

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE
2ND NOVEMBER 2021**

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Mrs. J. Gaffney</i>	<i>Other commitments</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. G. Ismail</i>	<i>Other commitments</i>	<i>Approved</i>

PUBLIC

- *No members of the public were present*

66. Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 3rd September 2021

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd September 2021 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chairperson as an accurate record.

67. Draft Minutes of the Allotments Allocations Panel Meeting 12th October 2021

The minutes of the meeting were tabled approved and signed by the Chairperson as an accurate record.

68. Police Report

No report was available. County Councillor Miller reported that from the 1st November 2021 the police would be sending leaflets out with information on crime in the area.

Resolved: That the information be noted .

69. Unitary County Councillor

Councillor Miller reported as follows:-

- The issue of rubbish in the yard of the Hartlepool Street was now in the hands of Highways department.
- The damaged fence at Coopers Close has been removed leaving the grassed area open to damage by quad bikes and other motor vehicles Councillor Mrs. Grant suggested planting trees and bushes in order to restrict access.
- It was anticipated that a Community Safety Co-ordinator would be in post by the new year and the detached youth work would begin in Wheatley Hill before including Thornley and Wingate.
- A petition to improve public transport had been circulated.
- Durham County Council were to make a decision about the future of the new County Hall by May 2022 and a report was to be considered by the Cabinet about the D.L.I.

As no progress was being made, the Chair asked Councillor Miller to raise the issue again of the privet at Gable Terrace.

70. Public Question and Answer Session

No members of the public were present

Resolved: That the information be noted.

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

The Parish Clerk updated members on the following :-.

- Welfare Access is ongoing and in the hands of solicitors
- Youll House Gas Supply – A new gas meter was to be installed on 15th December 2021
- Youll House Lease - the Parish Clerk requested the names of those Parish Councillor's prepared to attend a meeting with the prospective Lessees. Councillors Mrs. Unsworth, D. Smith and Mrs. Grant volunteered.
- D.C.C. Land - Transfer for car parking was is progressing
- Community Defibrillator - The Chair proposed that the Parish Council submit an application to the AAP for funding a defibrillator.

Resolved: That the information be noted and an application be submitted by the Parish Council to fund the purchase and future operation of a defibrillator.

72. EDATPC Meeting 12 September 2021

The Clerk reported that Councillor Smith had attended the meeting and his report had been circulated.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

73. Review of Cemetery Fees & Charges

The Parish Clerk reported that consideration be given to revising the Cemetery Fees and Charges for 2022/23.

Resolved: That no increases be made for 2022/23

74. Review of Allotment Rents 2022/23

The Parish Clerk reported that consideration be given to revising the Allotment rents for 2022/23.

Resolved: That no increases be made for 2022/23

75. Capital Works 2021/22

The Clerk tabled a report for consideration.

Resolved: That no provision be made to increase reserves from the 2022/23 budget.

76. Wild Flower Meadow

Cllr Mrs Unsworth provided a progress report and suggested that based on the information currently available it was feasible to develop a Wild Flower Meadow on the site of the former Thornley Pit funded from the Memorial Wood Capital Reserve.

Resolved: That the Memorial Wood be created in 2022 funded from the Capital Reserves.

77. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2nd June 2022

Cllr Mrs Unsworth reported that she was in discussion with the Facilities & Community Development Officer to develop an event to mark the occasion.

Resolved: That the information be noted

78. Training & Development – Induction for new Councillors

The Clerk reported that should Councillors require training to enable them to improve the skillset these could be provided in conjunction with C.D.A.L.C

If new Councillors wanted to know more about how the Parish Council's operations (including financial matters) this could be provided in house.

Resolved: That the information be noted

79. Report of the Facilities & Community Officer

The report of the Facilities & Community Development Officer was tabled for consideration. Cllr Grant acknowledge the good work of the Village Centre in the community.

Resolved: That the report be received.

80. Request for Donations

The Great North Air Ambulance has requested a donation to help fund their service.

The Chair moved that in view of the service provided in the region a donation of £500 be 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 £500.00.

81. Planning Matters

Members considered the Planning Application provided by D.C.C.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

82. Village Centre & Depot Fire/Intruder Alarm system

The Parish Clerk tabled a number of quotations relating to proposed changes for the provision of Fire and Intruder Alarm systems that would improve and simplify operations at no additional cost.

Resolved: That with the exception of an addition CCTV camera the quotations be accepted and the Parish Clerk arrange installation as necessary.

83. Correspondence

Letter from Resident of Wingate requesting villages to create a forum to tackle anti-social behavior was tabled for discussion.

Whilst acknowledging the issues and concerns raised in the letter members express the view that other agencies were far better placed to address them.

The Council would however continue to play its part by delivering projects that may help to reduce the social impact on communities in the longer term.

Resolved: That whilst acknowledging the issues and concern raised the letter be received.

84. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports

The Finance and Budgetary Control report detailing income and expenditure since the last meeting was considered.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

85. 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. Welfare Storage

A team has requested Storage containers

Resolved: More information on options and costings.

87. Banking

The Clerk asked members to consider alternative banking arrangement.

Resolved: More information required.

88. Remembrance Sunday

Cllr Mrs Unsworth reported all are welcome to attend this years' service and requested that following the demise of the Thornley Branch of the British Legion and in the absence of any other group or individual willing to take the lead, consideration be given for the Parish Council to take responsibility for organising this event in future.

Resolved: To be put on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting.

89. Local Authorities Property Fund

The Parish Clerk referred to observations made by the internal auditor regarding the reserves held in the Council's bank accounts and suggested that consideration be given to investing these to safeguard against possible loss and generate a interest from the fund.

Resolved: That further information be obtained.

Meeting Terminated: 8.30