

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE,
THORNLEY
4TH SEPTEMBER 2018**

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. P. English, Ms. J. Grant, Mrs. A. Kelly, Mrs. P. Maddison, M. McCoy, T. Unsworth, G. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

No Apologies were received.

ABSENT

Councillors D. Smith, P. Nuttall.

PUBLIC

No members of the public was present.

Meeting Commenced 7:00pm

60. Draft Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd July 2018 were tabled. Councillors' Mrs. P. English and M. McCoy requested that their presence at the meeting be recorded. Having noted the change in the minutes they were approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

61. Draft Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting.

The draft minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 31st July 2018 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

62. Police Report

As no Police were present a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted

63. Unitary County Councillor

County Councillor Jude Grant's reported that the County Council was in recess due to the holiday period.. Normal activity would be resumed in the coming months.

Requests made to her for path repairs had been passed to the appropriate officers and these would be incorporated into the work schedule.

The outcomes of an "A.S.B.O. project undertaken by D.C.C. had been positive. The issue of "stray" horses was to be discussed at a meeting at Bishop Auckland in the near future.

Resolved: That the report be received.

64. Public Question and Answer Session

There were no questions raised.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

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

The Parish Clerk provided information on:-

- John Scott Youll Documentary – available on the Parish Website
- “A Year in the Life of the Parish Council” (Refer to Minute 81 below)
- Storage Containers – these had been delivered and located at the rear of the Village Centre.
- Welfare Park Update – The refurbishment of the changing facility was on hold at present pending submission of funding applications for the replacement of the perimeter fence.

66. Risk Assessments

The Parish Clerk reported that no alterations or amendments were required.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

67. Allotment Inspections

Members considered that before making a decision on the findings of the allotment inspection undertaken on 11th June 2018¹ more in-depth discussion was required.

Resolved: That the item be deferred for discussion at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council.

68. Youll House Demolition

The Parish Clerk informed members that in accordance with previous decisions of the Parish Council², all associated works were now complete and demolition could proceed.

It would however be necessary to obtain an up-to-date quotation as the original quotation totaling of £8,500, had been received some years ago would no longer be valid.

Resolved: That up-to-date quotations be obtained.

Action: The Parish Clerk

69. Cemetery Fence

The Parish Clerk reported that one or two Councillors had been approached by a small number of residents questioning the removal of the wrought iron decorative fence atop the wall at Thornley Cemetery and suggested that it be replaced.

¹ Meeting held 3rd July minute 31 refers.

² Meetings held on 27/8/2015 minute 65, 13/11/15 minute 121, 3/5/2016 minute 8 & 28/4/2016 minute 183 refers.

Members were informed that the original fence had been installed, possibly as long ago as 1934 and whilst it had been painted in recent years it was, to a large extent in a deplorable condition. Because of health and safety concerns it had been found necessary to remove the fencing when the wall was repaired. The estimated cost of replacement, based on domestic quality fencing, not commercial quality which may be substantially more expensive, was approximately £5,000 excluding erection fees³.

Resolved: That no action be taken to replace the fence.

70. Model Standing Orders 2018

The latest “generic“ version of Standing Orders for Council 2018, developed by the National Association of Local Council’s for use by the Parish Council⁴ was considered.

Resolved: That the Standing Orders be tailored for use by Thornley Parish Council and adopted.

Action: The Parish Clerk.

71. Planning Application (DM/18/02068/FPA)

Durham County Council advised that Mr & Mrs David Hamblin had applied for permission to construct a single storey extension to the front of 69, Dunelm Road, Thornley DH6 3HW.

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

72. Planning Application (DM/18/02409/FPA)

Durham County Council advised that Mr Alan Murray & Miss Shirley Vest had applied for permission to construct a first storey bedroom over existing attached double garage at 17 Crossways Court, Thornley, Durham DH6 3GZ

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

73. Planning Application (DM/18/02139/FPA)

At the request of the Chair this item was postponed and considered at the end of the meeting.

74. Planning Permission (DM/18/00686/FPA)

Durham County Council advised that H.H.H Planning Services Ltd had been granted permission to retain a 3 bedroom bungalow & garage at Land Adjacent to the east of Dalton House, Elliot Street, Thornley DH6 3AP

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

³ Meeting held on 3rd July 2018 Minute 40 refers

⁴ Copy provided to each member in advance of the meeting

75. Planning Permission (DM/18/01999/FPA)

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

Resolved: That no objection be raised.

76. Report of the Facilities & Community Officer

The report and accompanying photographs etc., was considered.⁵

Resolved: That the report be received.

77. Training and Development

The Chair explained that training was available through N.A.L.C. for any Councillor wishing to improve their knowledge or skills base along with the opportunity to attend Annual Conference.

Resolved: That the information be noted

78. Annual Audit of Accounts Ending 31st March 2017 (Ref: 8523)

The Parish Clerk reported that Mazaar's LLP had completed the external audit of the parish council's accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2018. Whilst some minor amendments were required on the Annual Return relating to the amount of Fixed Assets in the Council's ownership, the accounts were in order and the Annual Report certified accordingly.⁶

The Auditor had pointed out a minor error made by the Internal Auditor and offered suggestions to improve matters.

It was proposed that the Parish Clerk be recognised for his effective management of the accounts and that a vote of thanks be recorded in the minutes.

Resolved: That (1) the information be received and arrangements be made for residents to view the Notice of Conclusion of Audit and (2) that a vote of thanks be recorded in the minutes for the efforts of the Parish Clerk for his effective management of the Parish Council's accounts.

79. Letter of Thanks

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

Resolved: That the letter be received

80. 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.

⁵ Copy made available to members.

⁶

Copy of the Auditors recommendations and report was made available to Members

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

81. “A Year in the Life of the Parish Council” - Summer

Members were provided with the draft Press Release and “Summer”, first film in the series was screened.

Resolved: That Press Release be approved and arrangements be made for the film to be made available to the public.

82. Planning Application (DM/18/02139/FPA)

Councillor’s Mrs. J. Unsworth and T. Unsworth declared an interest in this item, left the meeting and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.

The Vice Chairperson Councillor Ms. J. Grant took the Chair.

Durham County Council advised that Mrs Kathleen Bell had applied change of use of ground floor sui-generis (betting office) to A3 (cafe) at Wesley Villa 4 The Villas, Thornley, Durham DH6 3EU

Members questioned the ownership of the proposed parking area at the rear of the premises and expressed concern that the change of use may create additional parking problems for residents in the area.

Resolved: That no objection be raised but the concerns of the Parish Council relating to land ownership and parking be brought to the attention of the Planning Officer.

83. 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.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Thornley Village Centre, High Street, Thornley on 6th November 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Terminated: 8:26pm