the Parish Council to consider whether it would either pay £1,000.00 towards the cost of the transfer (from Durham County Council) or, alternatively, reduce the cost of the land by £1,000.00 has he had incurred additional costs obtaining associated land from Durham County Council.

In addition, the buyer's solicitors were seeking the Parish Council agreement to contribute £480.00 including vat towards their client's additional legal costs.

***Resolved: That in view of the council's own increased legal costs relating to this sale, they refused to reduce the cost of the land but would pay the clients additional legal cost up to the value of £480.00.***

**75. Ellerby Mews Play Area**

The Parish Clerk provided members with details of two proposals offered by Persimmon Homes in relation to the safety surface for the site and asked members to determine which was their preferred option.

***Resolved: That Persimmon Homes be advised to include a wet pour safety surface in the design.***

**76. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2012/0315)**

Durham County Council advised that Ms Lucie had applied for planning permission to construct 4 dwellings at land of Gore Hall off Roseberry Crescent, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3DT.

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

**77. Invitation (REF: 6690)**

St. John's Ambulance Brigade had invited the Parish Council to send a representative to their annual Curry/Bufferet Lunch to be held at Barnard Armoury TA Centre, Newton Aycliffe on Sunday 14th October 2012.

Cost was £10.00 per delegate.

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

**78. Capital Projects 2013/2014**

The Parish Clerk reported that it was appropriate at this time to review the Capital Works Program <sup>11</sup> in order that the amounts required could be incorporated into the 2013/2014 budget.

***Resolved: That the report be approved.***

**79. Planning Approval (REF: PL/5/2012/0217)**

Durham County Council advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. M. Quinn to construct a two storey side extension & pitched roof to existing single storey rear extension at 3, Ashford Grove Thornley DH6 3AD.

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

**80. Request for Donation**

Easington Youth and Community Service requested a donation of £532.00 toward the operation of the summer activities program for youth in Thornley.

As the program was to take place prior to the Parish Council meeting the Parish Clerk had consulted both the Chair and Vice Chair who's approval was obtained.

***Resolve: That the action of the Parish Clerk be endorsed 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 £532.00***

**81. Letter of Thanks (REF: 6670)**

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

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

**82. Members Code of Conduct (REF: 6680)**

Durham County Council advised that in accordance with current legislation members must disclose the pecuniary interests of their partners.

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

**83. Annual Playground Inspection REF: 6386)**

RoSPA provided their Annual Inspection of play equipment in the village.

In all cases the faults identified were very low, low or medium risk items.<sup>12</sup>

Where attention was required this will be addressed as soon as possible.

***Resolved: That the report be received and remedial action be taken where necessary.***

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<sup>11</sup> Report provided to with agenda

<sup>12</sup> The report is available for members.

**84. 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 makes arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.***

**85. 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.*

**86. Meet the Funders**

The Chair advised members that she was to attend the event when she would endeavor to find out what funding was available to develop the MUGA facility and Neighbourhood Plans.

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

**87. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2012/0317)**

Durham County Council advised that Mr. D.Hardy had applied for planning permission to construct a front extension 7 private garage to the rear of 40, Dunelm Road, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3HW.

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

**88. Invitation**

East Durham Citizens Advice Bureau invited the Parish Council send a representative to their Annual General Meeting due to take place on Wednesday 21st September 2012 at East Durham Collage commencing 12:30pm

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

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PURPOSES**



**THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
FACILITIES SUB-COMMITTEE  
PARISH OFFICE  
THORNLEY  
ON  
7TH SEPTEMBER 2012**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth, (Chair), Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. P. English, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. J. Middleton, M. Quinn,**

**APOLOGIST. Unsworth, G. Wilson.**

**Terms of Reference**

***To recommend policy, set out Rules & Regulations, determine fees and charges and generally oversee the operation of all Parish Council facilities.***

**89. Facility Management**

The Chair provided a general outline of the Sub-Committees role and explained that it would be responsible for all policy relating to the Council's facilities including the fixing of charges etc.

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

**90. Youll House – Termination of Agreement**

The Chair and the Parish Clerk informed members that the Council's solicitor had been consulted and briefed on the circumstances.

Members were made aware of the steps required to terminate the agreement and that his recommendations would be forwarded to the Parish Council in due course.

It was suggested that when all is in order to proceed Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee should be given 6 weeks' notice of the date when facility management will return to the Parish Council control and when keys must be returned.

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

**91. Youll House – Future Operation**

The Parish Clerk informed members that regrettably the 4 Housing Group had not provided their proposals on the redevelopment or purchase of Youll House. As a result it was not possible for any meaningful discussion to take place on this item.

Members were informed however that it would be necessary in the near future to determine how the facility would be managed i.e. opened and closed and to fix a scale of charges for its use when it was returned to Parish Council control.

Consideration may also need to be given to the purchase of table, chairs and other items to equip the facility for use.

Depending on acceptance or rejection of any proposal made by the 4 Housing Group it may also be necessary to determine if funding could/should be sought to redevelop the facility in the longer term.

***Resolved: That the item be deferred until such time as Youll House was returned to Parish Council control and pending receipt of proposals by the 4 the Housing Group.***

**92. Allotments**

The Chair reported she had recently inspected of the Council's allotments and had noted that whilst many tenants were abiding by their agreements some were not and that a number of buildings had been constructed without permission.

The Parish Clerk reported that it was difficult to "police" the allotment sites effectively because entry could not be gained to individual gardens. In addition no inventory had been taken of what was on individual plots at the time that the Parish Council had purchased the site so it was difficult to determine what changes were being made.

***Resolved: That officers of the Allotment Association be invited to meet with Parish Council representatives to discuss how the situation might be resolved and the visual aspect of the allotment sites improved.***

**93. New Resource Centre**

The Chair reminded members that the Parish Council had recently agreed in principal to leasing the new centre once Durham County Council had completed its development. This agreement was subject to the Parish Council becoming a stakeholder in the project and being satisfied that the premises are fit for purpose.

Members discussed the potential of including related projects, such as the MUGA pitch, children's play area, football field and associated changing facilities on the same site.

***Resolved: That the item be deferred pending notification by Durham County Council as to the date of the next meeting of "Resource Centre Partnership" when all of the related issues could be raised.***

**THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
FACILITIES SUB-COMMITTEE  
PARISH OFFICE  
THORNLEY  
ON  
26TH OCTOBER 2012**

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIEST. Unsworth,**

**94. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th September 2012 were accepted as a true record.

**95. Youll House**

The Parish Clerk informed members that the Chair was to meet with the Council's solicitor on 8th November 2012 to finalise details of the letter of termination that would be sent to the Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee.

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

**96. Allotments**

The Chair reported that she had met with representatives of the Coopers Close Allotment Association earlier in the day when it had been agreed that to complete a mapping exercise entry would need to be gained to each garden and that this should be undertaken in conjunction with the officials of the allotment association.

Discussion on newspaper reports concerning drugs on allotments, rent review and maintenance issues had also taken place.

It was suggested that in view of the continuing economic situation the Annual Rent for allotments 2013/14 remain unchanged.

**Resolved: That the information be noted and that the Annual Rent for 2013/14 remain unchanged at £30.00 per plot.**

**97. Cemetery**

Members discussed the future development of the Garden of Remembrance and suggested that a number of designs be obtained for consideration at a future meeting.

The Chair explained that in recent months a number of problems had arisen with regard to the installation and positioning of headstones. It was suggested that these issues could be addressed by determining a policy to allow only N.A.M.M. approved Stonemasons to undertake work in the Cemetery.

The Parish Clerk reported that he was currently revising the Cemetery Regulations and suggested that in view of the on-going economic situation the Fees & Charges remain unchanged for 2013/14.

It was also suggested that the Cemetery Regulations be reviewed in order to clarify/simplify a number point and address anomalies.

***Resolved: That the Parish Clerk obtain a number of designs for the future of development of the Garden of Remembrance for consideration by members, that the Cemetery Fees and Charges remain unchanged for 2013, and that consideration of N.A.M.M approved Stonemasons be deferred.***

**98. Welfare Park**

It was suggested that in view of the on-going economic situation the Fees & Charges remain unchanged for 2013/14.

**THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
6TH NOVEMBER 2012**

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIES**

Councillor	Reason for Absence	Resolved
Mrs. J. Middleton	Illness	Approved
G. Wilson	Illness	Approved

**PUBLIC**

**County Councillor Maurice Nicholls and 3 members of the public were present.**

**99. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th September 2012 were accepted as a true record.

**100. Minutes of the Facilities Sub-Committee 7th September 2012**

The Chair referred to minute 93 of the minutes and pointed out that it was not the Parish Council that had agreed in principal to leasing the new Resource Centre it had been the Facilities Sub-Committee that had agreed this policy. Those who had been present at the Facilities Sub-Committee meeting confirmed this had been the case.

Having noted this alteration the minutes of the Facilities Sub-Committee held on 7th September 2012 were accepted as a true record.

**101. Minutes of the Facilities Sub-Committee 26th October 2012**

The minutes of the Facilities Sub-Committee held on 26th October 2012 were accepted as a true record.

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

The Parish Clerk reported that Durham County Council had been notified of the vacancy but no election had been called. As a result the Parish Council was at liberty to Co-opt a member if they wished but this was not necessary because the local council elections were due to take place within six months.

**Resolved: That the information be noted and that co-option take place if a resident came forward.**

**103. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed the Community Support Officer to the meeting who reported that the following incidents had been reported in Thornley.

Burglary 2

Theft	1
Criminal Damage	4
Anti-Social Behaviour	22 (Mostly fireworks)
Motor Cycles	4 (2 seized)

Speed watch had recorded 40 vehicles passing through the village over a 30 minute period. Of these 33 had been exceeding the speed limit.

It was being proposed that a mobile speed camera be installed and that this would result in fixed penalty fines being issued to offenders.

There were currently a number of Warrants being pursued in the area relating to stolen vehicles 20 of which had been recovered.

Year on year analysis had shown that crime in Thornley was down by 3%.

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

#### **104. Street Wardens Report**

The Chairman welcomed the Wardens to the meeting who reported that the following incidents had been reported in Thornley between the 1st and 8th October 2012.

Fly tipping	1
Dogs	1
Graffiti	1

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

#### **105. Travellers**

Councillor Nicholls reported that efforts were being made to keep travellers away from Thornley or if they did camp were being moved on as quickly as possible.

Meeting were still on-going to resolve the persistent nuisance and a hard-standing area was still being sought within the County.

A law to prohibit travellers was also being considered.

The horse trading fair normally held in Horden has been cancelled.

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

#### **106. Unitary County Councillor**

Councillor Nicholls reported that the Governments Welfare Reform Acts would have a significant effect on all residents in County Durham as it would mean that saving the overall budget would need to be reduced by £180 million.

The Durham County Plan was now complete and draft land allocations had been identified. The consultation process was still on-going.

Arriva buses had withdrawn some bus services sighting non profitability as the reason.

Arriva had withdrawn a number of uneconomic bus services and this was causing some difficulty for residents trying to get into work on time.

The situation was currently under review to see what steps if any could be taken to rectify the problem.

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

Delegates: Councillors Mrs. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind & M. Quinn

**108. CDALC Medium & Small Councils Forum**

Councillors Mrs. English reported that details of the Durham County Plan had been provided. Residents were being consulted and feedback provided to D.D.C.

Officers from D.C.C. were prepared to attend Parish Council meetings if required to give more detailed information on particular aspects of the plan as they related to individual parishes.

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

**109. County Durham Association of Local Councils**

Councillors Mrs. Brunskill reported that the Annual General meeting of the association had been attended and Double Taxation issues had been discussed.

Concern had been expressed that there were not enough Parish Council's represented.

Cost analysis on budget allocations was being undertaken.

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

**110. New Thornley**

Councillor T. Unsworth reported that progress was now being made in respect of the development of a new Resource Centre in the village.

A building steering group was to have its inaugural meeting on 8th November 2012.

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

**111. Thornley Residents Group**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that a meeting had been held on the previous Wednesday when residents had expressed concern over the difficulties being faced in obtaining appointments at the doctors surgery.

A donation of £150 had been made by the Health Forum towards the organisation of a children's Christmas party for 8 to 12 year olds.

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

**112. Youll House**

The Chair reported that at the last meeting of the Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee its Chairman had been very aggressive towards the representatives of the Parish Council. As a result the Parish Council representatives left the meeting and subsequently had agreed that they were no longer prepared to serve on this committee.

No progress had been made on termination of the agreement.

The Parish Clerk updated members on the current status of the situation regarding the letter of termination being served on the management Committee by solicitors. It was anticipated that the facility would revert to the management of the Parish Council early in 2013.



**113. Public Question and Answer Session**

A member of the Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee asked if it would be acceptable to the Parish Council for them to proceed with arrangements for holding Christmas Parties in the facility.

The Chair stated that the committee could continue utilising the premises as per the existing agreement until the date of termination of the agreement which was anticipated to be in late December 2012.

A member of the public reported that one of the lights at the War Memorial was inoperative.

The Parish Clerk reported that this had been drawn to the attention of the Durham County Council Street lighting engineer and repairs would be carried out as quickly as possible.

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

**114. Invitation (REF: 6717)**

Haswell and District MENCAP invited representative to attend their Annual Christmas Carol Service to be held in Durham Cathedral on Saturday 8th December 2012 commencing 2:30pm.

***Resolved: That Councillor Pat English attend.***

**115. Council Tax Support Scheme**

The Parish Clerk outlined how Durham County Council Tax Scheme would affect local residents and the implication on Double Taxation.

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

**116. Planning Permission (REF: PL/5/2012/0315)**

Durham County Council advised that Ms L. Beresford had been granted planning permission to erect 4 dwelling houses on land south of Gore Hall off Roseberry Crescent, Thornley DH6 3DT

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

**117. Letter of Thanks (REF: 6703)**

A letter of thanks was received from the West of the A19 Youth Project for the Parish Council's recent donation.

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

**118. Letter of Thanks (REF: 6707)**

A letter of thanks was received from the Butterwick House Children's Hospice for the Parish Council's recent donation.

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

**119. 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 makes arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.***



## **120. 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.*

## **121. Staff Christmas Bonus.**

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

***Resolved: That staff receive a Christmas bonus of £50.***

## **122. Members Dispensation**

The Parish Clerk provided members with detailed information concerning pecuniary interests and the need for a resolution to be passed by the Council giving dispensation to members in order that the Parish Precept for 2013/14 could be determined.

***Resolved: That in accordance with legislation Thornley Parish Council members given appropriate dispensation.***

## **123. Fidelity Insurance Guarantee**

The Parish Clerk reported that the external auditor (BDO Stoy Hayward) required that members determine if an increase in the fidelity insurance guarantee was considered necessary.

It was explained that this insurance was to indemnify the Parish Council in the event of loss of cash through fraud or embezzlement

Members expressed concern that the increase in the annual premium was not cost effective.

***Resolved: That and that the existing level of fidelity insurance cover be maintained for 203/14.***

## **124. Request for Donation**

The Great North Air Ambulance requested a donation to their funds for 2013.

Members were asked recall that a donation of £100 was made in March 2012.

***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***

## **125. Remembrance Day Service**

The Parish Clerk reported that Remembrance Day Service was to be held at the War Memorial in Thornley on Sunday 11th November 2012.

It was suggested that in accordance with previous practice the Chairman of the Parish Council be authorised to attend to lay a commemorative wreath and that a donation be made to the Butterwick Hospice in lieu of payment to the Bugler who had been engaged to 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**

**126. Public Open Space – Coopers Close**

It was reported that an area of open space adjacent to Orchard Lodge had been ploughed.

The Parish Clerk reported that the land was in the ownership of Durham County Council and therefore not the Parish Council's responsibility.

**Resolved: That the Parish Clerk notifies Durham County Council and obtains clarification as to whether the area had been sold.**

**127. Chair's Report**

The Chair gave a verbal report on "Asset Transfers", "Meet the Funders" & "Localism" events which she had attended recently on behalf of the Parish Council. All of these issues would have an impact on workload of members and the Parish Clerk if issues were to be addressed.

Concern was expressed that in view this of the ever increasing workload the Parish Council may need to consider the need for additional administrative support in the future.

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

**128. People in Action Conference**

Both the Chair and Councillor Quinn gave verbal reports on the conference which they had attended.

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

**THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
FACILITIES SUB-COMMITTEE  
PARISH OFFICE  
THORNLEY  
ON  
9TH NOVEMBER 2012**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth, (Chair), Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. P. English, Mrs. I. Hind,**

**APOLOGIES Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. J. Middleton, T. Unsworth, G. Wilson.**

**129. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th October 2012 were accepted as a true record.

**130. Youll House**

Both the Chair and the Parish Clerk provided details of a meeting with the Parish Council's solicitor regarding the termination of the licence that existed between the Parish Council and the Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee.

It had been agreed that a letter terminating the licence on 31st December 2012 would be sent to the management committee as soon as possible. In addition all keys to the premises to be handed over on or before that date. They were also to be advised to notify all other groups with whom the Committee had agreed future bookings to contact the Parish Clerk.

It was suggested that the management committee be given free use of the premises for two hours per day, Monday to Friday for a period of 6 months providing that arrangements be made via the Parish Clerk in advance.

Individual users and other not for profit groups to be charged £5 per session. All others would be charged £10 per session. Rental charges to be reviewed in July 2013.

**Resolved: That the information be noted and that the fees and charges as stated be agreed.**

**131. Cemetery**

The Parish Clerk outlined some of the difficulties being encountered in the Cemetery when Stonemasons were erecting headstones.

It was suggested that the Cemetery Regulations be amended to state that only N.A.M.M Registered Stonemasons (National Association of Memorial Masons) be permitted to undertake work within the cemetery.

**Resolved: That the Cemetery Regulations be amended to state that only N.A.M.M Registered Stonemasons (National Association of Memorial Masons) be permitted to undertake work within the cemetery.**

### **132. Any Additional Urgent Items of Business**

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

***Resolved: That no action be taken at this time.***

### **133. Welfare Park Perimeter Fence.**

The Parish Clerk reported that a number of sections of the perimeter fence was in need of repair the cost of which had been estimated at approximately £1,000.

Members were cognisant of the fact that whilst it may be desirable to maintain security consideration need to be given to the possible relocation of the football pitch in line with the construction of a new Resource Centre.

### **134. New Resource Centre**

The Chair reported on the inaugural meeting of the Resource Centre Building Group arranged by Durham County Council. This group would oversee the design & construction of the centre.

The Parish Council had been asked to nominate two representatives to serve on this group.

***Resolved: That the Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth and Mrs. M. Brunskill be nominated.***

### **135. Cemetery - Garden of Remembrance**

The Chair referred to existing policy regarding the further development of the Garden of Remembrance and suggested that members may wish to visit other cemeteries in order to see what facilities are currently available.

In addition a number of outline design sketches should be produced in order to inform members what might be achieved by the Parish Council in Thornley Cemetery.

***Resolved: That visits be arranged to other cemeteries and that the Parish Clerk provide outline sketches for consideration of members for the development of the Garden of Remembrance.***

**THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
FACILITIES SUB-COMMITTEE  
PARISH OFFICE  
THORNLEY  
ON  
4TH JANUARY 2013**

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIESM. Quinn**

**136. Proposals for New Resource Centre**

The Chair presented a site layout and building layout of the centre provided by the Durham County Council Building Steering Group and gave details of the proposal.

Members were cognisant of the fact that the room layout and facilities being incorporated with-in the building must be determined by the Building Steering Group with reference to the results of the Residents Consultation but considered it essential that the design should be amended to incorporate a designated and secure Reception space.

Members also considered it desirable for the Parish Council to operate from within the facility (providing this was not to the detriment of the requirements of the residents) or from an attached annex the construction costs of such accommodation to be borne by the Parish Council. This would also allow the Parish Council to manage the centre should this become necessary in the longer term.

Members highlighted the fact that the Parish Council had transferred the land designated for a Resource Centre to New Thornley Partnership some years ago. It was now being suggested (by the Building Steering Group) that this land be now transferred to Durham County Council in order that construction could commence.

It was generally agreed that if the land was transferred to D.C.C. it should be transferred back to the Parish Council on completion and that this issue should be raised at the Building Steering Group.

***Resolved: That representatives to the Building Steering Group be mandated to express the Parish Council's concern relating to the Reception Area and obtain from the group the costs for providing suitable accommodation for the Parish Council's use for consideration.***

**137. Sale of 5-a-side pitch**

The Parish Clerk reported that the sale of the 5-a-side pitch to Mr. Turner had been completed and that the balance of the sale (after legal fees) had been deposited in the Parish Council account.

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

**138. Youll House**

The Parish Clerk reported that Youll House (Age Concern) Thornley had vacated the premises on 2nd January 2013.

The utility providers had been contacted and transfer of services was in hand.

The Chair explained that in order to operate the facility it would be necessary to procure a suitable number of tables and chairs and for essential maintenance to be undertaken.

It was noted that as a result of misinformation other user groups had also withdrawn from the facility.

It was also pointed out that arrangements must be made for opening and closing the facility for events and arrangements and general cleaning and caretaking operations.

***Resolved: That user groups be contacted (if details could be obtained) explaining that the facility was available for hire direct from the Parish Council; that the procurement of tables and chairs be investigated and that essential maintenance be undertaken. Arrangements for "caretaking" operations be deferred until such time usage patterns could be determined.***

**THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
8TH JANUARY 2013**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth, (Chair), Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. P. English, Mrs. I. Hind, M. Quinn, T. Unsworth, G. Wilson.**

**APOLOGIES**

**County Councillor M. Nicholls**

**PUBLIC**

**1 member of the public was present.**

**139. Death of Councillor Margaret Ingram**

The Chair reported that it was her sad duty to report that Councillor Margaret Ingram had passed away peacefully on 2nd January 2013.

As a mark of respect members stood for a 1 minute silence.

***Resolved: That a floral tribute be purchased to be placed on Margaret's grave following the funeral.***

**140. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Chair referred to minute 112 and pointed out that the representatives had stayed for the duration of the meeting at the end of which they had stated that they would no longer attend future meetings of the committee. Having noted this alteration the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th November 2012 were accepted as a true record.

**141. Minutes of the Facilities Sub-Committee 9th November 2012**

The minutes of the Facilities Sub-Committee held on 9th November 2012 were accepted as a true record.

**142. Minutes of the Facilities Sub-Committee 4th January 2013**

The minutes of the Facilities Sub-Committee held on 4th January 2013 were accepted as a true record.

**143. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed the Community Support Officers to the meeting who reported that in the period 6th December 2012 to 6th January 2013 a total of 80 incidents had been reported in Thornley.

Criminal Damage	5
Anti-Social Behaviour	11 down 60%
Speeding offences	3 cautions issued



It was reported that a fire had damaged a newly planted forest in the vicinity of St. Bede's Crescent. Police were continuing to investigate and asked that if anyone had information it should be passed on to the C.P.S.O.s.  
Councillor Mrs. Brunskill sought an update regarding bogus callers in the village.

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

**144. Street Wardens Report**

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

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

**145. Travellers**

Members expressed concern that as very little progress was being made in relation to travellers it was suggested that the Parish Council invite the 2 members of Parliament (Phil Wilson & Graham Morris) to a meeting to discuss the issue.

**Resolved: That a meeting be arranged to discuss the traveller issue if the local Members of Parliament agreed to attend.**

**146. Unitary County Councillor**

As Councillor Nicholls was unable to attend he had asked that the Chair present his report summarised as follows:

The Arriva Bus company had been contacted asking why services had been removed.

He County Council had to make £190m in savings between 2013 and 2016 due to Central Government cutbacks.

The installation of a dog litter bin had been given priority 1 status

A new 59 bus service would commence operations every two hours and a 9:15 service on Sundays.

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

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

Councillors Mrs. Brunskill and Mrs. Hind reported that the meeting had been combined with one relating to the Durham County Plan. There had been little response from residents in relation to the Dunelm Road area of Thornley.

Attendance by officials of the Association had been poor and as a result few agenda items were discussed.

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

**148. CDALC Medium & Small Councils Forum**

Councillor Mrs. English reported that although she had attended nothing regarding Thornley was discussed.

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

**149. County Durham Association of Local Councils**

No meeting had been held

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



**150. New Thornley**

No report was available.

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

**151. Thornley Residents Group**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that a Children's Christmas Party had been held on 8th December 2012 and that it had been well attended and enjoyed by all.

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

**152. Youll House**

The Parish Clerk reported that the facility was returned to Parish Council control on 2nd January 2013 and was given to understand that the Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee had now ceased operations. As a result the Parish Council would no longer require representatives to attend meetings.

Members expressed dismay that the Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee had seen fit to remove all items of furniture from the facility along with all crockery and kitchen appliances and that these had been gifted to other "charitable organisation" outside the village.

In addition a kitchen wall cabinet (considered to be a fixture) had been removed and the wall left in a poor condition.

It was also noted that the committee had left all other items, no longer required by them, to be removed by and at the Parish Council's expense.

Questions were also raised concerning the disposal of financial balances, known to be in the region of £6,000.

***Resolved: That the Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee be advised of the Parish Council's concerns and that an invoice would be raised in their name for the repair to the kitchen wall, hire of a skip and all labour charges relating to the clearance of the building. In addition the Charities Commission be made aware of the manner in which this organisation has allegedly disposed of its material and financial assets.***

**153. Public Question and Answer Session**

No questions were raised from the members of the public.

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

**154. Parish Precept 2013/2014**

The Parish Clerk informed members that because of changes imposed by Central Government in the way precepts were calculated, Durham County Council had advised that it would be necessary to increase the Thornley Parish Council precept for 2013/14 by 6.75% in order to standstill.

The budget for 2012/13 was £129,534

Members were concerned that a 6.75% increase would not take into account any inflation amount (currently 2%) and therefore this would be a backward step.

***Resolved: That the Parish Council increase its precept for 2013/14 by 7.75% to £139,573 and that Durham County Council be advised accordingly.***

**155. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2012/0357)**

Durham County Council advised that Mr. G Miller had applied for planning permission to construct a four bedroomed two storey detached house at the rear of Glenside, The Villas, Thornley, Dh6 3EP

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

**156. Planning Application REF: PL/5/2012/0358**

Durham county Council advised that Mr G Miller had applied for change of use of open land to private garden at the rear of Glenside Villas, Thornley, DH6 3 EP

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

**157. Planning Application REF: PL/5/2012/0389**

Durham County Council had advised that Planning Permission had been approved to allow minor alterations to Existing Medical Centre & Grounds at the Thornley Medical Practice Doctors Surgery Dunelm Road, Thornley, DH6 3HW.

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

**158. Dog Fouling Stencils**

The Parish Clerk reported that the Neighbourhood Wardens were piloting a scheme with an aim to reduce the amount of dog fouling in parks and public areas.

The intention is that when Wardens carry out enforcement patrols in parks and public areas across your parish, they would apply an educational stencil on the path at the entrances to the area they are patrolling.

The stencil would be applied with none permanent water based pint which would fade away between 4 to 8 days depending on weather conditions and footfall across the area.

Members were asked if they would allow the stencils being applied to the entrances to their parks and public areas.

***Resolved: That permission be granted to apply the stencils on public open space in the ownership of Thornley Parish Council.***

**159. CPR Training**

The North East Ambulance advised that are able to offer free training in life saving techniques and awareness of the importance of CPR within community groups.

They were also installing a defibrillator in local communities where there is an identified need and access to one is more than 5 minutes away.

Kits would be provided and training given to members of the community that express an interest in becoming volunteer community first responders to answer emergency calls within their local communities whilst ambulances are en route.

Defibrillators would be installed in any areas that were indicated via statistics. The general public have access to these machines once directed by the 999 operator. Units were usually installed inside a locked box mounted in an area public can easily access,(post office wall etc.) Once the operator receives a 999 call they give the caller a code to open box and a defibrillator can be accessed, these defibs are automatic so are able to be used by any individual with no prior training. Training to any members of the community that wish to undertake would be available however.

These schemes had proven successful across many other areas and the North East Ambulance service was looking to introduce the scheme across localities within Durham and Darlington.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and that posters advertising the service to residents be placed in council notice boards.***

**160. Request for Donation (REF: 6737)**

Harbour, formally Peterlee Women's Refuge, requested a donation to provide help and support for persons who use the Centre to avoid violence at home.

Members were asked to recall that a donation of £50.00 was made at the Parish Council meeting held on 1st November 2011.<sup>13</sup>

***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.***

**161. Request for Donation (REF: 6742)**

Durham County Council School Benevolent Fund has requested a donation to assist children of families in need of shoes and clothing.

Members will recall that a similar request was made in July 2012 but no donation was made.

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

**162. Request to Re-purchase Graves**

Mrs. Nicholson 22, Quetlaw Road, Wheatley Hill, Co. Durham DH6 3SB requested that the Parish Council repurchase the Exclusive Rights to graves D1-38 & D1-40 purchased by her on 1st February 2004 at a cost of £20.00 each.

As the Parish Council had not received requests of this nature in the past it had no policy on this issue.

To assist members in their deliberation the Parish Clerk reported that other councils that re-purchase graves did so at 50% of the original cost.

***Resolved: That the Exclusive Rights for graves be repurchased at 50% of their purchase price and this be noted in the next revision of the Cemetery Regulations..***

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<sup>13</sup> Minute 137 refers.

**163. 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 makes arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.***

**164. 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.*

**165. Christmas Tree**

The Parish Clerk reported that during the Christmas period the tree erected at a cost of £350 on the village green had been the focus of repeated vandalism and that over 100 bulbs had had to be replaced.

Members were asked to recall that this situation had occurred many time before in recent years.

Before purchasing replacement items the Parish Clerk sought the views of members.

***Resolved: That until such time as the new Resource Centre was completed and Christmas tree could be located within close proximity (to provide a degree of security) no Christmas tree be erected during the festive seasons.***

**166. Request for Donation**

The Parish Clerk reported that he had received a verbal request from the New Thornley Partnership to be permitted to hire/utilise Youll House in order to provide a range of functions for residents. In order to do so it requested donation a from the Parish Council to purchase various items of equipment.

***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.***

**167. Internal Auditors Report of Accounts 1st April 2012 to 30th September 2012**

The Parish Clerk reported that the Internal Audit of accounts from 1st April 2012 to 30th September 2012 had been completed by W.J. Smith.

The accounts were in order.

A copy of the report was made available for members.

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

**168. Society of Local Council Clerks Practitioners Conference**

The Parish Clerk informed members that the conference was to be held at the Radisson Blu Hotel, East Midlands Airport on 1st & 2nd March 2013.

He went on to explain that the Chairman and Parish Clerk had last attended in 2010 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.

It had not been possible to attend the 2011 event because of other commitments.

***Resolved: That the Chair & Parish Clerk be authorised to attend.***

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PURPOSES**

**THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
5TH MARCH 2013**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth, (Chair), Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. P. English, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. J. Middleton, M. Quinn, T. Unsworth,.**

**APOLOGIES**

<b><u>Councillor</u></b>	<b><u>Reason for Absence</u></b>	<b><u>Resolved</u></b>
G. Wilson	Illness	Approved

**PUBLIC**

**1 member of the public was present.**

**169. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th January 2013 were accepted as a true record.

**170. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed the Community Support Officers to the meeting who reported that in the period 6th January 2012 to 5th March 2013 a total of 69 incidents had been reported in Thornley including:-

Criminal Damage	1
Anti-Social Behaviour	13
Theft from Motor Vehicles	1

All crime in Thornley was down 18% and anti-social behaviour was down 12% over the last 12 months.

PACT priority was speeding on the B1279 where speed cameras had been placed. Five motorists had been issued warnings.

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

**171. Street Wardens Report**

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

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

**172. Unitary County Councillor**

Councillor Nicholls reported that a spending review had been undertaken and that £93 million had been saved. As a result there would be no increase in County Council Tax 2013/14.

The Thornley Community Centre had now been closed and arrangements were underway to empty the premises.



In relation to the County Durham Plan consultation process notices were to be posted seeking small areas of land on which affordable housing could be developed.

The owners of the Gore Hall Farm had been given a final warning to clear the land of all detritus by mid-March otherwise legal enforcement measures would be pursued.

Councillor Nichols provided members with copies of a Welfare Reform information booklet and indicated that because of the far reaching implications on vulnerable families on the County Council was to set up an advice line for residents.

The County Council were also investigating the need for a "Bag-It, Bin It and Dog Tagging program"

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

**173. Travellers**

Meetings were taking place every 10 days between all agencies to identify land suitable for use by the traveller community and arrangements were being made to block off a grassed area adjacent to Coopers Close allotments to prevent travellers occupying the area.

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

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

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

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

**175. CDALC Medium & Small Councils Forum**

Councillor Mrs. P. English reported that she had attended the forum meeting held on 14th February 2013 and explained that good progress was being made by the Local Council's Working Group. No specific topics relating to Thornley had been discussed. She went on to give a comprehensive report on the seemingly complicated structure of the forum meetings and the various groups that reported to it..

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

**176. County Durham Association of Local Councils**

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

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

**177. New Thornley**

Councillor T. Unsworth reported that meetings were being held on a monthly basis with officers of Durham County Council in relation to the development of the new Resource Centre for Thornley.

The Annual General Meeting was to be held on 19th March 2013 in Youll House Thornley commencing 6:45pm.

As the Youll House (Age Concern) Management Committee were in the process of disbanding and were distributing their cash balances to "Charitable Organisations" a letter had been forwarded seeking a contribution toward operating cost for the new Thornley Resource Centre.

The Chair welcomed Sheila Pearce (Durham County Council) to the meeting who presented to the Parish Council members a number of options for a new Legal Structure for the New Thornley Partnership under which they could manage the new Resource Centre in conjunction with the Parish Council.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and that a Facilities Sub-Committee meeting be convened to consider the Management Structure in more detail.***

**178. Thornley Residents Group**

Councillor Mrs. M. Brunskill reported that the group had met the criteria and had been awarded a grant of £300 to be used on various activities arranged by them for residents.

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

**179. Public Question and Answer Session**

Mr. F. Bromilow the former Chair of the Thornley Heritage Group (now disbanded) reminded members that some years ago they had made a donation to the group in order that they could obtain and preserve the stained glass windows and other items from St. Bartholomew's Church which was being demolished at that time. He reported that these items had subsequently been stored in Thornley Community Centre. Because of the recent closure of the Community Centre by Durham County Council he asked if the Parish Council could seek an assurance from Durham County Council that the items would be transferred into the care of Thornley Parish Council if it was subsequently decided that the Community Centre should be demolished.

***Resolved: That an assurance be sought from Durham County Council that the stained glass windows etc. stored in Thornley Community Centre be transferred into the care of Thornley Parish Council.***

**180. Credit Union**

Stephen Murray from the Prince Bishop Community Bank give a short presentation on Credit Unions and how they may be able to assist residents of Thornley.

He requested the support of the Parish Council and to set up a collection point in the village.

***Resolved: That the Prince Bishop Community Bank initiative to set up a Credit Union in Thornley be supported and that arrangements be made to hire Youll House as and when required.***

**181. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2012/0458)**

Durham County Council advised that it has applied for planning permission to build a Community Centre, relocation of 2 container storage units & a portal frame storage unit in addition to a Multi-use Games Area on land to the south of B1279 High Street, Thornley.

***Resolved: That No Objection be raised.***

**182. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2013/0042)**

Durham County Council has advised that Mr A Nichols has applied for planning permission to fell 2 trees and crown thin 2 others at Glenside, The Villas, Thornley.

**183. Transfer of Capital Reserves**

Durham County Council requested that the Parish Council transfers £30,000 from its various Capital Reserve accounts to fund the construction of a new Resource Centre in Thornley.

***Resolved: That £30,000 be transferred to Durham County Council at the appropriate time.***

**184. Request for Donation**

Wheatley Hill History Club requested a donation to off-set room hire charges and speaker fees over the next twelve months.

They currently have 4 meetings per annum held in the Methodist Church Hall @ £20 per event and speaker fees of £20 on average.

***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.***

**185. Section 106 Funding**

Durham County Council advised that they had submitted an application to access £6,000 from Section 106 funding (dedicated for Thornley) for the construction of a new Resource Centre in the village.

The Parish Clerk, after consultation with the Chair of the Parish Council had advised Durham County Council that the Parish Council would offer no objection to the application.

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

**186. Parish Precept 2013/14**

The Parish Clerk advised members that after following advice provided by Durham County Council regarding the amount required for a standstill budget (6.5%) members resolved to increase the budget for 2013/14 by an additional 1% to cover part of an anticipated 2% rise in inflation<sup>14</sup> and Durham County Council was advised accordingly.

The Parish Council was subsequently advised that because of the manner in which Durham County Council calculated the Community Charges a 7.5% increase in budget would in fact increase Band D properties by 16.99% or £205.86 per annum.

After consultation with the Chair of the Parish Council and members it was subsequently determined that the **Parish Precept** (not the Budget) should be amended to reflect a 9.75% increase.

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<sup>14</sup> Meeting held on 8/01/2013 minute 154 refers.

In doing so Durham County Council had recalculated the effect and advised that this would result in Band D properties in Thornley paying £193.12 per annum an increase of £17.16 from 2012/13.

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

**187. Planning Approval (Ref: PL/5/2012/0358)**

Durham County Council advised that planning approval had been granted to Mr G Miller for change of use open land to private garden at rear of Glenside Villas, The Villas, Thornley DH6 3EP.

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

**188. Planning Approval (PL/5/2012/0458)**

Durham County Council advised that the County Council had been granted planning permission to build new Community Centre, Relocation of 2 Container Storage Units & Portal Frame Storage Unit in Addition to Multi Use Games Area on Land to the South of B1279 High Street Thornley

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

**189. Letter of Thanks (RE: 6768)**

A letter of thanks was received from the Great North Air Ambulance in respect of the Parish Council recent donation.

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

**190. Letter of Thanks (REF: 6773)**

A letter of thanks was received from Harbour in respect of the Parish Council's recent donation.

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

**191. 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 makes arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.***

**192. 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.*

**193. Resource Centre - Land Ownership Former Pit Wheel Site**

The Parish Clerk reported that Sport England had submitted an objection to the Planning application to construct a new Resource Centre on the former Thornley Pit Site in Thornley. The objection would be withdrawn if Thornley Parish Council would resolve not to develop an adjacent green space area<sup>15</sup> in future years.

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<sup>15</sup> Shown on a plan distributed to members at the meeting.

The Parish Clerk went on to explain that because of the timescales involved it had not been determined if the land in question was in fact in Parish Council ownership. Durham County Council were currently undertaking a land search via the Durham Land Registry to clarify the situation.

To ensure that the start of construction on the new centre was not delayed, members were asked to resolve that if it transpired that the land was in Parish ownership they would not develop it other than for the pursuit of sport and/or recreational activities.

***Resolved: That if the land in question was proven to be in their ownership, the Parish Council would not develop it other than for the pursuit of sport and/or Recreational activities.***

**194. Heritage Lottery Fund – Parks for People**

The Parish Clerk reported that in conjunction with the Chair of the Parish Council and accordance with the Parish Council desire to improve the Thornley Cemetery, an outline application totalling approximately £200,000.00 had been submitted to the Heritage Lottery under the “Parks for People” program.

To be eligible for funding applicants must demonstrate that their project involves local interest organisations as partners and that it is work related to the local heritage.

The Heritage Lottery had confirmed that the council’s initial application had merit and had advised the council to submit a full application for consideration.

***Resolved: That a full application be developed and submitted for consideration by the Heritage Lottery.***

**THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
FACILITIES SUB-COMMITTEE  
YOULL HOUSE  
THORNLEY  
ON  
15TH MARCH 2013**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth, (Chair), Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. P. English, Mrs. I. Hind, M. Quinn,**

**APOLOGIEST. Unsworth, G. Wilson.**

**195. Resource Centre - Management Structure**

The Chair explained that on completion Durham County Council was to lease the new Resource Centre to Thornley Parish Council the details of which were still under consideration.

In turn Thornley Parish Council would then enter into an agreement with the New Thornley Partnership to manage the centre on their behalf.

To facilitate this it would be necessary for the New Thornley Partnership to have in place a robust management structure that would enable them to operate effectively and also to draw-down funding from outside organisations. After being welcomed by the Chair, Sheila Pearce (A.A.P.) outlined various types of structure that the New Thornley Partnership could adopt and stated that it was essential that a business plan be produced.

Members considered it essential that the Parish Council leads the process forward in the initial stages and to this end it should convene a "Management Group" consisting of Parish Councillors, members of the New Thornley Partnership and volunteers from the community.

It was considered appropriate that a public "Visionary Day" then be organised in order that residents be given an opportunity to input their ideas and to become more closely associated with and offer support.

Sheila Pearce pointed out that the management committee should endeavour to have in place sufficient funding to operate the centre for the first 12 months if at all possible. Obtaining this finance would be part of the business plan. She agreed to allocate one of her staff to assist the management group to develop an appropriate business plan.

***Resolved: That the Parish Council convenes a Management Group the purpose of which would be to aid the New Thornley Partnership to develop an appropriate business plan for the management of the Resource Centre on behalf of Thornley Parish Council.***

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