

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE
5TH MAY 2020**

Note

Whilst many Town & Parish Councils had decided to hold virtual meetings via the internet during the lockdown brought about by the Coronavirus Pandemic, Thornley Parish Councillors voted, 4 to 3 with 3 abstentions (following an email consultation), to maintain the Council's operation by delegating powers to the Parish Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair and before taking action on major issues members would be briefed via email to obtain a consensus of opinion.

In accordance with normal procedure, members were notified of the meeting by email in advance and provided with the agenda, minutes of previous meetings and notified of delegated decisions made.

These Minutes record who was consulted on the items raised and decision made in the unusual circumstances under which the Parish Council had to operate.

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

- None

PUBLIC

- No members of the public commented.

1. Draft Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd March 2020 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chairperson as an accurate record.

2. Draft minutes of the Personnel Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2020 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chairperson as an accurate record.

3. Police Report

No police report was available.¹

Resolved: That the information be noted

4. County Councillor Report

No report was available from Councillor Grant because of the lockdown resulting from the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Resolved: That the report be received.

¹ A report was later received and emailed to members

5. **Public Question and Answer Session**

No questions were raised by members of the public

Resolved: that the information be noted

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

The Parish Clerk updated Councillors as follows:-

- The stabilisation of the Welfare Park fence remained unresolved as the firm was not able to undertake the repair because of the lockdown. It was anticipated that this would be carried out as soon a working practice returned to normal.
- It had not been possible to obtain additional quotes for the refurbishment of Youll House because of the lockdown. It was anticipated that these would be obtained when working practice returned to normal.

Resolved: That the information be noted

7. **Account Balance Sheet 2019/20**

The Balance sheet was considered.

Resolved: That the Balance Sheet be signed by the Chair and Parish Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council.

8. **Annual Governance & Accountability Return Ending 31st March 2020**

Members were informed that Mazars LLP (the Government appointed external auditor) had advised that the annual return for the 2019/20 accounts has been extended due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The Parish Clerk reported that the accounts had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234).

Members were requested to approve Section 1 and then Section 2 of the Governance & Accountability Return and to authorise the Chairperson to sign it on behalf of the Parish Council.

Members were also advised that arrangements have to be made to inform residents of their rights to inspect the accounts etc., in accordance with the statutory regulations, to commence no later than 1st September 2020.

Resolved: That Section 1 and Section 2 the Annual Governance & Accountability Return be approved and that Annual Governance & Accountability Return be it signed by the Chairperson on behalf of Thornley Parish Council.

9. **Resignation of Parish Councillor**

The Parish Clerk advised that George Wilson had tendered his resignation as a member of Thornley Parish Council with immediate effect.

Durham County Council had been notified and arrangements were being made to call an election or fill the vacancy by co-option as appropriate.

Resolved: That the information be noted

10. **Training & Development**

No training was requested by Councillors.

Resolved: That the information be noted

11. **Report of the Facilities & Community Officer**

The report was considered by members.

Resolved: That the report be received.

12. Planning Matters

Members considered all applications provided by Durham County Council.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

13. 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.

Meeting Terminated: 8:30pm