

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
7TH, MAY 2002**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair) Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. P. Maddison, J. Mawson, Mrs. L. Mawson, J. Ollett, Mrs. M. Ollett, Mrs. A. Robson, Mrs. J. Unsworth, J. Williams, G. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

Councillors G. Wharrier, Mrs. M. Wharrier, Mrs. A. Williams, M. Nichols (County Councillor)

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Chairman highlighted that under "Additional Urgent Items of Business" a request from Mr. M. Crake (REF: 928) to tether horses on Parish owned land at the rear of the Library had been considered and approved for a period of 12 months.

Councillor Mrs. Ollett referred to minute 111 and pointed out that Mr. Miller from Durham County Council was to inspect the situation in relation to parking restrictions ("Yellow Lines") on the main road.

Having noted these omissions, the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2002, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record.

2. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed PC Marsden & PC Smith to the meeting who in turn offered apologies for SGT. Wray who could not attend due to other duties.

They then reported as follows:-

There had been four thefts from motor vehicles in the Gore Hill Estate resulting in the loss of C.D. equipment and other items. A Ford Escort had also been stolen for the same area.

There had been 2 reports of nuisance caused by youths in the Hillside area and burglaries from homes in Church walk and School Green.

Regular checks were also being carried out in relation to problems associated with youths congregating in the vicinity of the Library.

Responding to questions regarding the appointment of "Street Wardens" the officers stated that they did not have sufficient information at this time and were therefore unable to comment.

Members asked several questions regarding what action could be taken against individuals who knowingly purchased alcohol for underage children.

The officers' responded saying that could be taken in relation to the instances described.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the report be received.

3. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that the A.G.M. had been held in February 2002 and all officers had been re-elected.

There had been a favourable response from residents to the publication of the first Newsletter. Most residents had not realised that the majority of works being undertaken in the village were carried out by the Partnership.

A visit to Eastlea Community Centre in Seaham by members of some user groups had also taken place. Observations made would be discussed with the architects in the near future.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

4. Area Forum

Councillor G. Wilson suggested that the following items should be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the area forum:-

Dog Fouling/Signs

Signposting on highways into Thornley.

Lack of public parking facilities at the Villas

Resolved: That the items be placed on the agenda and that the Parish Clerk writes to Durham County Council and the District of Easington concerning the possible construction of additional parking facilities in Thornley.

5. Tidy T.E.D.

Councillor J. Mawson reported that because of a poor attendance at the last meeting the item on Agenda 21 had been postponed.

Members raised a number of issues in relation to litter and the installation of "Dog Bins" by the district of Easington.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Clerk relocates the waste litter bin on the Village Green nearer to the War Memorial.

6. Inter Parish Sport

Councillor G. Wilson reported that there had been no meeting of the group recently and therefore there was nothing to report.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

7. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the A.G.M. was to be held on Tuesday 14th May 2002 commencing 6:00p.m.

As the current Chairman had already served the maximum term allowed (3years) another Chairman had to be elected. In the event that no new Chairman was nominated the constitution would allow the existing Chairman to continue his office.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

8. District Councillor

The Parish Clerk gave the report of Councillor G. Wharrier, who was not present at the meeting.

Northumbrian Water had advised that relining of two water mains would be undertaken in Hillside Crescent. The works would commence on or after 16th, May and 30th, May 2002 respectively.

A summary of the issues in relation to housing redevelopment was reported from the minutes of the Thornley Steering Group. This covered:-

Draft Report of G.L. Hearn

Housing Updates/Decant Surveys

Durham Aged Miners Housing Association

Three Rivers – Update

Newsletter

Criteria for Selecting a Developer for Thornlaw North

Resolved: That the information be noted.

9. County Councillor

The Parish Clerk gave the report of Councillor M. Nichols, who was not present at the meeting.

Library – a site meeting will be arranged with Patrick Conway the Director of Arts Libraries & Museums if things do not improve.

Winter Highway Maintenance – Various places within the three villages of Thornley, Wheatley hill and Deaf Hill will have little or no winter maintenance because of cutbacks. Councillor. Nichols is pursuing the matter in an attempt to prevent these measures.

Safe Routes to School – This is an on-going project and appears to be working well.

Footpaths – Councillor. Nichols has been in touch with the relevant officer at the County Council who is going to write to Mrs. Clough advising her that the works to eradicate the problems in relation to the footpath near her property are to be carried out this year.

General - number of problems will be arising in the future within the County Council regarding Community Centres and travelling to school. Reports are awaited.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

10. Members Attendance Allowance

Members were reminded that following implementation of the Model Code of Conduct, the Parish Council is not permitted to pay attendance allowance to members who attend external meetings on behalf of the Parish Council. Mileage and Subsistence Allowances can still be claimed.

This is a temporary measure pending a decision by the Easington Standards Committee on new arrangements for members.

Resolved: That the attendance of members at external meetings be recorded and that the allowance once determined by the Standards Committee be paid in retrospect.

Y:\Word\Agendas & Minutes\Archive\May02\April03\Minutes2002.docx 3

11. Trade Waste Agreement (REF: 917)

Members were asked to note that a Trade Waste Contract had been entered in to with the District of Easington for the collection of waste material from the Cemetery for the ensuing year for the sum of £94.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

12. Standards Board for England (REF946)

Confirmation had been received that the meeting with representatives of the Board arranged by the Durham Association of Parish & Town Council's would take place at Shildon Civic Hall, off Main Street, Shildon, on Wednesday 22nd May 2002 commencing at 6:30pm.

Councillors T. Unsworth and J. Williams had been authorised to attend at the meeting held on 5th, March 2002.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

13. Local Policing Plan 2002/3 (REF: 967)

A copy of the Durham Constabulary Local Policing Plan was received.

Any member wishing to view the document should contact the Parish Clerk.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

14. Cemetery Rates (REF: 969)

Durham City Council had advised that the annual non-domestic rates for the Cemetery 2002/2003 would be £290. This account would be paid by Direct Debit.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

15. Welfare Park Rates (REF: 970)

The District of Easington had advised that the non-domestic rates for the Welfare Park, for 2002/2003 would be £480. This account would be paid by Direct Debit from the Bank Account.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

16. Request for Donation (REF: 975)

The Parish Clerk reported that a request for a donation had been received from Crimestoppers and were reminded that £35 had been donated in 2001/2002.

Resolved: That £35 be donated to Crimestoppers

17. West Area Forum. (REF: 983)

The Parish Clerk reported that the next meeting of the West Area Forum was to take place at the Heritage Centre, Wheatley Hill, on 15th, May 2002.

Resolved: That Councillor G. Wilson be authorised to attend.

18. Proposed Bungalow – Cedar Court (REF: 986)

The District of Easington had advised that Planning Permission has been granted in respect of a conservatory at 5 Cedar Court, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

Y:\Word\Agendas & Minutes\Archive\May02\April03\Minutes2002.docx

19. Easington Association of Parish & Town Councils (REF: 990)

Councillor Mrs. J. Unsworth reported that she had attended the meeting held 1st May 2002 along with Councillor G. Wharrier and the Parish Clerk.

Following an exhaustive voting procedure the following Councillors were elected to serve on the District of Easington Local Strategic Partnership:-

Councillor Mrs. E. Conner - Horden
Councillor W. Horsfield – Peterlee Town Council
Councillor J. Stockdale – Wheatley Hill
Councillor Mrs. M. Lenehan – Wingate

Resolved: That the information be noted.

20. Easington Association of Parish & Town Councils (REF: 991)

The Parish Clerk reported that he and Councillor Williams had previously been authorised to attend the meeting at which elections to the Easington District Standards Committee would be held. (Meeting held 2nd, April 2002 Minute 255 refers).

Due to other commitments it had not however been possible for Councillor Williams to attend. As the Parish Clerk had no mandate to vote on behalf of the Parish Council no representative from Thornley was present.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

21. N.A.L.C. Conference (REF: 1014)

The Parish Clerk reported that the N.A.L.C. Conference is to take place at the Guild Hall Preston from 14th to 16th, June 2002.

A wide range of speakers has been arranged to cover issues that are relevant to Parish & Town Councils.

The attendance fee including dinner is £132.19 per delegate.

As the conference is covered by Section 175 of the Local Government Act 1972 Local Councils may pay the statutory allowance for those attending.

Councillor Williams stated that he would like to attend subject to the outcome of discussions with Councillors from neighbouring Parishes.

Resolved: That pending the outcome of Councillor Williams discussions he be authorised to attend and the Parish Clerk make appropriate arrangements.

22. P. Harrison - Request for Donation

The Parish Clerk reported that Inspector P. Harrison of Peterlee Police had advised that he and a number of colleagues were to compete in a 175-mile cycle ride to raise funds for a number of worthy charities that served the district. They requested a donation from the Parish Council and would give recognition of the fact via the local press.

Resolved: That £50 be donated.

23. Facilitator - Thornley Regeneration Partnership (REF: 1025)

Members were asked to recall that at the meeting of the Parish Council held on 5th February 2002 (Meeting held 5th, February 2002 Minute 160 refers) it was resolved that the services of the Parish Clerk be made available to the Partnership for a period of 3 months.

The 3-month period has now expired.

As the application for funding their own facilitator has not yet been considered, the Partnership requested that the services of the Parish Clerk be extended until an appointed is made.

Resolved: That the services of the Parish Clerk be extended to Thornley Regeneration Partnership (as previously agreed) until such time an appointment is made.

24. Gore Hill Play Area

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 Sections 94/95, Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth and Mrs. P. Maddison declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion or voting that ensued.

A request from Thornley Regeneration Partnership toward the fund for revitalizing the Gore Hill Play Area was considered.

The Parish Clerk informed members that before considering this item they should be aware that the budget for 2002/3 had been set at £2000. This amount could however be increased within limitations in accordance with current legislation. Furthermore the Parish Council had already donated £80 to other causes. (Minutes 16 & 22 of this meeting refers).

Resolved: That £2000 be donated initially and that a further donation be considered in the event that there was a shortfall.

25. Finance Report

The Parish Clerk explained that because of a change in legislation the majority of Town & Parish Council's in England would now be subject to a "Lighter Touch" annual audit.

Audit would now be undertaken by a firm appointed by Government located in Southampton through a network of local offices.

He went on to explain that the accounts for the financial year ending 31st, March 2002 had been finalised and that although notification had not yet been received preparations were underway for the Audit.

A report produced by the Parish Clerk listing all income and expenditure incurred by the Parish Council since the last meeting and the 2002- 2003 budget profile was considered.

In addition a copy of the 2002/03 Annual Budget was also explained to members.

Resolved: That the information is noted and the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

26. Resignation of Councillor J. Cairns

The Parish Clerk reported that a letter of resignation had been received from Councillor J. Cairns.

It would be necessary it advise the District of Easington of the vacancy that now existed on the Parish Council in order that arrangements could be made for an election to take place.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk advise the District of Easington as required.

27. District of Easington Parish Consultative Meeting (A.O.B.)

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the issue of “Blue” recycling bins had been discussed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

28. 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), 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.

29. Vehicle Overrun

With the permission of the Chairman a local resident informed the Parish Council that steps had been taken by Councillor Nichols to resolve the problems of vehicle overrun adjacent to her property.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

30. Unauthorised Parking

With the permission of the Chairman a local resident asked what action, if any, the Parish Council could take to prevent the unauthorised parking of vehicles near the Showmen’s compound.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk investigates the situation and report to both the resident and the Parish Council in due course.

31. Reconstruction of Damaged Wall – Peter’s Bakery

With the permission of the Chairman Councillor John Ollett reported that it had been some time since a wall in the ownership of Peter’s Bakery had been demolished and that no action had been taken to either reconstruct it or remove the debris.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk contacts the Property Manager at Peters Bakery in an attempt to have the situation addressed.

THIS PAGE LEFT PURPOSELY BLANK FOR PRINTING

PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
11TH, JUNE 2002**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

Mrs. I. Hind, J. Mawson, Mrs. L. Mawson, M. Nichols (County Councillor) J. Ollett, Mrs. M. Ollett, Mrs. A. Robson, G. Wharrier, J. Williams, Mrs. A. Williams, G. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Mrs. P. Maddison, Mrs. J. Unsworth. Mrs. M. Wharrier,

32. Minutes of A.G.M.

As Councillor Wharrier had not been able to attend the Annual General Meeting¹ he sought the Chairman's permission to highlight the fact that in his absence he had been nominated to represent the Parish Council on the Thornley Community Centre Management Committee. Regrettably he had to decline this appointment because of other commitments. As a result it would be necessary for another member to be nominated.

Resolved: That Councillor J. Williams be elected to serve on the Thornley Community Centre Management committee for the ensuing year.

33. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor J. Ollett referred to minute 30 and pointed out that in addition to the comments made regarding Peters Bakery wall, he had made observations on the issue of dropped kerbs and the need for graffiti in the village to be removed. He had stated that he would raise these matters with County Councillor Nicholls.

Having noted these omissions, the minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2002, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record.

34. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Wray to the meeting who gave a detailed report on the following:-

Instances of burglary or attempted burglary had been reported at properties in Glenside Villas, Hillside Crescent, the Doctors Surgery, Gorehill Estate, Coopers Close, Thornlaw North and Ruskin Terrace. A wide range of items had been stolen.

¹ **Councillor Wharrier's apology was recorded**

A female resident had been arrested for certain of these crimes. There had been a significant increase in the number of car related offences. Vehicles in School Green, The Villas, Coopers Close Crossways Hotel, St. Aidan's Crescent, Hillside Crescent, Bow Street and Eastlee had been targeted.

Suspects for some of these incidents had been arrested following theft from a vehicle in the Doctors Surgery.

Sergeant Wray pointed out that the majority of the crime centred on the theft of radio and C.D. equipment that was relatively easy for thieves to remove and dispose of.

He highlighted the need for all car owners to minimise the potential for theft from their vehicles by removing the front panel of the radio unit, if possible, whenever vehicles were left unattended.

Reports of nuisance caused by youths had been reported in Coopers Close, Stanley Terrace, Laurel Avenue, Morris Crescent, Eastlee, Greenwood Cottages, Percy Street, Albert Street and Church Walk.

Some of these incidents involved underage drinking.

Following concern expressed by members that on a number of occasions the police were not attending reports made by residents, Sergeant Wray pointed out that calls should be made to Peterlee Police Station (not Wheatley Hill) as the system records what action has been taken by officers. Residents should, in addition to reporting incidents ask the police, ask them to call and be informed what has been achieved.

County Councillor Nicholls pointed out that there was now a "Police Surgery" in operation at which residents have the opportunity to raise concerns.²

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Clerk obtain further details on the "Surgery" from the Police.

35. New Thornley

Councillor Wharrier reported that the Newsletter had been well received by resident.

The application for a Development Worker had been delayed as details of the funding and financial aspects had had to be clarified. The situation was ongoing but it was anticipated that a decision would be made known by the end of July 2002.

A public meeting had been arranged to take place on Wednesday 12th June 2002, to discuss the Environmental Improvements programme for the village.

Concern had been expressed over the operation of the Village Companies, how it was being lead by professional bodies rather than residents and how funding for trainees was being administered. This issue had also been raised with the District Council's Partnership Overview Committee.

² See Minute 41

It had been suggested that a meeting should be called to discuss the situation and that the Chairman and Parish Clerk of each of each Parish should be invited.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

36. Area Forum

Councillor G. Wilson reported that he had been unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

Councillor Nichols reported that he had chaired the meeting and very few people had attended. Consideration was being given to amalgamating a number of Area Forums for efficiency & effectiveness.

Resolved: that the Information be noted.

37. Tidy T.E.D.

A comprehensive report was given on the content of an "Agenda 21" slide presentation. Delegates had found it to be very informative and had requested that a copy be provided to the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

38. Inter Parish Sport

It was reported that the meeting of Inter Parish Sport was to take place on Wednesday 12th June 2002.

A report would be provided at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

39. Youll House

As there had not been a meeting of the Youll House Management Committee a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

40. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier provided a detailed verbal report on Crime & Safety and suggested that whilst certain types of crime were declining there had been a rise anti-social behaviour.

The housing initiatives were ongoing and progressing at a satisfactory pace.

Some difficulty had been encountered in arranging the closure of the Cul-de-sac in Coopers Close due to the intervention of G.O.N.E. It was envisaged that it would be 6 months before the closes came into effect.

In response to a question regarding residents who had been re-located as part of the housing programme and had not received payments from the District of Easington, Councillor Wharrier stated he would investigate and liaise directly with those affected.

With regard to questions on Elvet House, Councillor Wharrier explained that whilst the District Council had allocated £16,500 toward the project, no agreement had been reached with the owner of the adjoining property.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

Y:\Word\Agendas & Minutes\Archive\May02\April03\Minutes2002.docx 2

41. County Councillor

Councillor Nicholls reported that patrols around the Library had been increased in response to concerns over anti social behaviour by youths in the area.

A police surgery had now been put into operation in the village.³ This would give residents the opportunity to raise issues and concerns directly with the police.

There would be a change in the number of Ward Seats because of changes in the Electoral Wards.

A report on Home Care workers had met with some resistance from various quarters. This was still under discussion as no agreement had been arrived at. The matter of unadopted roads in the county was to be discussed by the various Councils'. Approximately £60 million could possibly be made available via the Coalfield's Community Campaign to fund works.

The "Carrier Bag" scheme had now been in operation for 3 months and was having some measure of success. Worker had set up an organised shelter that could be used by youths instead of them having to constructing makeshift dens. This was considered to be a positive step forward.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

42. Cemetery Footpaths

Members were asked to note that the construction of the new footpaths in the Cemetery was complete and that no problems had been encountered by the Contractor. Some minor additional works had been carried out over and above the contracted works to ensure consistency and improve the visual aspect within the cemetery.

The full cost of the works would be reported to the Parish Council when the final account had been received.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

43. Invitation to Inspect Waste Transfer Station – Thornley Station. (REF: 822)

At the meeting held on 5th March 2002, (minute 210) it was resolved that Councillors G. Wilson, J. Ollett and J. Williams be authorised to visit the transfer station.

Premier Waste Management had requested the Parish Council to indicate which date would be most convenient for them to attend.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk arranges the visit to take place in August 2002 on a date suitable to Premier Waste Management.

44. Request to Graze Horses (REF: 964)

Mr. J. Barron & Ms. L. Wigham 52, Dunelm Road, Thornley requested permission to graze horses on Parish Council owned land at the rear of the Library. (Minute 26)

³ See minute 34.

Ms. Wigham pointed out that although permission was granted in 2001, she was unable to make use of the facility because of the proximity of a stallion owned by Mr. Crake.

The Parish Clerk advised members that:-

Mr. Crake was granted permission at the April 2002 meeting of the Parish Council.

No specific reference was made in Mr. Crake's application to the tethering of a stallion on Parish land.

Mr. Crake has not provided evidence of Third Party/Public Liability insurance any cover.

Ms. Wigham's insurance policy provided to the Council last year expired on 5th June 2002.

The British Horse Society had advised that there is no specific law preventing the tethering of stallions on open space but their "Guide to the Tethering of Horses & Ponies" states:-

"Special consideration must be given to the suitability (in terms of age, condition and temperament) of the horse or pony being tethered. Horses or ponies less than two years old should not normally be tethered. Mares in season should not be tethered near stallions (and vices versa), and hoses should not be tethered together with horses that are free ranging. Mares that are highly-strung animals should not be tethered; extreme care must be taken if mares are tethered with a foal at foot.

Resolved: That Mr. Crake be requested to provide evidence of appropriate insurance cover if he wishes to continue tethering horses on Parish land;

That permission is granted to Mr. Barron & Ms. L. Wigham to tether horses on Parish land at the rear of the library subject to providing evidence of continued insurance cover.

45. Proposed Private Garage 1, Shinwell Crescent. (REF: 1016)

Mr. & Mrs. P. Young have made a Planning Application in respect of the above.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

46. Proposed Conservatory 5 Cedar Court. (REF: 1040)

Mr. & Mrs. Baldasera have made a Planning Application in respect of the above.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

47. Playground Inspection Reports

The District of Easington had provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 24th April & 21st May 2002. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts are required these had been ordered and would be fitted by the District of Easington in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

48. Annual Health & Safety Seminar (REF: 1057)

Zurich Municipal Insurance was to hold a Safety Inspection, Cemetery Safety, and Manslaughter & Accident Review Seminar at Great Aycliffe on Friday 14th June 2002, from 9:30 a.m. till 2:30 p.m.

The event is open to all Council's irrespective of whether they are members of L.C.A.S. (Local Council Advisory Service) or insured by the Zurich Group.

The attendance fee is £60 refundable against membership of L.C.A.S.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk be authorised to attend.

49. Dog Fouling Litter Bins (REF: 1070)

The District of Easington advised that the dog litterbin was available for installation within Thornley and requested the Parish Council to determine the most suitable location.

Additional dog litter bins were available at a cost of approximately £90 should more be required by the Parish Council

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk arranges the District of Easington to erect the Dog Litter Bin at the entry to the Public Right of way near the Library.

50. Maintenance of Public Open Space (REF: 1071)

Resolved: That the information be noted.

51. Use of Welfare Park & Facilities (REF: 1076)

Thornley Young People's Project requested the use of the Welfare Park facilities on Saturday 6th July 2002 from 12:00 noon until approximately 5:00 p.m. to organise a Children's Fun Day. A donation for an unspecified amount or purpose also requested.

Resolved: That permission be granted to Thornley Young People's Project to use the facilities and that the charges be waived on this occasion and the request for a donation be deferred until the Parish Clerk obtained additional information.

52. Letter of Thanks (REF: 1077)

A letter of thanks was received from Crimestoppers North East for the donation of £35 made by the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

53. Draft Cultural Strategy. (REF: 1088)

The District of Easington provided a copy of the draft strategy to the Parish Council for consultation.

Any observations Parish Councillors' wished to make would be collated by the Parish Clerk and forwarded to Mr. S. Arkley at the District Council by 30th June 2002.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

54. Proposed Bungalow & Garage. (REF: 1094)

A Planning Application in respect of the above has been made by Mr. & Mrs. J. Mangles.

Y:\Word\Agendas & Minutes\Archive\May02\April03\Minutes2002.docx

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

55. Finance Report

Casual Vacancy (Urgent Item) The report of the Parish Clerk detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

The Parish Clerk read out a letter from Councillor Brian Wilson (District of Easington) requesting that he be considered for the vacant position of Parish Councillor by means of co-option.

Members were asked to note that the Parish Council had not been advised by the District of Easington that a formal election was unnecessary. Only when such notice had been received could the Parish Council fill the vacancy by co-option. As a result it would be premature for the Parish Council to consider the application.

Resolved: That the application stand deferred until official notification was received that co-option could take place and that Parish Clerk posts a "Public Notice" advertising the vacancy.

56. Eastern Gateway (Urgent Item) (REF: 1125)

Groundwork East Durham had advised that a meeting to discuss the various landscape improvements was to be held in the Workingmen's Club on Wednesday 26th June 2002 at 7:00 p.m.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

57. Application to hold a Horse Fair (Urgent Item) (REF: 1129)

An application from Maurice Crake to organise a Horse Fair on Parish land on 24th & 25th August 2002, was considered.

The Parish Clerk highlighted some of the statutory requirements that must be complied with when organising public events of this type and of the criteria that must be adopted by Mr Crake before the Parish Council could grant permission to use its land for the event.

Because of its nature it was considered appropriate to hold a public consultation exercise to gauge the views of residents.

Resolved: That the Parish Council offer no objection subject to compliance with all statutory requirements and a Public Consultation with residents.

58. Posting of Parish Council Minutes

It was reported that copies of the Parish Council Minutes posted in the Library were being stolen from the notice board with minutes of them being displayed. It was not known who was responsible.

This was considered to be an act of anti-social behaviour as whoever was responsible was depriving other residents the opportunity to become acquainted with the Parish Council's democratic processes and procedures.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the dismay of the Parish Council be recorded.

59. 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), 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.

60. Station House

Concern was expressed over the amount of refuse around Station House. Responding, Councillor Wharrier stated that this was in the hands of the Legal Section of the District Council.

61. Hartlepool Street

Questions were raised on behalf of a resident in Hartlepool Street. Responding, Councillor Wharrier commented that this was not a matter for the Parish Council and that if the person concerned contacted him directly he would investigate.

62. Exclusion of the Press & Public

In accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 the press and public be excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 1 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

63. Personnel Report

The reports of the Parish Clerk were considered.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk acts in accordance with the instructions given.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE
ON
26TH JUNE 2002**

EXEMPT ITEMS NOT FOR PRESS OR PUBLICATION

In accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 the press and public be excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 1 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

THIS PAGE LEFT PURPOSELY BLANK FOR PRINTING

PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
2ND, JULY 2002**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. P. Maddison, J. Mawson, Mrs. L. Mawson, J. Ollett, Mrs. M. Ollett, Mrs. A. Robson, J. Robson, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, J. Williams, G. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

Councillors. Mrs. M. Wharrier, Mrs. A Williams

Councillor B. Wilson District of Easington

67. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th June 2002, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were accepted as a true record.

68. Co-option of Parish Councillor -

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 Sections 94/95, Councillor Mrs. A. Robson declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion or voting that ensued.

Members were advised that Mr. Brian Wilson's application for this position was submitted to the Parish Council on 11th June 2002.

His application had been deferred at the last meeting because the District of Easington had not at that time advised the Parish Council that a formal election was unnecessary and that the vacancy could be filled by co-option.

The Parish Clerk informed members that Mr. Wilson had been notified that his application was to be considered at the meeting and that he should arrange to attend.

Mr Wilson had offered his written apologies as he was unable to attend due to other commitments.

In addition to Mr. Wilson's application, members considered an application from Mr. J. Robson to determine which candidate should become a member of the Parish Council by means of Co-option. On a show of hands it was:-

Resolved: Mr J. Robson be co-opted to the Parish Council.

69. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Stafford to the meeting who reported the following:-

In the previous month there had been 4 reported burglaries from homes in the villages and 1 from a garden shed.

Y:\Word\Agendas & Minutes\Archive\May02\April03\Minutes2002.docx

Four cars had been stolen and there were twelve reported incidents involving youths.

An action plan was now in place to address problems around the library.

There had also been a report of damage to the Welfare Park.

That as part of a Training Course, youths 17 years of age could be nominated to attend a motor mechanics course as a way of diverting them from potential criminal activity.

Members asked a number of questions, made statements relating to the various crimes in the village and on the apparent lack of action taken by the police against perpetrators.

Councillor Wharrier reported that the issue had been raised at the District Council's Partnership Overview Committee.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the report be received.

70. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. J. Unsworth reported that there had been a meeting with User Groups and that it had been agreed that a survey be undertaken in the village to determine what type of facility residents preferred.

Resolved: That the Parish Council reaffirms its support of the Regeneration Partnership to construct a Resource Centre in Thornley.

71. Area Forum

Councillor G. Wilson reported that there had been no meeting of the Area Forum and therefore there was nothing to report.

Resolved That the information be noted.

72. Tidy T.E.D.

Councillors' J. Mawson and J. Williams reported that they had not attended the meeting and therefore could not report on this item.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

73. Inter Parish Sport

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the colour of the "T" shirts to be worn by participants from Thornley at this year's event would be sunflower yellow.

Designs for the poster advertising the event were also made available for members. These would be displayed throughout the village in advance of the event.

Unfortunately Peterlee Community College would not be able to provide a display at the event as students would be away from college.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

74. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the times of the committee meetings had now been changed. They would now take place at 3:30 p.m. following events in the centre.

The Treasurer had reported that there was £8,000 in a high interest account and £1,072 in the current account.

Y:\Word\Agendas & Minutes\Archive\May02\April03\Minutes2002.docx

To mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee, the Committee was investigating the possibility of making a presentation to all O.A.P.'s resident in the village.

The facility would be closed from 26th August 2002 for a short while to allow for the main hall floor to be refurbished.

A trip to Keswick was being arranged later in the year.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

75. District Councillor

Councillor G. Wharrier reported that foundation work was progressing on the new housing development and that the problems being encountered by individuals, reported at the last meeting, had been addressed.

There were reports that the owner of the Queen's Head was to demolish the property in the near future. Although this could not be confirmed the District of Easington had served notice on the owner stipulating what precautions, regulations etc should be adhered to.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

76. County Councillor

The Parish Clerk reported that due to an error Councillor Nichols had been notified of the wrong date for the meeting and therefore he could not attend. As a result no report was available.

A letter of apology had been sent to Councillor Nichols.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

77. Gore Hill Play Area

Members were reminded that the Parish Council was responsible for the repair and maintenance of the Gore Hill play area.

Thornley Regeneration Partnership (of which the council is a member) had for some time been fundraising to improve the standard and variety of the equipment available to children. Sufficient funds had now been raised and to ensure that the maximum benefit could be derived from the available resources had requested that the Parish Council place the order for the equipment. This would allow additional equipment to be provided for the same total price (or for the total cost of the project to be reduced) because the V.A.T. element could legitimately be reclaimed.

If the Parish Council agreed to this request the total cost of the equipment (approximately £27,000) would be transferred from the New Thornley Partnership to the Parish Council.

The Parish Clerk advised that HM. Customs & Excise Office had been contacted regarding this matter and they had confirmed that providing all conditions of section 7 of Public Notice 749 "Local authorities & similar bodies" were met, the Parish Council could reclaim the V.A.T.

Because the Regeneration Partnership had obtained match funding from a number of agencies to implement the project it would also be necessary to obtain their approval before any equipment was ordered.

Resolved: That subject to confirmation from the appropriate agencies that they had no objection and section 7 of the Public Notice 749 "Local Authorities & similar bodies" was complied with, the Parish Council places the order for the Gore Hill play equipment.

78. Footpath (Former Colliery Railway Line) - Thornley Section.

The Parish Clerk reported that the "Heritage Trail Committee" had made a verbal request that the Parish Council considered funding the replacement of a section of the former colliery footpath within the parish boundary.

A report (produced on behalf of the consortium) had identified the need for the path to be replaced rather than being repaired.

The reason for the request was that whilst the footpath was the responsibility of the District of Easington they would only fund minor maintenance works i.e. the filling in of potholes etc.

It was possible that the District Council may contribute their allocated budget (for filling in the potholes etc.) toward the total cost involved.

Councillor Wharrier reported that a number of trainee placements may be made available, (utilising the intermediate labour market) to undertake the required works.

Resolved: That the item be deferred to allow the Parish Clerk time to obtain additional information.

79. Health & Safety Seminar (REF: 1057)

Approval was given for the Parish Clerk to attend the Local Council Advisory Service Seminar that took place on Friday 14th, June 2002. (Minute 47 refers) The information obtained had highlighted the necessity for the Parish Council's safety inspection procedures to be reviewed as a matter of urgency if potential claims were to be minimised or avoided.

Members were asked to note that this would involve the appointment of a qualified firm (or individual) to carry out risk assessments on various areas within the Council's sphere of operation. In all probability this would lead to changes in the inspection procedures and frequencies currently employed.

Members were also asked to note that it was inevitable that this would incur levels of expenditure not budgeted for in the current financial year.

In order that the Parish Council could be made fully aware of its' legal responsibilities it was suggested that it became a member of the Local Council Advisory Service (cost £220 per annum) as a matter of good practice.

It was also suggested that the appropriate Health & Safety Guidance Documentation was purchased.

Resolved: That the information be noted; the Parish Council obtains membership of the Local Advisory Service and the appropriate Health & Safety Guidance Documentation is purchased.

80. Playground Inspections - R.O.S.P.A.

The Parish Clerk reported that in an effort to minimise the potential for claims against the Parish Council for accidents within its' play areas it was essential that they were inspected at on an annual basis by an independent specialist to ensure the long term safety of the site, equipment and ancillary items. This would also meet legal and insurance responsibilities as well as complying with the requirements of EN 1176 (the new European Playground Standard) and Health & Safety Executive recommendations.

It was suggested that R.O.S.P.A. (**Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents**) were engaged to carry out an inspection of the playgrounds as a matter of urgency.

Playgrounds of Councils' in County Durham who are registered with R.O.S.P.A are normally inspected annually in June at a cost of approximately £58 per site. As this years annual inspections had already taken place it was necessary for a special visit to be made to Thornley and therefore the cost on this occasion would be £180 for the first site and £58 (approximately) for each additional site.

Resolved: That R.O.S.P.A. be engaged to undertake an inspection of all the Parish Playgrounds as a matter of urgency and thereafter on an annual basis.

81. N.A.L.C. Conference (REF: 1014) Report of Councillor. J. Williams

Councillor J. Williams gave a comprehensive report on his attendance at the conference and advised member that he had found it to be extremely useful.

He gave details of the various workshops attended and the strategies being developed to train both Councillor and Parish Clerks for Quality Council status.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and Parish Clerk obtain a copy of the Conference Report when it becomes available.

82. Conferences.

Members are asked to adopt a policy in relation to the attendance of members at future conferences.

Resolved: That in the Parish Council does not participate in or authorise delegates to attend conferences in future.

83. Personal Injury Claim - Alleged Accident – Thornlaw South. (Ref: 1106)

The Parish Clerk reported that Cartwright & Lewis Solicitors acting for Master Gareth Ellis had made a claim against the Parish Council.

It is alleged that the claimant fell from a swing and sustained injury after landing on the concrete surface in the play area.

The details of the claim had been passed to the Council's Insurance Company for attention.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

84. Planning Permission (REF: 1117)

The District of Easington had advised that Planning Permission had been granted to Mr. & Mrs. P. Young to construct a private garage at 1, Shinwell Crescent, Thornley.

Y:\Word\Agendas & Minutes\Archive\May02\April03\Minutes2002.docx 2

Resolved: That the information be noted.

85. Planning Permission (REF: 1121)

The District of Easington had advised that Planning Permission had been granted to Mr. & Mrs. Baldasera to construct a conservatory at 6, Cedar Court, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

86. Proposed Kitchen & Bathroom Extension. (REF: 1045)

It was reported that Mr. S. Butler had made a Planning Application in respect of the above at 75, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Any objections to this proposal should be forwarded to the District of Easington.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

87. Consecration of the Cemetery Extension (REF: 1147)

Members were reminded that at the meeting held on 2nd, April 2002 (minute 246 refers) it was agreed that the cemetery extension be consecrated. This had been delayed however due to the construction of the new paths.

The Durham Diocesan Registry had now advised that as soon as certain formalities had been completed they would arrange for the Bishop of Jarrow to carry out the Service.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk arranges for the ceremony to take place on a weekday convenient to the church officials.

88. Police Action in Relation to Reported Crime

A resident asked if the Parish Council could do anything highlight the perceived lack of action taken by the police in relation to reported crime in the village.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk arranges a meeting with the Head of Community Safety (District of Easington) and members of the Partnership.

89. Finance Report

The report of the Parish Clerk detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

90. Easington Association of Town & Parish Councils

The Parish Clerk reported that the next meeting of the association was to take place at the Council Offices, Seaside Lane Easington on Wednesday 3rd July at 7:00 p.m.

Resolved: That the nominated delegates attend.

91. Thornley Young Peoples Project

The Parish Clerk reported that this item had been deferred at the last meeting to allow additional information to be obtained.

The donation was required to assist with the purchase of prizes or contribute to the cost of providing entertainment at the event.

Resolved: That the Parish Council pay an invoice(s) not exceeding £100 in total on behalf of Thornley Young Peoples Project in respect of the event.

92. W.R.V.S. Request for Donation

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service had requested a donation from the Parish Council to aid its work.

The Parish Clerk advised members that the allocated budget for 2002/03 had been expended but this could be increased within certain limitations should the Council exceed to the request.

Resolved: That £50 be donated to the W.R.V.S.

93. Invitation to Inspect Waste Transfer Station – Thornley Station. (REF: 822)

The Parish Clerk reported that the visit to the transfer station had been arranged to take place on Tuesday 13th August 2002 (Meeting held 11th, June 2002 Minute 42 refers.)

Resolved: That the information be noted.

94. St. Chad's Square - Stopping Up Order

The Parish Clerk reported that Government Office North East had provided a copy of the Stopping –Up order for St. Chad's Square, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

95. Welfare Park – Criminal Damage

The Parish Clerk reported that over the weekend of Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th June 2002, the Welfare Park and its buildings had been the focus of a break-in and criminal damage.

The matter had been reported to the police and a claim for insurance was being processed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

96. Use of Welfare Park

A request was made by the Officials F. C. and Thornley Celtics Over 40s F.C. to utilise the Welfare Park Football pitch and facilities for the forthcoming season.

Resolved: That permission to utilise the Welfare Park and facilities be granted free of charge.

97. Exclusion of the Press & Public

In accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 the press and public be excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 1 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

98. Personnel Report

The report of the Parish Clerk was considered.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk acts in accordance with the instructions given.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE
ON
6TH JULY 2002**

EXEMPT ITEMS NOT FOR PRESS OR PUBLICATION

In accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 the press and public be excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 1 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

[REDACTED]

THIS PAGE LEFT PURPOSELY BLANK FOR PRINTING

PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
26TH, JULY 2002**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

Councillors: Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. P. Maddison, Mrs. L. Mawson, J. Ollett, Mrs. M. Ollett, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, Mrs. M. Wharrier, J. Williams, G. Wilson.

APOLOGIES

Councillors. J. Mawson, Mr. J. Robson, Mrs. A. Robson, Mrs. A Williams,

100. Annual Audit

The Parish Clerk reported that the Parish Council's Accounts for the period 1st April 2001 to 31st March 2002 had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Account & Audit Regulations 1996.

They had been subject to an Internal Audit and were ready for inspection by the External Auditor when required.

Copies of the Balance Sheet and the Income & Expenditure Account were presented for member's attention. All supporting records were also made available for inspection.

Resolved: That the 2001/2002 accounts be approved and the Parish Clerk arranges for them to be made available to members of the public in accordance with instructions and timetable to be specified by External Audit.

THIS PAGE LEFT PURPOSELY BLANK FOR PRINTING

PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
3RD, SEPTEMBER 2002**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

Mrs. P. Maddison, J. Mawson, Mrs. L. Mawson, J. Ollett, Mrs. A. Robson, G. Wharrier, Mrs. M. Wharrier,

APOLOGIES

Councillors. Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ollett, J. Robson, Mrs. J. Unsworth, J. Williams, Mrs. A Williams, G. Wilson.

Councillor. M. Nichols.

101. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd July 2002, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

102. Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held 26th July 2002

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 26th July 2002, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

103. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Wray to the meeting who reported as follows:-

In the previous month there had been no burglaries from homes in the village. Two vehicles had been damaged and 2 cars had been stolen. There had also been 7 incidents where items had been stolen from inside vehicles and 1 stolen car had been recovered.

There were 12 incidents involving youths from the area 7 of which had come from the same complainant. Street wardens were now patrolling the village on a regular basis and this was seen to be an effective means of helping to minimise the number of incidents.

A number of incidents relating to motoring and other offences had been investigated in the Kenton Crescent and Dunelm Road areas and action had been taken in certain.

A stolen moped had also been recovered.

At the Crown Court a female resident had been given a 5-year custodial sentence for burglary.

The local Police Surgeries were operational at which residents could report concerns and discuss situations with the officers.

Y:\Word\Agendas & Minutes\Archive\May02\April03\Minutes2002.docx 2

Sergeant Wray suggested that it might be advantageous if the Street Wardens could be invited to future meetings of the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Street Wardens be invited to the next meeting via the District of Easington.

104. New Thornley

No meeting had taken place and therefore there was nothing to report.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

105. Area Forum

No meeting had taken place and therefore there was nothing to report.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

106. Tidy T.E.D.

No meeting had taken place and therefore there was nothing to report.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

107. Inter Parish Sport

No meeting had taken place and therefore there was nothing to report.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

108. Youll House

No meeting had taken place and therefore there was nothing to report.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

109. District Councillor

The housing refurbishment program was on target and no problems were being reported.

Possible traffic calming measures for the Kenton Crescent area had been discussed but these had been postponed until the "Three Rivers" housing redevelopment was complete because certain roads may be affected.

It was also reported that the District of Easington were pursuing the possible eviction of individual residents of Kenton Crescent under the anti-social behaviour legislation.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

110. County Councillor

The chairman gave the report of Councillor M. Nichols, who was not present at the meeting.

Possible funding of up to £2000 may be available to assist with the installation of traffic calming measures in Kenton Crescent.

There were outstanding problems with Arriva regarding the possible withdrawal of bus services in the area. Discussions were continuing to try and resolve the situation.

No real progress was being made in relation to the Parish Transport Initiative and there was a possibility that funds would be lost.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Clerk seeks a meeting with Wheatley Hill Parish Council to pursue the Parish Transport application.

111. Footpath (Former Colliery Railway Line) - Thornley Section.

Members were reminded that this item was deferred at the last meeting of the Parish Council to determine if staff from the Interim Labour Market could be utilised to perform the work required. (Meeting held on 2nd, July 2002 Minute 76 refers.)

To pursue this course of action an application would need to be submitted to the East Durham Villages Consortium who would then programme the work if they considered it appropriate.

It was reported the District of Easington had already undertaken repairs of sections of the footpath.

Members expressed concern that the Parish Council was being asked to fund repairs to a footpath that was the responsibility of the District Council.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk investigates the exact cost of the proposed works.

112. Review of Cemetery Charges

A report of the Parish Clerk on the Cemetery Rules and Charges was considered.

Resolved: That the proposed "Rules for the operation of the Cemetery" and the "Scale of Charges" highlighted in the report be adopted as from 1st April 2003.

113. Sexton's Report

The Sexton reported that since his last report on the 5th February 2002 there had been: -

16 internments

2 burials of cremated remains

20 plots purchased

4 plots purchased in the Garden of remembrance

8 headstones erected

1 inscription added.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

114. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 1184/5)

The District of Easington had provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 14th June 2002. In most cases the equipment has no defects. Where parts are required these have been ordered and will be fitted by the District of Easington in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

115. Donation – Thornley Boxing Club (REF: 1195)

Members were reminded that at the meeting held on 2nd October 2001 it was resolved that a donation of £100 be made to Thornley Boxing Club. (Minutes 84 & 85 refer.)

The Treasurer of the Boxing Club had advised that because of a difficulty in recruiting Coaches the Club had been inoperative since April 2002

As a result the Boxing Club had returned the donation for £100.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that in the event of the Boxing Club reopening a request for a further donation is considered.

116. Planning Permission (REF: 1199)

The District of Easington had advised that Planning Permission was granted to Mr. & Mrs. Mangles to construct a bungalow at Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

117. Gore Hill Play Area (REF: 1202)

The County Durham Foundation had advised that they have no objection to the proposal that the Parish Council purchases the play equipment for Gore Hill on behalf of Thornley Regeneration Partnership. (Meeting held on 2nd, July 2002 Minute 75 refers.)

Resolved: That the information be noted

118. Police Community Consultative Groups (REF: 1213)

Durham Police Authority had invited the Parish Council to nominate one representative to serve on the P.C.C.G.

The meeting is held annually but on a date to be decided.

Resolved: That no nomination be submitted.

119. Planning Permission (REF: 1220)

The District of Easington had advised that Planning Permission was granted to Mr. & Mrs. S. Butler to construct a Kitchen & Bathroom extension at 75, Dunelm Road, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

120. District of Easington – Chairman's Civic Service (REF: 1224)

An invitation had been received from the Chairman of the District Council to attend his Civic Service on 5th September 2002 at Blackhall Methodist Church.

Resolved: That Councillor G. Wilson be authorised to (attend in place of the Chairman) if he can arrange to do so.

121. Additional Car Parking Facilities (REF: 1226)

Members were reminded that at the meeting held on 7th May 2002, both the District of Easington and Durham County Council were to be contacted regarding the possibility of constructing additional car parking at the Villas. (Meeting held 7th, May 2002 Minute 4 refers.)

Responses had been received and neither council was in a position to offer any assistance in this matter.

Resolved: That no further action be taken at this time

122. Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils. (REF: 1230)

The Secretary of the association had invited nominations from member authorities for the positions of President, Vice President and Treasurer.

At this time no date has been fixed when the Annual General Meeting would take place.

Resolved: That no nominations be submitted.

123. Horse Fair (REF: 1236)

Maurice Crake had advised the Parish Council that he would not be organising a Horse Fair on Parish land as previously intended.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

124. New Water Supply Welfare Park REF: 1234 & 1242)

Members were asked to recall that in recent months the water service at the Welfare Park had burst on two occasions.

Although the cost of the wastewater had been recovered from Northumbrian Water, the cost of repairs had had to be paid for by the Parish Council.

Investigations had shown that the cast iron pipe, which ran through land not owned by the Parish Council, was severely corroded and that in all likelihood it would continue to deteriorate resulting in more and more bursts.

To address this problem the Parish Clerk suggested that Northumbrian Water be asked to relocate the water meter and a new plastic pipe be installed on council property. The line of the pipe would be adjacent to the path leading from Hartlepool Street to the entrance to the Welfare Park.

The estimated total cost involved would be £1200.

As the Welfare Park and Pavilion facilities were required to be in operation for the commencement of football playing season, the Chairman and Vice Chairman had been asked to approve the expenditure during the recess period.

Resolved: That the action of the Chairman & Vice Chairman approving the installation of a new water supply to the Welfare Park be endorsed.

125. Anti Social Behaviour /Traffic Matters – Kenton Crescent (REF: 1251)

The Parish Clerk reported that a letter had been received from a resident of Kenton Crescent highlighting anti social behaviour by motorists and the apparent lack of action taken by police in addressing these concerns.

A response has been sent indicating that similar issues had been raised in the past and that these were to be discussed with officers of the District of Easington & the Police.⁴

It was anticipated that the meeting would take place in October 2002.

⁴ ***Councillor Wharrier (in his capacity as a District Councillor) had already taken up this matter with the police.***

Resolved: That the information be noted.

126. Letter of Thanks (REF: 1257)

A letter of thanks had been received from the Women's Royal Voluntary Service for the £50 donation made by the Parish Council. (Meeting held on 2nd, July 2002 Minute 90 refers.)

Resolved: That the information be noted.

127. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 1260)

The District of Easington had provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 19th July 2002. In most cases the equipment has no defects. Where parts are required these have been ordered and will be fitted by the District of Easington in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

128. S.R.B. Final Evaluation (REF: 1267)

The Parish Council had been invited to participate in a workshop to discuss the future of the Easington District S.R.B. and East Durham European Partnership. The workshop was to be held at the Eastlea Community Centre Seaham on Thursday 5th September 2002 at 12:30 p.m.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

129. A.C.A.S. Seminar (REF: 1281)

The Parish Clerk advised that the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service were to hold a half-day Seminar on Statements & Contract Documentation in Newcastle on 4th December 2002.

Permission was sought for the Parish Clerk to attend at a cost of £60 plus V.A.T.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk be authorised to attend at a cost of £60 plus V.A.T.

130. Heritage Trail

A verbal request had been received from the Heritage Trail Group for permission to erect a display board (to indicate the route etc) at the entrance to the Heritage Trail near the Pit Wheel.

Resolved: That permission to erect a display board be granted and that Councillor Wharrier be authorised to determine the location.

131. Annual Audit of Accounts 2001/2002

Members were advised that The External Auditor (HLB AV audit plc) had notified the Parish Council that the annual audit of the 2001/2002 accounts would take place on 22nd October 2002.

The Parish Clerk reported that arrangements were in hand to inform residents of their rights to inspect the accounts etc. in accordance with the statutory regulations from 1st October to 21st October 2002.

Permission was sought for the Chairman of the Parish Council the Parish Clerk to attend the audit, as they were required to do so.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that the Chairman of the Parish Council & the Parish Clerk be authorised to attend.

132. Welfare Park Electrical Works (REF: 1292)

A report of the Parish Clerk in relation to the electrical wiring and ancillary equipment in the Pavilion was considered.

Resolved: That virement of £2860 between capital budget headings be approved to cover the cost of the work required.

133. West Area Forum Meeting (Ref: 1298)

The Parish Clerk reported that the West Area Forum was to take place at Wellfield Comprehensive School, Wellfield Road, Wingate on Wednesday 11th September 2002 commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Resolved: That the information be noted and Cllr. George Wilson be authorised to attend.

134. Youll House Roof (REF: 1300)

The Parish Clerk reported that because of storm damage to the roof in recent months it was considered necessary to have a full survey of the roof undertaken.

The full report, prepared by officers at the District of Easington had now been provided for members.

Councillor Wharrier suggested that as the building was used primarily for the elderly in the village, "Age Concern" and "Help the Aged" be contacted to determine if any funding could be obtained in respect of the work required.

Resolved: That the information contained in the report be noted and that the cost of the repair works be added to the Capital Works Program.

135. Home-Buy Scheme

Councillor Wharrier provided members with copies of information of the Home-Buy Scheme and indicated that it was essentially a funding program to allow residents to raise funds to purchase their rented accommodation. It was not available to Council Tenants.

Negotiations on the operation of the scheme were continuing along with the consultation process.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

136. Finance Report

The report of the Parish Clerk detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

137. 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), 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.

Y:\Word\Agendas & Minutes\Archive\May02\April03\Minutes2002.docx

138. R.o.S.P.A. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 1301)

The Parish Clerk reported that R.o.S.P.A. had now provided their report on the condition of the Parish Council's children's playgrounds that highlighted what work was required to meet current standards of safety.

Some of the faults were relatively minor and would be corrected as soon as possible by carrying out general maintenance procedures. Other faults, which would require the replacement of individual items of equipment, would need to be carried out as part of the Capital Program because of the financial implications.

Resolved: That minor works be carried out as soon as possible and other works be added to the Capital Works Program.

139. Durham Association of Parish & Town Council's (REF: 1302)

The Parish Clerk reported that a copy of the minutes of the meeting of Durham Association of Parish & Town Council's held on 5th June 2002 had been received.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

140. Objective II Monitoring Seminar. (REF: 1306)

The District of Easington was to hold a seminar on monitoring & evaluation of E.S.F. & E.R.D.F. projects at Easington Parish Centre on Wednesday 2nd October 2002 at 9:30 a.m. Members were invited to attend.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

141. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 1307)

The District of Easington had provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 29th July 2002. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts are required these had been ordered and would be fitted by the District of Easington in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

142. Proposed Private Double Garage 5, East Street, Thornley. (REF: 1308)

Mr. Featonby had made a Planning Application in respect of the above.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

143. Footpaths Inspection (REF: 1296)

The Parish Clerk reported that Conservation & Countryside Services had now provided their survey report on the Parish Council's footpaths & bridleways that highlighted what work was required.

Whilst certain works identified in the survey could be grant aided by Durham County Council other faults would need to be carried out as part of the Capital Program because of the financial implications.

Resolved: That a grant application be completed and other works be added to the Capital Works Program.

144. Request to Graze Horses

Mr. S. Thomas 38, St. Aidan's Crescent, Thornley requested that he be given permission to graze horses on Parish Council owned land at the rear of the Pit Wheel.

Resolved: That permission be granted to Mr. S. Thomas to tether horses on Parish land at the rear of the Pit Wheel subject to providing evidence of appropriate Personal Liability insurance cover.

145. Untethered Horses.

A resident reported that in weeks a number of horses had been seen to be running loose in the village and that as a result individuals could be involved in an accident and may suffer serious injury. She asked what action that could be taken against owners should the incident reoccur.

As the owner of the horses could not be identified it was pointed out that very little action could be taken other than reporting the incident to the Police in an attempt to have the horses removed.

Resolved: That the Police be informed.

146. Contractors – Replacement of Water Services

Councillor Mrs. Maddison reported that the contractor appointed by Northumbrian Water to replace the water services was leaving quantities of unused material and other detritus throughout the village. This was unsightly and requested that action be taken to have it removed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

THIS PAGE LEFT PURPOSELY BLANK FOR PRINTING

PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
1ST, OCTOBER 2002**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

Mrs. I. Hind, J. Mawson, Mrs. L. Mawson, J. Ollett, Mrs. M. Ollett, G. Wharrier, J. Williams.

APOLOGIES

Councillors. Mrs. P. Maddison, Mrs. A. Robson, J. Robson, Mrs. J. Unsworth, Mrs. M. Wharrier, Mrs. A Williams, G. Wilson.

Councillor M. Nichols.

147. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd September 2002, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

148. Matters Arising

Councillor Wharrier reported that following the last meeting the matter of traffic calming measures in Kenton Crescent had been raised with the Regeneration Group.

Officers of Durham County Council had viewed the area and had suggested that line markings could assist in reducing the problem.

Additional measures would be considered following completion of the current housing redevelopment program being undertaken in the area as this could result in the existing road layout being changed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

149. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Stafford to the meeting who reported as follows:- In the previous month there had been eight complaints of youths causing nuisance and two involving motorcyclists. An amount of alcohol had been confiscated and the details of the individuals concerned had been noted.

The Street Wardens were now operating in the area and they had also dealt with a number of similar instances.⁵

There had been four reports of criminal damage to a shed, the library and two involving bottles being thrown at buses.

⁵ ***The Parish Clerk reported that he had been advised by the District of Easington that the Street Wardens were to attend the meeting and give a report.***

A garage, stables and garden shed had been broken into and a bicycle and tools had been stolen. There had been another two attempted break-ins to garages. An attempt had also been made to steal a Transit van.

Because of the youth problems a "diversionary" scheme had been initiated in an attempt to redirect offenders away from crime. The names of a number of individuals had been suggested who may benefit from the program.

Members highlighted the nuisance caused at this time of the year due to fireworks and cases of vandalism around "Peters" bakery.

Councillor Wharrier reported that the district council was actively pursuing Anti Social Behaviour Orders as a method of reducing nuisance problems in the area.

P.C. Stafford reported that Sgt. Young was the liaison officer on the anti social behaviour team.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the report be received.

150. New Thornley

Councillor Wharrier reported on issues currently being addressed by the regeneration partnership and the progress being made.

He also reported that a meeting was to be arranged with officials of the New Thornley Youth Project to discuss their involvement in the new resource centre and suggested that the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk should also attend.

Resolved: That the information be noted and permission be granted for the Chairman and Parish Clerk to attend the meeting between Thornley Regeneration Partnership and New Thornley Youth Project.

151. Area Forum

In the absence of Councillor G. Wilson, Councillor Wharrier reported that there had been no items discussed relating to Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

152. Tidy T.E.D.

Councillor Williams reported that because the times of the meeting had been changed from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. it was extremely difficult for either himself or Councillor Mawson to attend due to work commitments.

As a result neither had attended the last meeting.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk obtains from the district council the reason for changing the times of the meeting.

153. Inter Parish Sport

In the absence of Councillor G. Wilson, Councillor Williams reported that 40 yellow "T" shirts had been ordered for participants from Thornley and he provided copies of the posters used to advertise the event that was due to take place in Peterlee Leisure Centre on Sunday 20th October 2002 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

A coach for use by the Wheatley Hill and Thornley teams was to be provided once the numbers were known.

Y:\Word\Agendas & Minutes\Archive\May02\April03\Minutes2002.docx

Resolved: That the information be noted.

154. Youll House

In the absence of Councillor G. Wilson no report was given.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

155. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported that the housing redevelopment program was ongoing and no major problems were being encountered.

A window replacement program was to be carried out in the near future and a similar program to replace kitchen units would commence after Christmas 2002.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

156. County Councillor

The chairman gave the report of Councillor M. Nichols, who was not present at the meeting.

White lining and slow signs for Gore Hill will be installed shortly. The approaches to Kenton Crescent are also being investigated.

The allotment site between Thornley and Wheatley Hill is to be cleaned up and the old fencing will be replaced.

Unfortunately difficulties are being encountered in relation to the Wheatley Hill to Bowburn By-Pass because of an appeal for open cast mining. The appeal may not be heard until March 2003. Under the circumstances there is very little the County Council can do at this time.

Speeding traffic in the area of Stanley Terrace is causing problems and requests have been made to the police to investigate the situation.

Better signage for the Crossways Hotel road junction is also being investigated. In relation to the Carrier Bag Culture, the location of a suitable site where youngsters can meet is still being investigated.

A number of meetings have taken place between officers of the County Council and the bus company in an effort to resolve the problems associated with Service 22. As the County Council only subsidises the daily and Sunday schedule very little can be done other than to request the bus company to provide another bus for evening travellers.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

157. Finance Report

The report of the Parish Clerk detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

158. Planning Permission (REF: 1342)

The District of Easington advised that London & Amsterdam had applied for a Time Extension to their Planning Application in respect of Dalton Flats Murton.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

159. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 1343)

The District of Easington had provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 20th September 2002. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted by the District of Easington in due course.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

160. Planning Permission (REF: 1346)

The District of Easington had advised that Planning Permission had been granted to Mr. J. Featonby to construct a double garage at 8, East Street, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

161. Youth Shelter Pilot Project (REF: 1358)

The Parish Clerk reported that Durham Constabulary, in conjunction with the District of Easington, was looking for a suitable location in the West of the District to erect a Youth Shelter as one initiative to reduce the number of complaints of Anti-social Behaviour.

Ideally the location should be safe for teenagers but far enough away from houses or shops etc so as not to interfere with the wider community. Each shelter would have with it some form of activity, such as a Kick Wall or Basket Ball Hoop.

Possible locations were to be forwarded to Durham Constabulary for consideration.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

162. Footpath (Former Colliery Railway Line) - Thornley Section. (REF: 1332)

Members were asked to recall that this item had been deferred at the meeting held on 3rd September 2002 (Minute 109 refers) until details of the proposed cost of works were obtained.

The Clerk of Wheatley Hill Parish Council, who is co-coordinating the project, advised that there are two proposals under consideration at a cost of £8950 & £3500 plus V.A.T. respectively.

Councillor Mawson reported that the District Council had already undertaken repairs and as a result it was unlikely that a contribution from the Parish Council was still required.

Resolved: That no contribution be made.

163. Memorial Bench – Thornley Cemetery (REF1326)

Mrs. C. Whinn 4, Passfield Way, Peterlee requested permission to purchase a bench and position it in Thornley Cemetery in memorial to her late father who's ashes had been scattered at sea.

The Parish Clerk reminded members that there are already four seats in the cemetery used for a similar purpose.

To maintain uniformity it was suggested that the Parish Council determines the quality and specification of the bench and arranges for it to be fixed in an appropriate location, the total cost of which being charged to Mrs. Whinn. Planning Permission was not required from the District of Easington.

Resolved: That permission be granted and the Parish Clerk make appropriate arrangements.

164. Parish Transport Grants

Members were reminded that at the meeting held on 3rd September 2002 (minute 109 refers) arrangements were to be made to meet with members of Wheatley Hill Parish Council to further this initiative.

The Clerk to Wheatley Hill Parish Council had advised that he had arranged for a consultant to brief members of both councils on a mutually convenient date in late October or early November 2002.

Resolved: That arrangements be made to attend a meeting with Wheatley Hill Parish Council and the Consultant as soon as a date can be confirmed.

165. Football Pitch - Welfare Park

The Parish Clerk sought permission to employ a suitably qualified contractor to apply a broad-leaved weedkiller to the football pitch in the Welfare Park and to eradicate the problem of moles.

The estimated cost of the work is £1000.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk arranges the work subject to finance being available.

166. District of Easington Local Plan

The District of Easington provided a copy of the Local Plan adopted by the Council on 28th, December 2001 and from which time the plan came into operation. Members wishing to view the document could contact the Parish Clerk.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

167. Wild Meadow

Members were asked to recall that a site meeting was to be arranged by Groundwork East Durham to progress this initiative. (Meeting held on 1st, October 2002 Minute 264 refers.)

Groundwork East Durham had now advised that following discussions with Councillor Wharrier a site inspection had been undertaken. This had revealed that the reclamation works carried out some years ago had rendered the site unsuitable as a wild flower meadow unless considerable work was undertaken, using heavy earthmoving equipment to remove the top layers of soil and growth. It was estimated that this work could be very expensive.

The Parish Clerk suggested that if a meadow was still desired an alternative site should be identified.

Resolved: That Groundwork East Durham be advised not to pursue this project at present.

Y:\Word\Agendas & Minutes\Archive\May02\April03\Minutes2002.docx 2

168. Detritus - Building Contractors

Councillor Mawson expressed concern that unused materials and other rubbish left by building and other contractors had not been removed. This was unsightly and could cause injury.

The Parish Clerk reported that following the previous meeting he had brought this matter to the attention of both Northumbrian Water and Ashwood Properties and John Hellens Ltd.

Councillor Mawson requested that a site meeting with those concerned be arranged to discuss the situation.⁶

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk arranges a site meeting with contractor as soon as possible.

169. 5-A-Side Court

Councillor Mawson reported that the perimeter fence of the 5-A- Side court had been subject to vandalism and that some sections may constitute a hazard to members of the general public. He requested that repairs be carried out as soon as possible or that it be removed.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk arranges to repair or remove the fencing as soon as possible.

170. Remembrance Day Wreaths

The Chairman sought permission to purchase, on behalf of the Parish Council, Labour Party and Catholic Club three wreaths for the Remembrance Day Service.

The Labour Party and Catholic Club would be asked to reimburse the Council in due course.

Resolved: That permission be granted to purchase wreaths as appropriate.

171. Shrub Beds - Youll House

The Chairman reported that a local resident had provided him with a copy of a letter he had written to the District of Easington regarding the lack of maintenance being carried out on shrubs beds adjacent to Youll House.

The Parish Clerk informed members that although the shrub beds in question and the "pony roundabout on the Wheatley Hill by-pass belonged to the District of Easington and Durham County Council respectively, the matter of who was responsible for their maintenance had been brought into question in the past.

The district council had produced a letter, written by the former Parish Clerk Bill Smith, which advised them that the Parish Council would accept responsibility for the beds and maintain them in future years. As a result they stopped maintaining them.

The minutes of parish council meetings had no reference to this item ever having been discussed nor that had any formal resolution been made on the matter.

⁶ ***The contractors removed the detritions week ending 11th October 2002***

As a result neither council was maintaining these shrubs beds or roundabout at present.

Resolved: That the Parish Council will not accept responsibility for the shrub beds or roundabout and the District of Easington be advised accordingly.

THIS PAGE LEFT PURPOSELY BLANK FOR PRINTING

PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
5TH, NOVEMBER 2002**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

**Mrs. P. Maddison, J. Mawson, Mrs. L. Mawson, Mrs. A. Robson, J. Robson,
Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, G. Wilson.**

Councillor M. Nichols.

APOLOGIES

**Councillors'. Mrs. I. Hind, J. Ollett, Mrs. M. Ollett, Mrs. M. Wharrier, Mrs. A
Williams, J. Williams.**

172. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st October 2002, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

173. Matters Arising

The Chairman referred to minute 147 and reported that the meeting with the Young Peoples Project may not take place.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

174. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Oliver to the meeting who reported as follows:-
In the previous month there had been three house burglaries in which cash, computer equipment and clothing had been stolen. Some forensic evidence had been discovered that would help with enquiries. A garden shed had also been broken into and a Kawasaki motorcycle had been stolen.

There had been three incidents of damage involving motor vehicles and two of theft. In Thornlaw North vehicles had been damaged and some equipment stolen. In Gore Hill a citron CX had been taken without consent.

There were also twenty-four reports of youths causing nuisance, 90% of which involved fireworks.

Members commented on the amount of nuisance activity in the Laurel Crescent area and asked if more could be done to address the problem.

The Chairman thanked P. C. Oliver for attending.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the report be received.

175. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed Gary McCardle and Geoff Leather to the meeting who reported that there had been 21 incidents reported in Thornley.

Although progress was being made the wardens had, on occasion, been intimidated but were confident that the situation would improve with the support of the police and the Anti Social Behaviour Team.

They pointed out that they had no specific powers and would need information from members of the public to act.

Video recording equipment was to be purchased as a method of obtaining evidence.

Councillor Robson asked how many times an individual must be involved in anti social behaviour incidents before specific action could be taken against them.

Responding Mr. McCardle said it would depend on the circumstances but 3 would appear to be the norm before the Anti Social Behaviour Team and the police would take action.

The Chairman thanked the officers for attending.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the report be received.

176. New Thornley

Joyce Unsworth reported that Judy McCourt was helping the partnership raise funds for the Resource Centre.

The Gore Hill play area refurbishment was to commence next 2 to 3 days.

The installation of security devices in O.A.P.'s accommodation was progressing and further projects were being identified.

Councillor Maurice Nicholls stated that he would investigate the possibility of the Durham County Council upgrading the street lights at the rear of Youll House as this would improve security for the elderly in the nearby bungalows.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

177. Area Forum

Councillor G. Wilson reported that there had been no meeting of the Area Forum and therefore there was nothing to report.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

178. Tidy T.E.D.

It was reported that following the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st October 2002, the District of Easington had been contacted to determine why the commencement times for the Tidy T.E.D. meetings have been changed from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Meeting held on 1st, October 2002 Minute 149 refers.). The response received from the district council gave no indication other than to state that it was agreed at the Annual General Meeting and that the representative(s) from Thornley had not attended nor had they offered apologies. (Ref: 1431)

Resolved: That the information be noted.

179. Inter Parish Sport

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the event was successful and that those attending had had an enjoyable day.

Thornley had been represented by 25 boys but no girls had taken part.

The overall competition had been won by Horden and Thornley had come first in the skittle event.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

180. Youll House

The operation of Youll House was proceeding satisfactorily and a meal organised for members at the Crossways Hotel had been enjoyed by those who had attended.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

181. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier reported as follows:-

Permission Homes had expressed an interest in developing property in the Thornlaw North area of the village.

The housing developments in the central area were progressing on schedule.

Houses in Shinwell Crescent had been sold and this would allow the area to be improved.

A report on regeneration issues had been submitted to the District of Easington This was to be considered and because of its content, the District Council was to arrange separate meetings with the various Regeneration Partnerships' and the Service Providers after which the report would be considered by the District Council's Partnerships Overview Committee.

A prospective purchaser for the Queens Head had come forward and this would be progressed in spite of the difficulties surrounding this particular property.

A court decision relating to Station House had gone against the district of Easington.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

182. County Councillor

Councillor M. Nichols reported as follows:-

Learning skills Council – in future Durham County Council must apply to the Learning Skills Council for funding Community Centres on the basis of “main centres and satellite centres. Both Thornley and Wheatley Hill Community Centres were classed as main centres. There was concern that the level of funding being made available by the Learning Skills Council could result in the closure of some community centres Talks were continuing.

Winter Maintenance Programme – in an effort to meet Government guidelines on expenditure it had been necessary for the County Council to reduce its revenue budget by some £400,000. As a result one of the areas in Thornley would no longer be maintained during the winter period in the event of severe frost or snow.

Renaissance Money – because of the sale of land in the Durham area a substantial amount of funding could be available to regenerate the villages west of the A19. It was anticipated that both Thornley and Wheatley Hill would be a high priority and that the Regeneration Partnerships in both villages would be involved in the process. In order to make early progress, it had been suggested that the County Council vire money from other budgets as an interim measure until the cash from the land sale was released.

Service 22 – is improving but there was a difficulty in recruiting drivers.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

183. Proposed 20 No. Dwellings St. Bede's Crescent Thornley (REF: 1361)

It was reported that a Planning Application in respect of the above had been made by Three Rivers Housing Group.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

184. Request for Donation (REF: 1373)

Finchale Training College requested a donation to help meet a projected shortfall of approximately £17,000 to operate the “Development of I.T. Skills of Disabled People at Work”.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

185. Freedom of Information (REF: 1375)

The Information Commissioner advised the Parish Council that in order to conform to the Freedom of Information Act 2000, every public authority must adopt and maintain a publication that has been approved by the Information Commissioner.

A model publication was available for this purposes and it was suggested that Thornley Parish Council adopts it rather than produce one of its own.

Adoption and implementation must be concluded by 28th February 2003.

Resolved: That the Parish Council adopts the model publication by the due date.

186. Eastern Gateway (REF: 1885)

Groundwork East Durham provided the latest proposals for landscaping the entrance, to the village including the re-location of the village entrance stone.

It was proposed that a large area would be planted that would require long term maintenance to be undertaken at the Parish Council's expense.

Resolved: That the Parish Council accepts financial responsibility for the maintenance of this project on completion.

187. Proposed Works to Footpath 16 (REF: 1391)

Durham County Council advised that they intended to return this footpath to the correct line, construct a new stile, remove the dense scrub on the Thornley side of the footpath and erect a waymarker.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

188. Request for Donation (REF: 1400)

The Neighbourhood watch Co-ordinator for Gore Hill Estate requested a donation of £74.00 from the Parish Council to cover the cost of providing four street signs.

Resolved: That the Parish Council would donate £74 by settling the account for the supply of the signs.

189. Proposed Environmental Improvement Scheme Thornley (REF: 1410)

The District of Easington advised that a planning application proposing the above and the relocation of the Village Entrance Stone, Hartlepool Street, Thornley had been made by Groundwork East Durham.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

190. Play Equipment - Coopers Close & Thornlaw South.

A report of the Parish Clerk in connection with this item was considered. It was pointed out that the Coopers Close play area might be the responsibility of the District of Easington.⁷

Resolved: That the play equipment in Thornlaw South be removed as soon as possible.

191. Capital Works Program

A report of the Parish Clerk in connection with this item was considered. Members prioritised the projects put forward and agreed how they should be financed over the coming years in order that the precept for 2003/2004 could be calculated.

Priorit y Order	Projects Proposed	Estimat ed Total Fund Require d	Amou nt Reser ved 2002	Amoun t Reserv ed 2003	Amou nt Reser ved 2004	Amou nt Reser ved 2005	Amou nt Reser ved 2006	Amou nt Reser ved 2007	
1	<i>Reinstate Footpaths - Pit Site</i>	£25,000	Nil	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£25,000
2	<i>Purchase Grave Shoring</i>	£10,000	Nil	£10,000	Works to be done in 2003				£10,000
3	<i>Welfare Park Pitch</i>	£3,683	£1,683	£2,000	Works to be				£3,683

⁷ This was confirmed on Wednesday 6th November 2002 in a conversation with officers of the Estates Department of District of Easington.

	<i>Upgrade</i>				<i>done in 2003</i>				
4	<i>Cemetery Lodge Refurbishment</i>	<i>£1,500</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>£1500</i>	<i>Works to be done in 2003</i>				<i>£1,500</i>
5	<i>Welfare Park - Pavilion Upgrade</i>	<i>£1,500</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>£1,500</i>	<i>Works to be done in 2003</i>				<i>£1,500</i>
6	<i>Garden of Remembrance</i>	<i>£2,000</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>£2000</i>	<i>Works to be done in 2003</i>				<i>£2,000</i>
7	<i>Tree Planting Scheme</i>	<i>£1,000</i>	<i>£1,000</i>	<i>Works to be done in 2002</i>					<i>£1,000</i>
8	<i>Landscaping War Memorial</i>	<i>£1,000</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>£1000</i>	<i>Works to be done in 2003</i>				<i>£1,000</i>
9	<i>Youll House Security</i>	<i>£3,000</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>£3,000</i>	<i>Works to be done in 2004</i>			<i>£3,000</i>
10	<i>Youll House Roof</i>	<i>£12,500</i>	<i>£1,000</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>£11,500</i>	<i>Works to be done in 2004</i>			<i>£12,500</i>
11	<i>Replace Playground Equipment</i>	<i>£10,000</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>£5,000</i>	<i>£5,000</i>	<i>Works to be done in 2006</i>	<i>£10,000</i>
12	<i>Contribution to Resource</i>	<i>£25,000</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>£3,500</i>	<i>£7,000</i>	<i>£7,000</i>	<i>£7,500</i>		<i>£25,000</i>

	Centre								
13	Provision of Recreational Facilities	£10,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	£3,500	£3,500	£3,000	£25,000
N/A	Purchase Computer Equipment	Nil	Purchase from Revenue Budget 2002/2003						£0
	Total	£106,183	£3,683	£26,500	£26,500	£20,500	£21,000	£8,000	£106,183

Resolved: That subject to revision if required the projects as detailed form the basis of a five years capital program and finance be reserved accordingly.

192. Security Lights – Youll House

Thornley Regeneration Partnership requested the Parish Council to accept the maintenance responsibility for two “dusk till dawn” security lights installed by them some years ago on the rear wall of Youll House to illuminate the pathway and O.A.P.’s bungalows.

The electricity is supplied via Age Concern from the Youll House meter at a cost of approximately 1p per day.

In view of the onset of winter and in the interest of safety the Chairman had agreed to the request.

Resolved: That the Chairman’s action be endorsed.

193. Parish Transport Grants

Members were asked to recall that a meeting was to be arranged with a consultant and members of Wheatley Hill Parish Council to further this initiative. (Meeting held on 1st, October 2002 Minute number 161 refers.)

The Clerk of Wheatley Hill Parish Council advised that the meeting was to take place in Wheatley Hill Heritage Centre on Wednesday 6th November 2002 commencing at 5:30 pm.

Resolved: That the Chairman Councillor T. Unsworth, Councillor G. Wilson and the Parish Clerk be authorised to attend.

194. Millennium Coins

Members were asked to recall that the Parish Council had purchased a number of coins in 2000 to celebrate the year millennium.

Following the free distribution to all children in the village the remainder had been made available to the public.

Interest in the millennium had now waned and a recent audit had revealed that there were 174 coins still in stock.

It was suggested that rather than have the items “on stock” for an indefinite period the Parish Council distribute the remaining coins to O.A.P.’s resident in the Thornley on the basis of one coin per household.

Resolved: That the coins be donated to Youll House Age Concern for distribution to O.A.P.’s living in Thornley on the basis of one coin per household.

195. Finance Report.

The report of the Parish Clerk detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle outstanding accounts.

196. 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), 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.

197. Easington Area Association of Parish & Town Councils (REF: 1445)

Members were asked to note that the next meeting of the association would take place on 6th November 2002 in the Council Chamber, Seaside Lane Easington commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

198. Planning Permission (REF: 1447)

The District of Easington advised that Planning Permission has been granted to Three Rivers Housing Group for 20 dwellings at St. Bede Crescent, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

199. Internal Audit

The Parish Clerk reported that in order to comply with the Account & Audit Regulations 1996, members are asked to note that the Parish Council's accounts for the period 1st April 2002 to 30th September 2002 are due for internal audit.

Payment for this service would be made on a "time spent" basis on receipt of an appropriate invoice.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

200. Balances & Reserves (Ref: 1422)

Seaham Town Council was carrying out an analysis of how much Town & Parish Councils throughout East Durham were holding by way of reserves/balances. They requested the Parish Council to divulge what amount it is holding as at 31st March 2002 and the precept amount for the current financial year.

Resolved: That the request for information from Seaham Town Council not be exceeded to.

201. District of Easington Consultative Meeting

Councillor G. Wilson reported that he had attended the meeting at which the issue of dog bins was discussed.

It had also been pointed out that the District of Easington would not create any additional flower or shrub beds on their land unless it was maintained at Parish Council expense.

Councillor G. Wilson had also enquired if the refuse vehicles could be cleaned more frequently as the stench emanating from them was offensive to residents.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

202. Letter from Arriva

Councillor G. Wilson reported that he had received a letter from Arriva in connection with the Service 22 bus route.

Arriva had stated that they were aware of the difficulties on this route and were actively seeking ways to overcome the problems.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

203. Royal British Legion Remembrance Day

A request was received that the Parish Council purchase a wreath for Remembrance Day at a cost of £15.00.

Resolved: That the purchase of a wreath be approved.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
10TH, DECEMBER 2002**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. P. Maddison, J. Mawson, Mrs. L. Mawson, J. Ollett, Mrs. M. Ollett, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, G. Wilson. J. Williams.

APOLOGIES

Councillors. Mrs. A. Robson, J. Robson, Mrs. M. Wharrier, Mrs. A Williams, Councillor M. Nichols.

204. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th November 2002, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

205. Matters Arising

Councillor J. Ollett referred to minute 179 and reported that he understood that Wingate Community Centre was to be classed as the main centre for the purposes of funding and that Wheatley Hill & Thornley Community Centres were satellite Centres.

Resolved: That the information be noted

206. Police Report.

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Stafford to the meeting who introduced Inspector Vince Addison who had recently been appointed Manager for the villages west of the A19. They reported as follows:-

There had been 11 complaints of youths causing nuisance mainly in the Greenwood Cottages area. One person had been arrested for a public order offence and charged with carrying a weapon. He had been remanded on bail. Three burglaries had taken place in which jewellery and a D.V.D. system had been stolen. There had also been two cases of theft from garden sheds in Eastlee when bicycles had been taken. A youth had been arrested and cautioned. Two vehicles had been vandalised whilst parked outside Youll House on 5th November 2002.

Because of the number of incidents being reported in Thornley in recent months the police had instigated two action plans in the village. These had proven to be effective as only one crime had occurred over a ten day period when the action plans were in operation. Unfortunately manpower limitations did not allow for the level of police presence to be maintained for an indefinite period.

Thornley was considered to be a “hot spot” and as a result the Crime Prevention officer was to investigate the situation with a view to reducing criminal activity in the village.

Inspector Addison and P.C. Stafford asked the Parish Council to consider locating a “Youth Shelter” in the village as this would provide a focal point and may help to reduce the disturbance problems being encountered.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team and police were actively considering a “test purchasing scheme” as a way to determine if shopkeepers were selling alcohol to people under eighteen years of age.

Councillor G. Wharrier stated that following the demise of the Thornley Young Peoples Project he intended calling a meeting of interested parties to determine if a similar initiative could be organised to involve youths from the village.⁸

The Chairman thanked the officer for attending.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the report be received.

207. Street Wardens Report.

The Chairman welcomed Stephanie Gardener (Senior Warden) and Debbie Paxton (Street Warden) to the meeting as follows:-

In November 272 incidents had been attended to by wardens in the Easington area. Of these 36 had been in Thornley. Up to the 9th December there had been 21 incidents in Thornley mainly involving trespass to void property.

The wardens were currently working with the local bus companies to address problems associated with transport.

Intimidation had lessened and close cooperation with the police was proving effective. Working with the D.V.L.A. a number of untaxed vehicles had been removed.

The Chairman thanked the Wardens for attending.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the report be received.

208. New Thornley.

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth reported that the work of New Thornley was progressing satisfactorily and that the refurbishment of Gore Hill play area was well on the way to being completed by Christmas.

There was a meeting to discuss the Action Zone on Wednesday 11th December 2002 in the Workingmen’s Club.

The partnership had also agreed that the fencing required to finish the Village Green should be purchased as soon as firm quotations could be obtained.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

209. District Councillor

Councillor G. Wharrier reported that the housing developments were progressing and very few problems were being encountered. There may be a need to re-phase the movement of individual families but this had not been finalised at present.

⁸ See also minute 209.

Fitzsimmon Homes and Ian Turnbull Builders had shown interest in developing housing programs in the North of the village.

Because the system for receiving part payments of electricity accounts had been changed Councillor Wharrier had contacted the Post Office and relevant organisations to obtain more information. The response highlighted the fact that as very few residents in Thornley used the part payment system it was not a viable proposition.

A number of problems had been reported concerning void properties and as a result the District of Easington had been asked to consider demolishing void properties as early as possible.

Councillor Wharrier intended calling on the District Council to arrange a meeting to discuss the operation of a "Youth" program to replace the T.Y.P.P. He suggested that the Parish Council may wish to send representatives if a meeting could be arranged.⁹

Resolved: That the information be noted.

210. County Councillor.

As Councillor Nicholls was not present no report was available.

Councillor Mrs. L. Mawson reported that the County Council was to repair the footbridge over the bridleway east of the 5-a side football pitch.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

211. Parish Precept 2003/2004

Members considered the Budget Estimates prepared by the Parish Clerk for 2003/2004.

Resolved: That the Precept be set at £83,000 and the Parish Clerk advise the District of Easington accordingly.

212. Shrub Beds Youll House (Ref: 1456)

The District of Easington advised that they will undertake the regular maintenance of the shrub beds in the future. (Meeting held on 1st, October 2002 Minute 168 refers.)

Resolved: That the information be noted.

213. Durham Association of Parish & Town Council's (Ref: 1464 &1465)

A copy of the Association meetings held on 4th September 2002 & 5th October 2002 was received.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

⁹ See also minute 206.

214. Objective 2 Meeting (Ref: 1480)

It was reported that a Project Development workshop for North of England Objective 2 Priority 4 funding was to be held at the Eastlea Community Centre, Seaham on Wednesday 4th, December 2002 at 12 noon. Representatives were invited to attend to discuss potential projects.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

215. Planning Permission (Ref: 1482)

The District of Easington advised that Planning Permission had been granted for the Environmental Improvements Hartlepool St. Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

216. Subscription Renewal Society of Clerks (Ref: 1491)

In line with previous practice, members were asked to consider renewing the annual subscription for the Society of Clerks for 2003 at a cost of £60.

Resolved: That the subscription be renewed.

217. Easington Area Parish & Town Council Meeting

Councillor T. Unsworth gave a comprehensive report on the meeting held on 6th November 2002 and advised members that the situation regarding the Local Strategic Partnership had been discussed at length. It was hoped that notification and distribution of minutes would now improve.

The formation and operation of the district Standards Committee had also been discussed and it had been reported that despite the concerns expressed by some Parish and Town Councils, it had been set up in accordance with legislation. It had been pointed out however that the District should perhaps have consulted more fully.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

218. Finance Report

The report of the Parish Clerk detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle outstanding accounts.

219. 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), 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.

220. Staff Christmas Bonus

Councillor J. Mawson suggested that it had been practice at this time of year for the Parish Council to consider awarding staff a Christmas Bonus in recognition of their work during the previous 12 months.

Resolved: That the four members of staff each receive a Christmas bonus of £20:00

221. Subscription Renewal – Local Council Update (Ref: 1527)

A subscription renewal notice was received from Plus Publishing for providing 12 copies of the Local Council Update. The publication provides information on current affairs affecting Parish Councils. The subscription fee is £60

Resolved: That the subscription be renewed at a cost of £60.

222. County Durham Economic Partnership (Ref: 1528)

County Durham Economic Partnership provided a copy of the Economic Strategy 2002-2007. The document was made available to members wishing to view its' content.

Resolved: That the information` be noted.

223. Date and time of next meeting

In view of the forthcoming Christmas and Near Year holiday period members considered cancelling the meeting due to take place in January 2003.

Resolved: That the next meeting to be held in Youll House, The Villas, Thornley on Tuesday 4th February 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

THIS PAGE LEFT PURPOSELY BLANK FOR PRINTING

PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
4TH, FEBRUARY 2003**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

**Mrs. I. Hind, J. Mawson, Mrs. L. Mawson, J. Ollett, Mrs. M. Ollett, G. Wharrier,
G. Wilson. J. Williams.**

APOLOGIES

**Councillors. Mrs. P. Maddison Mrs. A. Robson, J. Robson, Mrs. J. Unsworth
Mrs. M. Wharrier, Mrs. A Williams, Councillor M. Nichols.**

224. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Wharrier referred to minute 205 and stated that it should read Persimmon Homes not Fitzsimmon Homes. Having noted this amendment the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th December 2002, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

225. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Wray to the meeting who reported as follows:

There had been 25 calls from the village since the last report and some of these had been dealt with in conjunction with the Street Warden with who they were in close liaison.

There had been several instances of youths breaking into void properties in the Thornlaw North area. It was anticipated that this type of activity would increase due to the number of properties being vacated. The situation would therefore be closely monitored.

One motor vehicle had been stolen from Emmerson Square and in another incident a car radio had been removed from a vehicle in St. Bede's. A man had been charged with the offence.

A quantity of fencing had been stolen from Asquith Terrace.

The police had carried out a high profile operation concentrating on car related crime. A man from the Wheatley Hill had been charged with some of the offences.

Councillor Mawson asked if anything could be done to address the damage being caused by quad bikes in the village. In response Sgt. Wray stated that the matter had already been reported to the Anti Social Behaviour Team who would take action if possible.

Members expressed growing concern over the consumption of alcohol by underage youths in the village and the possibility that it was being purchased from shops in the village.

Sgt. Wray advised that the Police were aware of the problem and that a "Test Purchase" operation was being considered.

Members pointed out that there had been numerous occasions in recent years when items raised with the police were to be investigated but nothing positive and been accomplished. It was suggested that the Parish Council writes to both Chief Inspector Thompson and the Clerk of the Justices objecting to the renewal of the Liquor Licenses for certain establishments in the village.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that the renewal of individual Liquor Licences be opposed.

226. Street Wardens Report

The Chairman welcomed Debbie Paxton to the meeting who reported as follows.

During the period ending 2nd December 2002, the wardens had dealt with 45 incidents in Thornley.

<i>Alarming or distressing behaviour</i>	3
<i>Harassment</i>	2
<i>Youths congregating</i>	6
<i>Noise in the street</i>	1
<i>Vandalism and trespass</i>	13
<i>Drug or alcohol abuse</i>	2
<i>Ball Games</i>	2
<i>Criminal activity</i>	2
<i>Anti social behaviour</i>	9
<i>Abandoned or untaxed vehicles</i>	1
<i>Empty buildings</i>	1
<i>Filthy or verminous premises</i>	1

A funding application has been made to improve the security lighting around Youll House to deter activity in this area.

A surgery was being considered to give residents the opportunity to discuss issues directly with the wardens.

Wardens have consulted with the Library staff to assess the need for more regular visits. No immediate concerns were raised.

Wardens are and will continue to travel regularly on bus routes as it is proving to be a popular initiative with passengers and staff.

The Wardens pointed out that they could be contacted on 01429837992.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the report be received.

227. New Thornley

Councillor Mrs. Mawson reported that the Eastern Gateway Project is underway and the work would take approximately 8 weeks.

There is limited access to Galt Street & Asquith Street and residents need to find alternative parking.

Y:\Word\Agendas & Minutes\Archive\May02\April03\Minutes2002.docx 2

This project & the Village Entrance project have attracted funding in the region of £180,000.

The Gore Hill Play area is now complete and the site will be reopened on Saturday 8th, February 2003 at 1:00 p.m following which refreshments will be available in the Catholic Club. There will also be a disco for children and adults.

Resolved: That the Information be noted.

228. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier gave details of the Durham Constabulary Policing Plan for 2003/4 and made the document available for those members who wished to view it.

Because vandals were constantly moving the Dog Litter Bin he had made arrangements to have it fixed in position.

He also reported that a Settlement Plan information day was to be held on 15th March 2003.

Because of the regeneration work being undertaken by the Regeneration Partnership he had written to the District of Easington asking if it was possible to fix a date when the long awaited improvement scheme for the Hartlepool Street area could commence.

Persimmon Homes had expressed a desire to undertake a housing development in the Northern part of the village and the Coopers Close area.

A briefing was to be held at "Woodlawn" on Thursday 13th February 2003 at 6:00 p.m. concerning the under spend on S.R.B. and the potential for additional projects to be proposed. Members were welcome to attend.

Resolved: That the information` be noted.

229. County Councillor

The Chairman gave the report of Councillor M. Nichols, who was not present at the meeting due to family commitments.

Community Charge - The Governments financial allocation to the County Council for Social Service provision was not as high as required and a great deal of effort has been made to keep the increases below 10%.

Carrier Bag Culture - Arrangements were being made for a trial bus service to operate between the villages in the locality to provide a link for young people to meet up with friends or attend functions held in the district. The service would operate initially on Friday evening 21st February and Friday 28th February 2003 from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and adults would be available to supervise. A circular route had been proposed from Thornley via Wheatley Hill, Shotton, Wingate, Peterlee, Horden and Blackhall taking about 2 hours in total. Two services per night.

Crossways Hotel Area - Improvements are being investigated for slowing the down traffic and various other markings and signage on the roads will be in place very shortly.

Community Associations - The Learning & Skills Council have now taken away the funding from the County Council in respect of Community Association grants. The County Council is trying to help the poorer associations to keep them open for another year. Further talks with the Learning & Skills Council will be held to see if funding can be obtained.

Councillor Jack Mawson highlighted his concern that a tenant of the County Council who is using land for grazing horses was using a tractor to haul hay up the Right of Way. As a result extensive damage was being caused and a large amount of litter was being left.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the Parish Clerk contacts the County Council in respect of the Bridal Path.

230. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that Age Concern had had to replace the central heating boiler in Youll House at a cost of approximately £2,500. This had reduced the balance of the account and as a result the hire fees had been increased from January.

An Open day was to be held in March to which a number of organisations had been invited.

The Christmas parties organised for the O.A.P.'s in the village had been successful.

Resolved: That the information` be noted.

231. Sexton's Report

The Sexton reported that since his last report on the 3rd September 2002 there had been:

- 8 internments*
- 11 plots purchased*
- 6 headstones erected*

Resolved: That the information be noted.

232. Age Concern (Ref: 1523)

Age Concern confirmed that they will fund the cost of electricity for the Dawn till Dusk lights erected on the rear wall of Youll House that are maintained by the Parish Council. (Meeting held on 5th, November 2002 Minute 189 refers.)

Resolved: That the information` be noted.

233. Membership of the Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils

The Durham Association requested payment of £149.85 Annual Subscription Fee for 2003/04.

Resolved: That the subscription be renewed for 2003/4

234. Playing Field & Community Green Spaces Program Award (Ref: 1551)

Sport England advised that the Parish Council's application to redevelop the Welfare Park Football Pitch has been approved. As soon as certain conditions have been met an award of £35,915 will be made and implementation of the scheme can proceed.

Official acceptance of has to be confirmed in writing no later than 20th February 2003.

Resolved: That the Chairman and Parish Clerk be to authorised sign the terms and conditions attached to the award.

235. Annual Audit of Accounts Ending 31st March 2002 (REF: 1583)

HLB AV audit advised that due to an overwhelming response they are experiencing delays in closing the audits. They are endeavouring to complete our audit by the end of February at the latest.

They have further advised that they intend calling the audit for the period ending 31st March 2003 between May and September 2003 and anticipate that the delays encountered this year will not happen again.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

236. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 1589)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 17th December 2002. In all cases the equipment has no defects.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

237. Easington Area Association of Parish & Town Councils (REF: 1592)

Members were asked to note that a meeting of the association took place on 15th January 2002 in the Council Chamber, Seaside Lane Easington commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

238. County Durham Environment Awards 2002 (REF: 1593)

Durham County Council advised that nominations for awards can be made for environmental schemes carried out during 2002. Successful projects will be recognised in publicity material and could be eligible for a cash sum.

Resolved: That the Village Green Project undertaken by New Thornley Partnership be nominated.

239. North East Regional Assembly (REF: 1594 & 1603)

Both the District of Easington and Durham County Council requested interested parties to express their views on the possibility etc. for holding a referendum on a North East Regional Assembly.

The District of Easington simply requested a YES/NO pro forma to be returned by 3rd February 2003 whilst the County Council was asking for comments to be made in writing by 25th January 2003 at the latest.¹⁰

Resolved: That the Parish Council supports a referendum.

240. District Cultural Strategy (REF: 1598)

The District of Easington provided a copy of its Cultural Strategy 2002. Members wishing to view the document should contact the Parish Clerk.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

241. District of Easington Sport Action Zone Bid. (REF: 1601)

A letter was received from Peterlee Town Council in connection with an application being made by the Primary Care Trust for the district to be considered for Sport Action Zone status.

A number of benefits were to be gained from achieving zone status not the least of which would be to attract up-to £1.5 million to the district over a 5 year period. Parish & Town Council's were being asked to consider making a financial contribution toward the estimated costs of the bidding process (£2000). Peterlee Town Council has already pledged £500.

The matter had also been brought to the attention of the Easington Association of Parish & Town Council's for further discussion.

Resolved: That the Parish Council donate £20 to the fund.

242. Internal Audit - Half Yearly Accounts to 30/9/2002

The internal Audit of accounts from 1st April to 30th September 2002 had been completed by A. Pickering. No irregularities had been identified and the accounts were in order.

Mr. Pickering has submitted his account for 44 hours work to conduct the audit and the Council was asked to determine payment.

Resolved: That the information be noted and that Mr Pickering be paid the sum of £300.

243. Proposed Front Porch, 3 School Green, Thornley (REF: 1611)

The District of Easington advised that a planning application in respect of the above had been made by Mr. Warnes.

Any objections to this proposal should be forwarded to the District of Easington.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

244. Finance Report

The report of the Parish Clerk detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

¹⁰ Letter received 14th January 2003.

245. Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 (REF: 1556)

The Government advised that from 1st April 2003 there will be an increase under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 of 5p per elector. Based on the census as of 5th December 2002 this would provide for the Parish Council to budget up to a maximum of £6691 in the next financial year under this heading.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

246. Electoral Changes (Ref: 1613)

The District of Easington provided details of the electoral changes that would take effect on 1st May 2003.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

247. Proposed Residential Development North of Garden Terrace, Thornley (REF: 1614)

The District of Easington advised that a planning application in respect of the above had been made by Mr. Gott.

Any objections to this proposal should be forwarded to the District of Easington.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

248. Purchase of Coopers Close Allotments (Ref: 1578)

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 Sections 94/95, Councillor T. Unsworth declared an interest in this matter relinquished the Chair and took no part in the discussion or voting that ensued.

The Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor J. Mawson took the Chair

Solicitors acting for the Parish Council advised that the present owner of the allotment site had agreed to limit the clawback provision to 25 years in the event that the land was subsequently sold for development purposes.

In order that the purchase of the allotment site could be completed without further delay the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council had been advised of the situation and had agreed to the terms.

Resolved: That a 25 year clawback period is accepted by the Parish Council and the action of the Chairman & Vice Chairman be endorsed.

249. Future Management of Coopers Close Allotments

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 Sections 94/95, Councillor T. Unsworth declared an interest in this matter relinquished the Chair and took no part in the discussion or voting that ensued.

The Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor J. Mawson took the Chair

Members were informed that because the Coopers Close Allotment Site was to become the property of the Parish Council they must decide how it would be managed in future years and agree what the annual rent will be for 2003/2004.

Y:\Word\Agendas & Minutes\Archive\May02\April03\Minutes2002.docx 2

Two options were considered:-

The Parish Council to administer the site and issue Tenancy Agreements to each tenant,

Enter into a Legal Agreement with the Allotment Association who would then administer the site on the Councils behalf.

The Parish Clerk reported that at the Parish Council meeting held 2nd April 2002 (Minute 260.2). "The meeting concluded that once the Parish Council had purchased the allotment site, officials of the Allotment Association should meet the Parish Council to negotiate on what basis they might operate the allotments in future years."

Resolved: That a meeting is arranged with officials of the Allotment Association to ascertain their views.

250. 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), 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.

251. Provision of Village Christmas Tree

Councillor Mrs. Mawson suggested that the Parish Council should make provision for a Christmas Tree to be erected in the village for Christmas 2004.

Resolved: That a Christmas Tree should be provided in the village for Christmas 2003 and that cost estimated be obtained.

252. Rights of Way

Councillor J. Ollett reported that some of the rights of Way were becoming overgrown and impassable by members of the public.

The Parish Clerk agreed to contact the County Council to determine what could be done to remedy the situation.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

THIS PAGE LEFT PURPOSELY BLANK FOR PRINTING

PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
4TH, MARCH 2003**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

Mrs. I. Hind, J. Mawson, Mrs. L. Mawson, J. Ollett, Mrs. M. Ollett, Mrs. A. Robson, J. Williams, G. Wilson. Councillor M. Nichols.

APOLOGIES

Councillors' Mrs. P. Maddison, J. Robson, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, Mrs. M. Wharrier, Mrs. A Williams.

253. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th February 2003, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

254. Matters Arising

There were no matter arising.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

255. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Wray to the meeting who reported as follows:

There had been three motor vehicles stolen, two from Dunelm Road and one from the Green. This rise in this type of crime had been reported to C.I.D. who would focus on ways to combat the increase. A C.D. player was stolen from a motor vehicle in Galt Street.

Thornley Primary School had reported the theft of three loaves of bread and in Gore Hill a garage had been broken into and a car damaged.

Nineteen complaints of anti social behaviour had been investigated in the Greenwood Cottages and Gore Hill areas. Some damage had been caused. The police and Street Wardens were pursuing these matters.

A resident had been arrested for six burglaries from homes but had "gone on the run". A warrant for his re-arrest had been issued.

In closing Sergeant Wray said that because of a staffing restructure he was being transferred to Peterlee Police Station and would no longer be responsible for the Thornley area.

Members expressed their appreciation for his efforts over the years and wished him well in the future.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the report be received.

256. Street Wardens Report

No wardens were present at the meeting and therefore no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

257. New Thornley

The Vice Chairman reported that the Annual General Meeting of New Thornley Partnership had taken place on Tuesday 19th February 2003 and a new Steering Group had been elected.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

258. District Councillor

Councillor Wharrier was not present at the meeting to present his report. County Councillor M. Nichols (also a District Councillor) reported that a number of rule changes were coming into operation for Council tenants. More detailed information would be made available in the near future.

It was anticipated that the District Council element of the Community Charge would increase by 3% in 2003/4.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

259. County Councillor

Councillor M. Nichols reported that Central Government had changed the method used to calculate council's financial allocations. Durham County Council had not received as much as it required to maintain services without imposing increases in Community Charge payments. In an effort to minimise the potential increase the County Council had made saving in the region of £8 million and this had been ploughed back in to various element of the councils operation, notably education, welfare and transport. It was anticipated that the overall increase in the Community Charge from the County Council would be in the region of 9.17%.

Enquiries into repair works required to the bridges over one of the bridal ways had revealed that the original damage had been repaired but it had been damaged again. He was unable to determine if it would be repaired a second time.

The installation of Security Lights around Youll House was still being progressed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

260. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that the next meeting of the association was to take place on Wednesday 5th March 2003.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

261. T.E.D.

Members expressed concern at the number of occasions when the refuse bins outside vacant properties were being set on fire and the potential for serious injury or damage.

They requested that the situation be brought to the attention of the District of Easington asking for refuse bins to be removed immediately any property became vacant.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk contacts the District of Easington in this regard.

262. Youll House

Councillor G. Wilson reported that a new hot water boiler had been purchased and that other minor repair works were being instigated.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

263. Alteration of Football Pitch – Library Site

The Parish Clerk reported that the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council had received a number of requests from football players to reduce the full size football pitch at the library site to accommodate five-a-side matches.

This request, if exceeded to would not only necessitate the reduction in the overall size of playing surface but the replacement or alteration of the existing goal posts.

The work can be carried out by the council's own workforce at minimal expense.

Resolved: That the football pitch be reduced in size to accommodate 5-a-side matches.

264. Proposed Substitution of House Type Stanley Terrace, Thornley (REF: 1640)

The District of Easington advised that a Planning Application in respect of the above had been made by Ashwood Housing Developments.

Any objections to this proposal should be forwarded to the District of Easington.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

265. Planning Permission (REF: 1642)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. P. Kell to undertake extension works to a property on Wingate Road Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

266. West Area Forum (REF: 1651)

The District of Easington advised that the next West Area Forum would take place in the Heritage Centre Wheatley Hill on Wednesday, 5th March 2003 at 6:00 p.m.

Councillor G. Wilson asked if there were any items members wished him to raise.

Resolved: The information be noted and items be given to Councillor Wilson at the conclusion of the Parish Council meeting.

267. C.A.B. request for Donation (REF: 1655)

The Citizens Advice Bureau had requested a financial contribution toward the running costs of the Service.

Members were asked to recall that the Parish Council approved a donation of £500 in 2002. (Meeting held on 5th, February 2002 Minute 173 of refers.)

Resolved: That the application be deferred so that additional information could be obtained.

268. Planning Permission (REF: 1662)

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. Warnes to undertake extension works to 3, School Green, Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

269. Insurance Claim REF: 1666)

Members were asked to recall that on 5th November 2002, whilst the Parish Clerk was carrying out official council business his car was damaged by vandals. On the instruction of the Chairman & Vice Chairman of the Council an insurance Claim was submitted.

The damage had been repaired and the insurance claim was being processed.

Resolved: That the information be noted and the action of the Chairman and Vice Chairman be endorsed.

270. Parish Election Timetable (REF: 1667)

The District of Easington provided a timetable for the Parish Council Elections to be held on 1st. May 2003.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

271. Thornley Primary School Governing Body (REF: 1678)

Durham County Council advised that Mrs. P. White had been disqualified as a School Governor because of non attendance at meetings.

The Parish Council was asked to provide the name and address of a replacement.

All Governor appointments are subject to satisfactory Disclosure clearance from the Criminal Records Bureau.

Resolved: That Durham County Council be advised that no nomination could be made and that they should make alternative arrangements to fill the vacancy.

272. Royal Garden Party (REF: 1679)

The Durham Association of Town & Parish Councils requested that nominations be put forward to attend the Royal Garden Party.

Resolved: That Councillor J. Williams' name be submitted but if chosen to attend he pay all his own travelling and subsistence expenses.

273. Annual General Meeting

The Parish Clerk reminded members that it was appropriate at this time to decide on which date the Annual Meeting of the Parish and the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council would take place.

In accordance with the Local Government Act this should be arranged as soon as possible following the Parish Council Elections being held on 1st May 2003. It was suggested that the appropriate date would be Tuesday 6th May 2003.

Resolved: That the Annual Meetings of the Parish be held on 6th May 2003.

274. New Thornley Partnership

New Thornley Partnership requested the Parish Council to elect a representative to their Steering Committee in accordance with the Constitution. As this would be an annual request it was suggested that the Councillor holding the Chairmanship of the Parish Council in any particular year be nominated.

Resolved: That the Councillor holding the Chairmanship of the Parish Council be nominated to represent the Parish Council on the Partnership.

275. Coopers Close Allotments

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 Sections 94/95, Councillors T. Unsworth and Mrs. A. Robson declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion or voting that ensued.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor J. Mawson took the Chair.

The Parish Clerk reported that in accordance with minute 245, a meeting with officials of the Allotment Association was held on Tuesday 11th February 2003 at which the Parish Clerk gave an update on the purchase of the site by the Parish Council. The allotment holders concerns and options for operating the site in future years were also discussed.

In principle the Allotment Association was willing to enter into a formal agreement with the Parish Council to operate the site in future years subject to negotiation on the terms and conditions.

Councillors proposed that

An annual rent of £500 be charged for the first three years and thereafter increased with inflation.

That the Allotment Association be made responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of all fencing, pathways and water supplies,

That the Parish Council pays the legal expenses for both parties in drawing up the agreement.

Resolved: That a further meeting be arranged with the Allotment Association and the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, along with Councillor J. Williams be authorised to agree terms and conclude matters.

276. Finance Report

The report of the Parish Clerk detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

277. 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), 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.

278. Regeneration Conferences

The Parish Clerk reported that a number of Regeneration Conferences were to be held on various topics over the next three months.

Resolved: That Councillor Wilson be authorised to attend

279. Proposed Rear Extension 55/56 Shinwell Crescent, Thornley (REF: 1692)

The District of Easington advised that a planning application in respect of the above had been made by Mr. & Mrs. Williams.

Any objections to this proposal should be forwarded to the District of Easington.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

280. Proposed Residential Development North of Garden Terrace, Thornley (REF: 1694)

The District of Easington advised that the planning application in respect of the above made by Mr. Gott had been refused.¹¹

Resolved: That the information be noted.

281. Request to Graze Horses

Mr. Crake The Bungalow, Mount Garage, High Street, Thornley requested that he be given permission to graze horses on Parish Council owned land at the rear of the Pit Wheel for a further twelve months from May 2003.

Resolved: That permission be granted to Mr. M. Crake to tether horses on Parish land at the rear of the Pit Wheel subject to providing evidence of appropriate Personal Liability insurance cover.

¹¹ See also minute 247.

282. Parking Problems

Councillor Mrs. Ollett raised:

The problems caused by motorists parking on the double yellow lines and the potential for accidents to occur

The question of dog fouling.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk contacts the District of Easington and the Police asking them to address the situation.

283. Repairs & Maintenance Problems

Councillor J. Mawson reported that

The concrete cover over the water meter at the entrance to the Library had been damaged and was in need of repair

That a car and other rubbish had been dumped in the same locality.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk attend to these matters.

THIS PAGE LEFT PURPOSELY BLANK FOR PRINTING

PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY
ON
1ST, APRIL 2003**

PRESENT

Councillor T. Unsworth (Chair)

Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. P. Maddison, Mrs. L. Mawson, J. Ollett, Mrs. M. Ollett, Mrs. A. Robson, J. Williams,

APOLOGIES

Councillors' J. Mawson, Mr. J. Robson, Mrs. J. Unsworth, G. Wharrier, Mrs. M. Wharrier, Mrs. A. Williams. G. Wilson. Councillor M. Nichols.

284. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th, March 2003, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

285. Matters Arising

There were no matter arising.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

286. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed PC Andy Holland & PC Steve Raine to the meeting who reported as follows:

In response to a letter from the Parish Council to Inspector Ellis, the Traffic Warden had called at various premises on Stanley Terrace, to advise residents and local workmen to refrain from parking on the yellow lines. The situation would be monitored but it was hoped that further action would not be necessary. There had been seven reports of youths causing nuisance in the village at various locations and a bus had had its windows damaged by vandals.

Attempted burglaries had taken place at The Green and the Gore Hill Estate. Only minor damage had been caused and no property was taken.

Two cases of crime involving motor vehicles had been reported and in Hilltop View the cable from a Sky satellite dish had been stolen.

Councillor Mrs. Mawson reported that there had been several fires caused by youths and requested additional patrols be made because a number of trees and bushes belonging to the Parish Council had been set alight. She also reported that a number of problems had been caused by youths at the newly opened children's playground in Gore Hill.

The police officers stated that they would liaise with the Street Wardens in an attempt curtail the problems.

The Chairman thanked the officers for attending and they left the meeting.

Y:\Word\Agendas & Minutes\Archive\May02\April03\Minutes2002.docx 2

Resolved: That the information be noted and the report be received.

287. Street Wardens Report

No wardens were present at the meeting and therefore no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

288. New Thornley

The Chairman reported that projects were progressing satisfactorily and that a meeting was being arranged with young people from the village to involve them in regeneration proposals.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

289. District Councillor

As Councillor Wharrier was not present at the meeting no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

290. County Councillor

As Councillor Nicholls was not present at the meeting no report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

291. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's

The Chairman reported that he had attended the last meeting of the Association when members had discussed issues of concern in various villages. There was nothing relating to Thornley.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

292. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 1711)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 14th, February 2003. Minor repairs are required and these are being attended too.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

293. Planning Application Plot 11 Stanley Terrace (REF: 1723)

The District of Easington advised that Ashwood Developments had applied for a change of house type on plot 11 Stanley Terrace, Thornley.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

294. Non domestic Rates – Welfare Park (REF: 1724)

The District of Easington advised that the non-domestic rates for the Welfare Park, for 2003/2004 would be £488.40.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

295. Temporary Use of Land – Funfair (REF: 1725)

The District of Easington advised that a Licence had been granted to Mr. K. Turner to hold a Funfair on land in Thornley from 16th, March 2003 to 6th, April 2003.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

Y:\Word\Agendas & Minutes\Archive\May02\April03\Minutes2002.docx

296. Dog Fouling (REF: 1726)

The District of Easington advised that the Parish Councils complaint about the problem of dog fouling had been passed to the Environmental Wardens for attention. In addition to cleaning the area they requested that if the names and addresses of those dog owners were known these be passed on to the District Council for further action to be taken under the Control of Dogs/Dangerous Dogs/Dogs (Fouling of Land) – Environmental Protection Act.

Resolved: That names be provided to the District Council if known.

297. Tourism Consortium Meeting (REF: 1729)

The Parish Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been invited to send a representative to the next meeting of the County Durham Tourism Consortium which would take place at Seaton Holme on 9th, April 2003 at 2:00 p.m.

Resolved: That no member attend but a copy of the minutes of the meeting be obtained.

298. County Durham Environment Awards 2002 (REF: 1730)

Durham County Council advised that the nomination of The Village Green Project was unsuccessful.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

299. Void Property Removal of Refuse Bins (REF: 1737)

In response to concerns raised by members at the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th, March 2003 (minute 255 refers), the District of Easington advised that they have system already in place to tackle this problem.

If particular areas of concern are reported to the Envirocall Unit they will be dealt with.

The Street Wardens had also been alerted to the problem and would patrol those areas of the village with a high number of void properties.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

300. Invitation to Opening Ceremony St Chad's Houses (REF: 1738)

Durham Aged Mineworkers Association invited the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Parish Clerk to the official opening of the St. Chad's housing development on Wednesday, 2nd, April 2003 at 11:30am.

Resolved: That Councillors Mrs. L. Mason & Mrs. A. Robson be authorised to attend along with the Parish Clerk.

301. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 1739)

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 11th, March 2003. Only very minor defects were reported and these were being addressed.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

302. Non Domestic Rate – Cemetery (REF: 1740)

Durham County Council advised that the Non Domestic Rate for Thornley Cemetery 2003/2004 would be £380.58.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

303. Arboricultural Work – Cemetery (REF: 1744)

A survey of the trees in Thornley Cemetery had been undertaken by the Tree & Woodland Officer at Easington District Council at the request of the Parish Clerk.

His report recommended that two trees be felled (because of their condition) and the remainder pruned and monitored for signs of disease in the future.

Because the trees were in Conservation Area permission from the District of Easington would need to be obtained before the work was carried out.

Permission was sought to obtain the relevant permission and carry out the work at an estimated cost of £500.

Resolved: That the expenditure be approved.

304. Planning Permission 55/56 Shinwell Crescent Thornley (REF: 1745)

The District of Easington advised that Planning Permission had been granted to Mr B. Williams to extend the rear of the property.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

305. Proposed House Hartlepool Street, Thornley (REF: 1746)

The District of Easington advised that Mr. I. O. Graham had applied to build a house at Hartlepool Street, Thornley.

Any objections to this proposal should be forwarded to the District of Easington.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

306. Damage to Bridleway (REF: 1747)

Durham County Council advised that they were investigating the Parish Councils report in relation to the Bridleways and damage caused by tenants grazing horses on adjacent land. Leases were due for renewal and the incidents, as reported, would be taken into consideration before tenancies were renewed. (Meeting held on 4th, February 2003 Minute 224 refers.)

Resolved: That the information be noted.

307. Parking Problems (REF: 1748)

Durham Constabulary advised that the council's concerns re parking on yellow lines is receiving attention. (Meeting held on 4th, March 2003 Minute 275 refers.)

Resolved: That the information be noted.

308. Purchase of Kubota Grasscutting Machine

Members were asked to recall that in 2002 (2nd, April 2002 minute 262) it was agreed that a Kubota Grasscutting machine on loan to the Parish Council for the duration of the grasscutting season be purchased from the District of Easington.

Unfortunately the purchase was never completed because of difficulties in procedure.

Negotiations had reopened but unfortunately the proposed machine was no longer available. An alternative Kubota (of later registration) was available for purchase via the District Council's leasing company.

Members were advised that in order to commence grasscutting operations for 2003 the Parish Clerk had arranged to purchase the machine for £1,500.

Resolved: That the action of the Parish Clerk be endorsed and the expenditure be approved.

309. Finance Report

The report of the Parish Clerk detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting was considered.

Resolved: That the report be accepted and the Parish Clerk be authorised to settle any outstanding accounts.

310. Coopers Close Allotments

In accordance with minute 272, a meeting with officials of the Allotment Association was held on Tuesday, 11th, March 2003 at which the terms proposed by the Parish Council were outlined.

Following discussion it was agreed by the Vice Chairman, Councillor J. Mawson and Councillor J. Williams (in line with the mandate given at the Parish Council meeting 4th March 2003) that:-

The annual rent for the whole of the Coopers Close Allotment Site for an initial period of three years is determined by multiplying the existing number of allotments on the site by £10.

Thereafter the annual rent would increase by the National Rate of Inflation, The amount payable would be made in two instalments due on 1st, April and 1st, October each year.

The Allotment Association would be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of all fencing, pathways and water supplies,

That the Parish Council pays the legal expenses for both parties in drawing up the agreement.

Resolved: That the action of the Vice Chairman and Councillor Williams be endorsed and an agreement be drawn up once the site is transferred to the Parish Council.

311. Proposed Residential Development St. Aidan's crescent, Thornley (REF: 1768)

The District of Easington advised that Three Rivers Housing Group had applied to build houses at St. Aidan's Crescent, Thornley.

Any objections to this proposal should be forwarded to the District of Easington.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

312. Request for Donation (REF: 1776)

The Neighbourhood watch Co-ordinator for Eastlea, Thornley requested a donation of £74.00 from the Parish Council to cover the cost of providing four street signs.

Resolved: That the Parish Council would donate £74 by settling the account for the supply of the signs.

313. 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), 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.

314. Memorial Bench Thornley Cemetery

Councillor Mrs. Mawson reported that she had been approached by Mrs. Whinn concerning the cost of installing a bench in memorial to her late father, in Thornley Cemetery and requested that alternatives be considered. (Meeting held on 1st, October 2002 minute 160 refers.)

Resolved: That subject to type approval by the Parish Council, Mrs. Whinn be allowed to purchase her own hardwood bench for installation in the Cemetery. The installation is arranged by the Parish Council and the costs and all other liabilities be the responsibility of Mrs. Whinn.

315. Provision of Public Toilet Thornley Cemetery

Councillor J. Ollett suggested that the cost of providing public toilet facilities within the cemetery grounds be investigated with a view to including them in the planned refurbishment of the lodge which is due to take place in 2003 as part of the capital works program.

Resolved: That the cost be investigated for consideration by the Parish Council.

316. Chairman's Thanks

As this was the last meeting of the Parish Council before the Statutory Election of a new Council on 1st, May 2003, the Chairman, Councillor T. Unsworth, thanked members for their support over the years.

Resolved: That the vote of thanks to those members not standing for re-election be recorded in the minutes.

INDEX OF ENTRIES

5

5-a-side, 77
5-A-Side, 46

A

A.C.A.S., 36
Accounts, 29, 36, 69, 70
 see also Statement of Accounts, 29, 36, 69
Action Zone, 60, 70
Adoption, 52
Age Concern, 37, 55, 56, 68
allotment, 43, 71, 72, 79
Allotment, 71, 72, 79, 87
Allotment Association, 72, 79, 87
allotments, 72, 87
Allotments, 71, 79, 87
Annual General Meeting, 9, 35, 50, 76, 79
Anti Social Behaviour, 35, 42, 50, 65
Application, 13, 14, 15, 24, 38, 43, 52, 77, 84
Arboricultural Work, 86
Area Forum, 2, 4, 11, 20, 32, 37, 42, 50, 77
Audit, 6, 29, 36, 57, 69, 70
Auditor, 29, 36

B

Balances & Reserves, 57
Bank, 4
Bonus, 63
Bridleway, 86

C

C.A.B., 78
Capital Program, 38
Capital Works, 37, 38, 53
Car Parking, 34
Casual Vacancy, 15
Cemetery, 4, 12, 14, 24, 33, 44, 54, 86, 88
Christmas, 43, 60, 63, 68, 72
Code of Conduct, 3
Community Centre, 2, 3, 9, 36, 51, 59, 62
Computer, 55
Conference, 5, 23
Conferences, 23, 80
consultation, 7, 14, 15, 16, 37, 57, 62, 72, 80, 88
Consultation, 15
Consultative, 7, 34, 57
Coopers Close, 9, 10, 11, 53, 67, 71, 79, 87
Co-option, 19
Council Elections, 78, 79

County Councillor, 1, 3, 9, 10, 12, 21, 32, 43, 51,
61, 67, 76, 84
Criminal Damage, 25
Crossways, 10, 43, 51, 67
Cultural Strategy, 14, 70

D

declared an interest, 6, 19, 71, 79
Development Worker, 10
District Councillor, 3, 11, 21, 32, 35, 43, 51, 60, 67,
76, 84
Dog Fouling, 2, 14, 85
donation, 4, 5, 6, 14, 25, 34, 36, 52, 53, 78, 88
Donation, 4, 5, 25, 34, 52, 53, 78, 88
Durham Association, 4, 35, 38, 61, 68, 78

E

Easington Area Association, 57, 69
Easington Association, 5, 24, 70, 76, 84
Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's,
76, 84
Eastern Gateway, 15, 52, 66
Economic Partnership, 63
Economic Strategy, 63
Electoral Changes, 71
Environment Awards, 69, 85
Environmental Improvement, 10, 53, 62
equipment, 1, 10, 13, 21, 22, 23, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38,
44, 45, 49, 50, 53, 69
[Exclusion of the Press & Public](#), 16, 25
EXEMPT ITEMS, 17, 27

F

Facilitator, 6
Finance Report, 6, 15, 24, 37, 43, 56, 62, 70, 80, 87
Footpath, 22, 33, 44, 52
Footpaths, 3, 12, 38, 53
Freedom of Information, 52
funding, 6, 10, 21, 22, 32, 37, 51, 52, 59, 62, 66, 67,
68
funds, 5, 21, 32, 37, 50

G

Garden of Remembrance, 54
Gore Hill, 1, 6, 21, 22, 34, 43, 49, 50, 53, 60, 67, 75,
83
Gore Hill Estate, 1, 53, 83
Grants, 45, 55
Greenwood Cottages, 10, 59, 75

Y:\Word\Agendas & Minutes\Archive\May02\April03\Minutes2002.docx

H

Health & Safety, 14, 22, 23
Heritage, 4, 22, 36, 55, 77
Heritage Trail, 22, 36
Holiday, 17
Home-Buy Scheme, 37
Horse Fair, 15, 35
horses, 1, 12, 13, 39, 68, 80, 86
Horses, 12, 13, 39, 80
Housing Development, 77

I

Inspection
see also Playground, 13, 14, 33, 36, 38, 44, 69,
84, 85
Insurance, 14, 23, 78
Inter Parish, 2, 11, 20, 32, 42, 51
Internal Audit, 29, 57, 70
Invitation, 12, 25, 85

L

Land, 84, 85
Letter of Thanks, 14, 36
Library, 1, 3, 12, 14, 15, 66, 77, 81
Litter Bin, 14, 67
Litter Bins, 14
Local Plan, 45
Local Policing Plan, 4

M

Members, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23,
24, 27, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 42, 44, 45, 49, 53, 55,
57, 61, 66, 67, 69, 70, 71, 75, 77, 78, 87
Memorial Bench, 44, 88
Millennium Coins, 55

N

New Thornley, 2, 10, 20, 21, 32, 42, 50, 60, 66, 69,
76, 79, 84
Non Domestic Rate, 86

P

Parking Problems, 81, 86
Payment, 57
Permission, 4, 23, 24, 34, 36, 43, 44, 45, 51, 57, 62,
77, 78, 86
Personal Injury, 23
Personnel Report, 16, 26
Pit Wheel, 36, 39, 80
Planning, 4, 13, 14, 23, 24, 34, 38, 43, 44, 45, 52,
57, 62, 77, 78, 84, 86
Play Area, 6, 21, 34

Playground

see also Inspections, 13, 23, 33, 36, 38, 44, 54,
69, 84, 85

Police, 1, 5, 9, 10, 19, 24, 31, 34, 35, 39, 41, 49, 59,
65, 66, 75, 81, 83

Police Report, 1, 9, 19, 31, 41, 49, 59, 65, 75, 83

Precept, 61

Primary, 70, 75, 78

Protective Clothing, 17

Public Toilet, 88

R

R.o.S.P.A., 38

Refuse Bin, 85

Regional Assembly, 69

Registry, 24

Regulations, 29, 57

Remembrance, 46, 54, 58

Request, 4, 5, 12, 25, 39, 52, 53, 80, 88

Residential Development, 71, 80, 88

Resignation, 7

Resource Centre, 20, 50, 54

Review, 14, 17, 27, 33

Right of Way, 68

Rights of Way, 73

Royal Garden Party, 78

S

School, 1, 3, 10, 37, 70, 75, 78

Seats, 12

Section 137 Local Government Act, 71

Security, 54, 55, 76

see also Graze, Grazing, Horses, 13

Sexton, 33, 68

snow, 51

Society of Clerks, 62

Speeding, 43

St. Bede's Crescent, 52

Standards Board, 4

Stanley Terrace, 10, 43, 77, 83, 84

Stopping Up Order, 25

Street Wardens, 1, 32, 41, 50, 60, 66, 75, 76, 83,
84, 85

Subscription, 62, 63, 68

T

T.E.D., 2, 11, 20, 32, 42, 50, 77

Terms & Conditions, 17, 27

Thornlaw North, 3, 9, 49, 51, 65

Thornlaw South, 23, 53

Thornley Community Centre, 9, 59

Tourism, 85

Trade Waste, 4

traffic calming, 32, 41

Training, 20, 52
travellers, 43
Treasurer, 20, 34, 35

U

Unauthorised Parking, 7
Use of Welfare Park, 14, 25

V

Vacancy, 15
vandalism, 42, 46
Vandalism, 66
vandals, 67, 78, 83
Vice Chairman, 35, 71, 76, 77, 78, 79, 85, 87
Village Green, 2, 60, 69, 85
vote of thanks, 88

W

W.R.V.S., 25
War Memorial, 2, 54
Waste Contract, 4
Welfare Park, 4, 14, 20, 25, 35, 37, 45, 53, 54, 69, 84
West Area Forum, 4, 37, 77
Wild Meadow, 45
Winter Highway Maintenance, 3
Winter Maintenance, 51
Wreaths, 46

Y

yellow lines, 81, 83, 86
Youll House, 2, 11, 20, 32, 37, 43, 46, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 59, 61, 63, 66, 68, 76, 77
Young Peoples Project, 24, 25, 49, 60
Youth, 42, 44, 60, 61