

**THE MEETING OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
AT
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE,
THORNLEY
12TH JANUARY 2021**

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the latest guidance provided by Central Government in the light of the Covid 19 lockdown and the issues relating to the new strain of the virus and the previous decision of the Parish Council.⁶

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chairperson), Ms. J. Grant, Mrs. A. Kelly, Mrs. P. Maddison, David Smith, T. Unsworth.

APOLOGIES

Councillor	Reason for Absence	Resolved
E. Ismail	Other commitments	Approved
M. McCoy	Illness	Approved

PUBLIC

➤ No members of the public were present

COMMENCING 7:00 p.m.

83. Draft Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

Councillor Mrs. Maddison referred to minute 70 and highlighted that Councillor Smith left the meeting at 8:15pm not 9:15pm as stated. Having noted this error the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd November 2020 were tabled approved and signed by the Chairperson as an accurate record.

84. Police Report

C.P.S.O. Sarah Kinghorn reported that there had been a total of incidents 50 *In Thornley. Crime was down– 20% and Anti-Social Behaviour was down 7%*

ASB

- East View – off road bikes
- Pizza Villas – drunken males causing issues

Criminal Damage

- Church View – Damage caused to bus shelter
- Hartlepool Street – damage to bathroom window by known male

Burglary – 0

Vehicle Crime

- Shinwell Cres – window smashed by unknown person

⁶ See minutes of the previous meeting.

Theft

- *Jacks Store – Two males break in during night, remove cigarettes and scratch cards. Both males located a short distance away and arrested*

Resolved: That the report be received.

85. Unitary County Councillor

Councillor Grant reported that whilst the ongoing Covid pandemic was disrupting the normal operation of the County Council every effort was being made to maintain a quality service delivery.

Resolved: That the report be received

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

- Youll House - Awaiting Planning Guidance to enable funds from Councillor Jude Grant's D.C.C. Neighbourhood Budget to be released prior to the commencement of works.

Resolved: Report be noted

87. Double Taxation and County Durham (Report previously Circulated)

Resolved: That the Parish Council supports the motion of Great Aycliffe Town Council.

88. Co-option of Parish Councillor

Durham County Council advised that as no election had been called the Parish Council could fill the vacancy by co-option. However this was not necessary as it was under 6 months until the formal election of all Councillors takes place.

Councillor Smith suggested that if the formal elections were postponed due to the ongoing Covid pandemic the Council should advertise the vacancy.

Resolved: Resolved: That the post of Parish Councillor be left vacant until formal elections take place in May 2021.

89. Parish Precept 2021/2022

Members expressed the view that because of the continuing Corona Pandemic and the economic impact on residents there should be no increase in the Precept.

Resolved: That the Parish Precept be adjusted in order that Band "D" properties remain at 2020 levels resulting in a precept of £156,761.89 plus LCTSS Grant of £9,254 and that Durham County Council be advised accordingly.

90. Damage caused by Quad Bikes

Concern was expressed over the escalating problem of damaged caused by quad bikes.

Resolved: That Durham County Council, Believe Housing and the Police be requested to take action to prevent this anti-social behaviour and protect the open space by limiting access by vehicles.

91. Christmas Lights on Village Green

Durham County Council had submitted a quotation amounting to approximately £13,000 to grant permission and install Christmas lights on trees on the Village Green.

Resolved: That the quotation be received and the available funding be used to enhance the Parish Council's Christmas display on Parish land instead.

92. Training & Development

Councillor Smith pointed out CDALC were to hold a (Zoom) Training event on Election Training and would be interested in attending.

Resolved: That Councillor Smith's participation be endorsed.

93. Cemetery Development – CDS Estimate

An estimate amounting to £3,675 had been received from CDS to design enhancements to the Thornley Cemetery.

Resolved: That the estimate of £3,675 provided by CDS be received and a working Party of Councillors be created to progress the initiative once it is safe to do so.

94. Planning Matters

The following Planning matters were considered by members:-

- DM/20/03150/FPA Retention of porch to front and single storey extension to side (Retrospective) Meadowfield Farm Delegated Decisions
- DM/20/02601/RM Dwelling Plot 11 Dunelm Stables
- DM/20/01887/RM Dwelling Plot 3 Dunelm Stables
- DM/20/03344/FPA Dwelling Grand View Dunelm Road

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

95. Staff Christmas Bonus

The Parish Clerk reported that it was normal practice at this time to consider the amount of Christmas bonus to be paid to Council staff.

Resolved: That following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chairperson the action of the Parish Clerk be endorsed and bonus amounts be paid in line with previous practice on a pro-rata basis.

96. Report of the Facilities & Community Officer (previously circulated)

Resolved: That the report be received

97. Letters of Thanks

- Alice House Hospice
- Great North Air Ambulance
- Durham Cathedral

Resolved: That the information be received

98. 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 settles any outstanding accounts.

99. Covid Update – Parish Operations

The Parish Clerk reported that because of the recent development of the Covid Virus and in order to safeguard Parish Council staff and members of the community, the Chair and Vice Chairperson had determined that the Village Centre be closed down and staff be furloughed until further notice.

In addition the Parish Clerk work from home where possible and ground staff be part furloughed in order that burials and snow clearance could be undertaken if required.

Resolved: To endorse the action of the Chair and Vice Chair persons.

100. 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.

101. Planning Matters

The following Planning matters were considered by members:-

- DM/20/02650/AD Former Methodist Church Display of various signage
- DM/20/02848/FPA 5 Church View Retention of Decking and Outbuilding
- DM/20/01770/FPA Ashford Grove Erection of stable block (2 no. stables and tackroom)
- DM/20/01887/RM Plot 3 Dunelm Stables Erection of dwelling (reserved matters application pursuant to (DM/17/01959/OUT).
- DM/20/02950/RM Plot 17 Dunelm Stables Erection of dwelling (reserved matters application pursuant to DM/17/01959/OUT).
- DM/20/03150/FPA Meadowfield Farm Retention of porch to front and single storey extension to side (Retrospective

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

Meeting Terminated: 8:15pm