

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE,
THORNLEY
3RD JULY 2018**

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Ms. J. Grant, Mrs. A. Kelly, Mrs. P. Maddison, D. Smith.

APOLOGIES

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Mrs. P. English</i>	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>T. Unsworth</i>	<i>Other Business</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>G. Wilson</i>	<i>Illness</i>	<i>Approved</i>

PUBLIC

No members of the public was present.

Meeting Commenced 7:00pm

26. Draft Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st May 2018 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

27. Draft Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting.

The draft minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 22nd May 2018 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

28. Police Report

As no Police were present a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted

29. Unitary County Councillor

County Councillor Ms. J. Grant presented a comprehensive verbal report on the difficulties being faced by D.C.C. in trying to meet Governments financial targets for 2019/20 and beyond whilst maintaining essential public services. Feedback was also provided on issues that had been raised by residents in relation to public health and also the removal of a number of horses which were roaming free around the village and considered to pose a danger to motorists.

Resolved: That the report be received.

30. Public Question and Answer Session

The Parish Clerk reported that a resident, who could not be present, had observed individuals surveying the land to the North West side and to the rear of Dunelm Road, Thornley and was concerned that this was in advance of a planning application. She had requested that the Parish Council object on the grounds that it would be in contravention of the Durham Plan.

Durham County Council (D.C.C.) had been asked if it had received a planning application or had any knowledge of a development proposal in that location. They confirmed that residents had been advised about a housing development on land to the South East side and to the rear of Dunelm Road, Thornley i.e. the opposite side of the road but no application had been received regarding development on nearby land.

Resolved: That in the absence of a detailed planning application being provided by Durham County Council the Parish Council was unable consider the issue or make a determination.

31. Matters Arising - Progress Report of the Parish Clerk & Councillors

The Parish Clerk reported that those members who were able, carried out the annual inspection of allotments on 11th June 2018.

Resolved: That the tenant of A11 & A12 be sent a written warning about the condition of the allotment and that the Council reconvene at a later date to gain entry to B3 to determine if the standard had been improved in accordance with previous warnings.

32. WW1 Centenary Update

Members viewed a documentary film produced by Lonely Tower Media of the unveiling ceremony of the John Scott Youll VC plaque.

Resolved: That the film be put into the public domain for all to view.

33. PIT Project

Members considered methods that could be employed to deliver the project.

Resolved: That the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson convene an inaugural meeting of the partner organisations to progress the initiative.

34. Thornley Documentary

Members gave consideration to producing a film documenting all aspects of the Parish Council's operation over a 12 month period as part of the PIT (Pride in Thornley) Project.

Resolved: That a documentary film be produced as part of the Pride in Thornley Project and as an historical record of the operation of Thornley Parish Council in the 21 Century.

35. Welfare Park Insurance Claim

The Parish Clerk outlined the requirements of the football teams using the Welfare Park as their "home" pitch, the operational difficulties and long term sustainability in view of the financial settlement offered by the Council's Insurers.

Members expressed concern that refurbishing the changing rooms and showers before first replacing the boundary fence would be futile as it would leave the facility open to further attack.

The Parish Clerk reported that cost of replacing the boundary fence was estimated to be £40,000.

It was suggested that in addition to the Parish Council, the football teams and other agencies be asked if they could inject any match funding before applications were made to outside agencies for the funding balance.

Resolved: That (1) the settlement figure offered by the Council's Insurers for the refurbishment of the Welfare Park facility be accepted on the understanding that the repairs would not proceed until the boundary fence was replaced (2) quotations be obtained for the replacement of the boundary fence.

36. Report of the Facilities & Community Officer

The report of the Facilities & Community officer was tabled for consideration.

Resolved: That the report be accepted.

37. Request for Donation (REF: 8854)

Alice House Hospice requested a donation to fund their "On Call Service" in 2018/19.

Members were asked to recall that a donation of £50 was awarded in May 2017. 196 50 4/5/2017²

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

38. Request for Donation (REF: 8946)

The Scared Heart & English Martyrs Church, Thornley requested a donation to aid them in providing Security Lighting, CCTV, Anti-Vandal paint or signage following the theft of lead from the roof.

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

39. Horses on Parish Land

Members considered the inherent difficulties encountered when horse owners grazed or tethered their animals on Parish land without permission and in contravention of a Court Order previously obtained by Durham County Council. It was pointed out that whilst permission had been granted to owners who had provided evidence that they had insurance indemnifying the Parish Council against claims for injury and damages, the practice only encouraged other owners to take advantage of the situation and do so without permission, thus making it extremely difficult, if not impossible to police.

Resolved: That grazing rights currently in operation or in the possession of horse owners be revoked and that in future appropriate action be taken to remove any horse found to be grazing or tethered on Parish land.

² Meeting held on 4th May 2017 minute 196 refers

40. Cemetery Wall.

Councillor Smith observed that the decorative fence erected on the wall at the front of the Cemetery had been removed during refurbishment and on behalf of (some) residents, enquired if it was to be replaced.

The Parish Clerk reported that whilst he had no record of when the fence had been erected it could have had been in place for 80 years or more and despite the best efforts of staff over the intervening years its condition had deteriorated to such an extent that it had had to be removed.

Councillor Smith also expressed concern that the "pointing" on particular sections of wall was, in his opinion, sub-standard and that it may have been undertaken by unqualified personnel employed by the Contractor.

Whilst noting Councillor Smith's comments, members observed that the quality of the workmanship was a subjective issue and that it would be difficult to prove or disprove without going to the additional expense of employing a qualified surveyor.

Resolved: That the question of replacing the decorative fence be considered at a subsequent meeting of the Council and that members make their own arrangements to inspect the workmanship of the cemetery wall and if they considered it necessary to do so, refer it back to Council in order that a decision could be made on whether remedial action should be taken.

Action: Parish Councilors

41. Acquisition of Land from Durham County Council.

Members considered the desirability of acquiring the open space land and shrub beds adjacent to Youll House and those on the village green in order to improve their appearance and environmental impact

Resolved: That Durham County Council be transfer the land to the Parish Council.

Action: The Parish Clerk

42. Training and Development

The Chairperson gave a verbal report on her attendance at the S.L.C.C. Leadership in Action Conference.

The Parish Clerk reported that the N.A.L.C.(National Association Local Council's) Annual Conference was to take place on 30th & 31st October 2018 in Milton Keynes. Councillor's wishing to attend should advise the Parish Clerk as soon as possible in order to take advantage of the "early bird" savings on offer³.

In addition details of a number of training courses for Councillors arranged by the County Durham & Cleveland Training Partnership were tabled for discussion. Members wishing to attend were asked to advise the Parish Clerk.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

43. Risk Assessments

The Parish Clerk reported that no changes or additional Risk Assessments were required.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

44. Delegates Report on East Durham Association of Parish & Town Council's

As Councillors were unable to attend a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted

45. Delegates Report on CDALC Medium & Small Councils Forum

The Chairperson reported that in the absence of other Councillors she had attended along with the Parish Clerk.

The meeting focused on the General Data Protection Regulations and other current issues facing local authorities.

Resolved: That the report be received.

46. RoSPA Annual Playground Inspection.

The annual inspection report of RoSPA on play equipment was tabled for consideration⁴. In all cases the faults identified were very low, low or medium risk items.

The Parish Clerk reported that Items requiring attention would be addressed as indicated in the report.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and actioned as required.

³ Copy of the program was made available for members.

⁴ Copy of the report is available for members.

47. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports

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

Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk settles any outstanding accounts.

48. 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), to consider any item the Chair considers urgent, following consultation with the Proper Officer.

49. Transfer of Assets

Members pointed out Durham County Council were in the process of transferring a number of facilities to various Community Associations and Parish Council's as part of a Transfer of Assets Initiative.

It was suggested that they be approached to ascertain if Thornley Parish Council could be accorded the same consideration in respect of the Village Centre.

Resolved: That Durham County Council be asked to consider transferring the freehold of Thornley Village Centre to Thornley Parish Council.

Action: The Parish Clerk

50. Planning Application (DM/18/01999/FPA)

Durham County Council advised that Mr. A. McTighe had submitted a planning application to construct a two-storey rear extension at 14, Cottingham Grove Thornley, Durham, DH6 3EJ

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

51. Planning Applications (DM/18/00686/FPA)

Durham County Council advised that H.H.H Planning Services Ltd had submitted a planning application to construct a 3 bedroom bungalow & garage on land adjacent to the east of Dalton House, Elliot Street, Thornley, DH6 3AP

Resolved: That Members objected on the grounds that the original application was for a house and that the bungalow had already been build.

52. Planning Applications (DM/18/01250/TPO)

Durham County Council advised that Mr. Tom Hedley had submitted a planning application to reduce the crown of 1No Ash tree at 18 Ashwood Grange, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3ET

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

53. Planning Permission (DM/18/00684/FPA)

Durham County Council advised that permission had been granted to Mr. Thomas Pounder to construct a garage and porch to the gable and front of 23, East Lea, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3EA with a drive & car crossing for access. Extension to the rear had been deemed to be permitted development.

Resolved: That the information be noted

54. Planning Permission (DM/18/00458/FPA)

Durham County Council advised that permission had been granted to Mr. Mr. & Mrs. Mark Farren to construct a two storey and single storey extension to the rear and a single storey and pitched roof above the existing two storey side extension at 38, Dunelm Road, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3HW.

Resolved: That the information be noted

55. Planning Permission (DM/18/00983/FPA)

Durham County Council advised that permission had been granted to Mr. Chris Stevenson to erect a two storey extension to the rear and a single storey side extension and canopy to the front at Dalton House Percy Street West, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3AP.

Resolved: That the information be noted

56. Planning Applications Refused (DM/18/00441/TPO)

Durham County Council advised that the planning application submitted by Mr Tom Hedley to pollard 1 No Ash tree at 18 Ashwood Grange, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3ET had been refused.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

57. Planning Applications Refused (DM/18/00482/TPO)

Durham County Council advised that the planning application submitted by Mr. Lewis Miller to fell & removal of 1 No Ash tree & removal of dead wood from 2 No Sycamore Trees (Amended) at The Rookery, Ashwood Grange, Thornley had been refused.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

Meeting Terminated: 8:45pm