

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
5TH MAY 2009**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. J. Middleton, J.F. Ollett W. Turnbull, G. Wilson.**

**Apologies**

**No apologies were recorded.**

**GUESTS**

**Councillor M. Nicholls (Durham County Council)**

**APOLOGIES**

**No apologies were recorded.**

**1. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councillor Mrs Attey referred to minute 312 and sought clarification from County Councillor Nicholls as to whether the pot holes on Dunelm Road were to be attended too.

Councillor Mrs Attey referred to minute 318 and enquired if any progress had been made. The Parish Clerk reported that no additional information had been provided by either Durham County Council or the Police. Councillor Nicholls explained that the provision and subsequent enforcement of Bye Laws relating to the consumption of Alcohol in public places was extremely difficult, if not impossible, to enforce because of the complexities of the legislation. In addition the expenditure required to obtain a Bye Law may not be cost effective and that the Parish Council may wish to consider this before progressing the matter.

Councillor Mrs. J. Middleton referred to minute 321 and pointed out that she had declared an interest but this had not been recorded.

Councillor Wilson referred to minute 339 and expressed concern that the person appointed was not as resident of the village. The Chairman explained that the proper selection and interview procedure had been followed and that the interviewing panel had appointed the most suitable candidate from those applicants shortlisted for interview.

Having noted these observations the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th April 2009 were accepted as a true record.

**2. Public Question and Answer Session (1)**

A resident highlighted their concern at the amount of "fly-tipping" taking place on open space within the village.

The Parish Clerk reported that this was an ever increasing problem and that the former District of Easington (and the new Unitary Authority) had been notified. Whenever possible the offending items had been removed.

One of the major difficulties was that access to the land in question could not be effectively fenced off nor could 24 hour surveillance be undertaken.

Councillor Mrs. Attey highlighted the fact that the problem was being created because Durham County Council made a charge for the disposal of household items which was previously a free service.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and Durham County Council be asked to review the service.***

**3. Public Question and Answer Session (2)**

A resident expressed concern at the amount of traffic congestion being created by visitors to an "auction" being held at Gore Hall Farm and asked if the auction had the required permits.

***Resolved: That Durham County Council be asked if formal application for a permit to hold an auction(s) had been made and if they had been issued.***

**4. Public Question and Answer Session (3)**

A resident asked where he could obtain details of the Cemetery Regulation Fees and charges.

The Parish Clerk reported that a summary of the fees was posted on the Cemetery Notice Board and that a copy of the regulations was sent out as a matter of course to the person arranging any interment in the cemetery.

A copy would also be posted to any individual on request.

***Resolved: That the letter be received.***

**5. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed P.C. Brown to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the police had dealt with 63 calls from Thornley relating to the following incidents:-

Youths Congregating	3
Burglary	1
Criminal Damage	2
Theft from Motor Vehicle	1
Nuisance	2

A raid on a house in Thornley had resulted in a drug seizure.

***Resolved: That the information be noted***

**6. Street Wardens Report**

The Street Wardens reported that a comprehensive report was not available but the wardens were still active in the village. The majority of problems were related to anti social behaviour by youths congregating in the village or in the vicinity of the Community Centre.

***Resolved: That the information be noted***

**7. New Thornley Partnership**

The Chairman of the Partnership reported that findings of the recently held community consultation exercise were to be included in a master plan which would be produced in the near future.

The Easter event had been well attended and thanks had been recorded for all those who had made it a success.

***Resolved: That the information be noted***

**8. Unitary County Councillor**

County Councillor Maurice Nicholls reported that the staffing review for the new Unitary Council and the filling of vacant posts was ongoing.

A planning application for stables at the rear of Dunelm Road was causing some concern amongst residents and these would be addressed when the planning application was considered.

The Boundary Commission Review was ongoing and further details relating to Thornley and Wheatley Hill were awaited.

The election of members would take place in 2010 or 2013.

The review of the 21 & 21a bus service was ongoing.

Members highlighted their concern that only one of the two county councillors representing Thornley attended the monthly meetings of the parish council. It was requested that a special invitation be sent to Councillor Brian Wilson asking that he make every effort to attend future meetings to update members.

Councillor Mrs. Middleton highlighted damage to the "Pit Pony" on the roundabout on the A181. Councillor Nicholls advised that he was aware of the situation and that funding to repair it was being sought via the Heritage Trail Group.

***Resolved: That the information be noted***

**9. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

Councillor Mrs Attey reported that the meeting clashed with tonight's meeting of the Parish Council and that apologies had been given for non attendance.

***Resolved: That the information be noted***

**10. T.E.D.**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill reported that no more meetings had been arranged. It was suggested that this item be removed from future meetings until further notice.

***Resolved: That the information be noted***

**11. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the AGM had been held recently and that new officers had been appointed.

An open day to mark the 25th anniversary of Youll House Age Concern had been held recently and this had been successful.

The numbers attending various groups was on the decline and it was proving difficult to recruit more members from residents of the village.

The Meals on Wheels service was now providing meals for only 10 to 15 people per week and the disable club only had 15 members.

A severe water leak had been reported to Northumbrian Water and they were investigating the problem.

**Resolved: That the information be noted**

**12. Kerb Sets – Cemetery**

Councillor Ollett highlighted the work carried out by the Parish Council in Thornley Cemetery to comply with the Faculty Order obtained from the Durham Diocese and suggested that the Cemetery Regulations be amended to prevent any additional kerb sets being installed.

**Resolved: That the relevant clauses in the Cemetery Regulations amended to preclude the installation of any additional kerb sets in any part of Thornley Cemetery.**

**13. Chairman's Event**

The Chairman highlighted concerns that the Parish Council had, in the past, been criticised by residents for not providing sufficient activities, facilities or entertainment for children and youths from the village.

It was suggested that a Sub Committee be convened to consider ways that the Parish Council could address this situation and provide details and estimated costs for consideration by the full council.

**Resolved: That an Activities Sub Committee be created and that the Chairman, Vice Chairman & Councillors J. Ollett and Mrs. M. Brunskill serve on the sub group.**

**14. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2009/0125)**

Durham County Council advised that Ms. A. Symons had applied for planning permission to construct a dwelling at Thornley Moor Farm, Cassop.

**Resolved: That no objections be raised.**

**15. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2009/0152)**

Durham County Council advised that Mr. S. Westgarth had applied for planning permission construct a private garage at 55, Dunelm Road, Thornley, Co. Durham.

**Resolved: That no objections be raised.**

**16. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2009/0149)**

Durham County Council advised that Mr. G. Murray had applied for planning permission to construct a two storey rear extension & private garage at 96, Dunelm Road, Thornley. Co. Durham.

**Resolved: That no objections be raised.**

**17. Request for Donation (REF: 5768)**

The National Play Day Steering Committee requested a donation to help fund a "Play Day" in the region costing £7,500.00. Last year's event was attended by approximately 1200 children.

**Resolved: That the request be received.**

**18. Fly-Tipping**

This item had already been considered under Public Questions & Answers (1)<sup>1</sup>.

***Resolved: That the information be noted***

**19. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5764)**

A letter of thanks was received from the Great North Air Ambulance for the Parish Councils recent donation.

***Resolved: That the letter be received.***

**20. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5766)**

The District of Easington provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 31st March 2009. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

***Resolved: That the information be noted***

**21. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports**

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

***Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.***

**22. 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.*

**23. Statement of Accounts 2008-2009**

The Parish Clerk provided a copy of the Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure Summary Account and other related information to 31st, March 2009 for consideration.

***Resolved: That the statement be accepted and that the Parish Clerk make arrangements to submit the Annual Audit Return to BDO Stoy Hayward within the prescribed timescales.***

**24. Annual Audit of Accounts Ending 31st March 2009 (REF: 5749)**

The Parish Clerk reported that the external auditor (BDO STOY HAYWOOD) had advised that the annual audit of the 2008/2009 accounts would take 26th June 2009.

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<sup>1</sup> Minute 2 above refers.

The accounts had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/564).

Members were asked to approve Section 1 and Section 2 of the Annual Audit Return and for authorise the Chairman to sign it on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was further reported that arrangements were in hand to inform residents of their rights to inspect the accounts etc., in accordance with the statutory regulations, from 26th May 2009 to 22nd June 2009.

***Resolved: That the statement of accounts and statement of assurance be accepted along with answers required in section 2, and that the statement be signed by the Chairman on behalf of Thornley Parish Council.***

**25. Cemetery Gates – Update**

The Parish Clerk reported that in accordance with the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 7th October 2008<sup>2</sup> a quotation for £1,344.92 for the replacement of the Cemetery Gates had been obtained.

***Resolved: That the quotation be accepted and the Cemetery Gates be replaced as soon as possible.***

**26. Health Forum**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the survey relating to the development of a new clinic for the Wheatley Hill and Thornley area was still ongoing.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**27. Civic Service (REF: 5775)**

The Chairman of Durham County Council extended an invitation to members to attend a Civic Service in Durham Cathedral at 2:00pm on Saturday 30th May 2009.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**28. Letter of Thanks (Ref: 5782)**

A letter of thanks was received from the Wheatley Hill & Thornley Health Forum for the Parish Councils recent donation.

***Resolved: That the letter be received.***

**29. Letter of Thanks**

The Parish Clerk reported that the Aden Veterans had offered their thanks (verbal) for the Parish Councils recent donation.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

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<sup>2</sup> Minute 172 refers.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
2ND JUNE 2009**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. E. Laidler, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, G. Wilson.**

**APOLOGIES**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Mr. J.F. Ollett</i>	<i>Work</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>County Councillor M. Nicholls</i>	<i>Other Commitments</i>	
<i>T. Unsworth (Chairman of New Thornley Partnership)</i>		

**30. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councillor Mrs. Laidler pointed out that she was present at the previous meeting but this had not been recorded in the minutes.

Having noted this observation the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th May 2009 were accepted as a true record.

**31. Minutes of the Activities Sub Committee**

Having considered the minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2009 and accepted them as a true record, it was agreed that the suggested course of action be pursued.

**32. Public Question and Answer Session**

Members of the Whinn family confirmed that they had received a copy of the Thornley Cemetery Fees & Regulations requested at the previous meeting. They were of the opinion that the regulations were not clear on certain aspects and now requested that detailed costs to be provided to them for the purchase of burial plots in the cemetery.

The Chairman pointed out that the regulations were clear and that this was not a matter for discussion at a Parish Council meeting under the Public Question & Answer Session. She would however ensure that Mr & Mrs Whinn received the information they required if they could furnish the Parish Clerk details of what was required.

This information was not provided by Mr or Mrs. Whinn during the meeting.

It was pointed out that the Parish Council had afforded Mr and Mrs Whinn the opportunity to fully discuss their concerns in a private meeting attended by all members of the council on a previous occasion following at which the Parish Council's position was made clear. It was unfortunate that the Whinn family would not or could not accept the council's decision.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**33. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed PC Neil Dodds and PC Andy Holland to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the police had dealt with only 9 calls from Thornley relating to the following incidents:-

Youths Congregating	9
Burglary	1
Vehicle related	1

A number of 'sweeps' had been made in the village relating to drugs, parking issues and motor vehicles.

Members were expressed their continuing concern over the parking problems created by the 'auctions' being held at Gore Hall Farm.

The police stated that this situation was still being monitored.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**34. Street Wardens Report**

The Chairman welcomed Chris Milne and Gerry Flannigan to the meeting who reported that no problems had been brought to the attention of the street Wardens.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**35. New Thornley**

In the absence of the Chairman Councillor Mrs. Attey reported that a resident's consultation relating to the Thornley & Wheatley Hill Strategy would take place in Youll House on Friday 12th June 2009 commencing at 3:30pm.

A Summer Fete was to be held on Saturday 25th July 2009 on the Pit Wheel site.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**36. Unitary County Councillor**

Because Councillor Nicholls was not present no report was available.

The Chairman requested that Councillor Nicholls be asked to institute repairs to walls at the entrance to Gore Hill Estate and investigate what could be done to improve the general appearance of the estate.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**37. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

Councillor Mrs. Attey reported that the next meeting was to be held on 30th June 2009.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***



**38. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that Northumbrian Water had replaced a section of underground water pipe to stop the leak on the service.

A trip to Redcar for the member would take place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and a further trip to South Shields was being planned.

The facility would be closed from the 17th June 2009 to allow for cleaning works to be undertaken.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**39. Consideration of Future Planning Applications**

Councillor Mrs Attey highlighted some of the difficulties surrounding a planning application in Thornley and expressed the view that in future, before a decision was made as to whether objections should be raised, all councillors should visit each site for which planning applications had been submitted if such applications were for major developments or were considered to be likely to result in numerous objections from residents. Planning applications for minor property alterations etc could be considered as normal.

***Resolved: That in future councillors conduct site visits to all major planning development in the parish before making decisions thereon.***

**40. Members Allowances**

The Parish Clerk referred to articles in the national press concerning payments made to Members of Parliament.

It was suggested that members reaffirm Thornley Parish Council's Policy relating to Members Allowances<sup>3</sup>.

Members would however be entitled to claim the recognised levels of travel and subsistence allowances if their attendance at meetings etc had been authorised in advance by the Parish Council.

***Resolved: That would continue to decline to receive allowances to which they were entitled in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, preferring to carry out their duties on a voluntary basis but they could claim recognised levels of travel and subsistence allowances if authorised by the Parish Council.***

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<sup>3</sup> Meeting held on 6th May 2008 minute 13 refers.

**41. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2009/0188/5759)**

Durham County Council advised that Mrs. A. McCarroll had applied for planning permission to construct a front extension & detached garage at 38, Gore Hill, Co. Durham.

Any objections to the proposal should be forwarded to the Durham County Council.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**42. Invitation to Civic Dinner (REF: 5796)**

The Chairman of Durham County Council extended an invitation to attend his Annual Dinner & Proms in the Park at Auckland Castle on Friday 17th July 2009 commencing 4:00pm. Tickets are priced at £40.00 per head.

***Resolved: That the letter be received.***

**43. Invitation to Carnival (REF: 5797)**

Haswell & District MENCAP Society extended an invitation to attend their 2nd Anniversary Carnival Event at the Lisa Dixon Centre Haswell on Saturday 13th June 2009.

***Resolved: That the letter be received.***

**44. S.L.C.C. Seminar**

The Parish Clerk reported that The Society of Local Council Clerks was to hold a seminar entitled '**Power to the People: Can Local Communities Be Trusted to Deliver**' at Gloucester University on 15 & 16 July 2009 at a cost of £133.00.

In view of current Government Policies and the impact they have on the delivery of services to communities at a local level it was suggested that the Chairman or Vice Chairman plus the Parish Clerk attend in accordance with current practice.

Members sought clarification on current policy for attendance at conferences and meetings outside the parish.

The Parish Clerk referred to the Parish Council Meeting held 1st July 2008 (minute 87 refers) and reported that attendance at events of this type were considered on merit by the Parish Council on an individual basis.

***Resolved: That on this occasion only the Parish Clerk attends workload permitting.***

**45. Auditor Report of Accounts ending 31st March 2008(REF: 5789)**

The Parish Clerk reported that the Internal Audit of accounts from 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 had been completed by W.J. Smith. The accounts were in order and his report and observations were made available to members.

***Resolved: That the report be received and actioned as appropriate.***

**46. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5793)**

Durham County Council provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 30th April 2009. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**47. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports**

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

***Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.***

**48. 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.*

**49. Allocation of Grave Space – Thornley Cemetery (REF: 5810)<sup>4</sup>**

The Parish Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Phil Wilson MP requesting that the Parish Council re-consider its previous decision refusing permission to allow Mr. & Mrs. Whinn to inter the ashes of their daughter Jacqueline in a plot next to Tracy Barnett's memorial bench and to purchase the Exclusive Rights of Burial in the adjacent plots for themselves in Thornley Cemetery.

Members again expressed sympathy with Mr and Mrs Whinn over the loss of their daughter Jacqueline but pointed out that to accede to their request would set a precedent that could impede or impair the future management or operation of the cemetery.

***Resolved: Members decided unanimously that the Parish Council could not accede to the request made by Phil Wilson MP and re-affirmed their previous decision that in line with current policy Mr & Mrs Whinn be allocated the next available grave space(s) when required.***

**50. Haswell & District MENCAP Society. (REF: 5802)**

A request for a donation was received from the society toward their second anniversary event to be held on Saturday 13th June 2009.

***Resolved: That the letter be received.***

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<sup>4</sup> Meetings held on 7th April 2009 minute 307 & 14th April 2009 minutes 342 refers.

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**PURPOSES**



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
7TH JULY 2009**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. E. Laidler, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, G. Wilson.**

**APOLOGIES**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Mrs. M. Brunskill</i>	<i>Other Commitments</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>J. Ollett</i>	<i>Other Commitments</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>T. Unsworth (New Thornley Partnership)</i>		

**51. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councillor G. Wilson referred to minute 38 and reported that Youll House would now be closed from the last week in July to the first week in August to allow for redecoration.

Having noted this observation the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd June 2009 were accepted as a true record.

**52. Minutes of the Activities Sub Committee**

The minutes of the Activities Sub Committee meeting held on 30th June 2009 were accepted as a true record.

**53. Public Question and Answer Session**

There were no questions from the public.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**54. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed SGT Hawks and CPSO Dove to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the police had dealt with only 63 calls from Thornley relating to the following incidents:-

Youths Congregating	9
Burglary	3
Criminal Damage	4
Vehicle related	7
Street Drinking	1

In response to questions, Sgt Hawks reported that the "beat bobby" would be replaced in Thornley.

Members expressed their continuing concern over the parking problems created by the 'auctions' being held at Gore Hall Farm.

The police stated that this situation had been investigated and there was now a police presence at each event. Warning notices had been issued to offenders and in future Fixed Penalty Fines would be issued.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**55. Street Wardens Report**

The Chairman welcomed Kirsty Topping to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the wardens had dealt with only 13 calls from Thornley relating to the following incidents:-

Ball Games	2
Street Drinking	3
Youths Congregating	5
Vehicle related	3

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**56. New Thornley**

Councillor Attey reported that Durham County Council had held a public consultation meeting in Youll House regarding the Thornley & Wheatley Hill Strategy. Approximately 60 residents had attended.

Arrangements for the Fete to be held on the Pit Wheel site were progressing.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**57. Unitary County Councillor**

Councillor Nicholls reported that councils were being asked to respond to a survey concerning winter maintenance program.

The door and window replacement program for dwellings in Thornley would be commence in the near future and be complete in 2010.

Durham County Council had now instigated a Welfare Rights initiative from which potential claimants could obtain help and assistance regarding compensation claims.

A revised planning application for stables and feed store at Hilltop Bungalows had been submitted. Resident's views were now being sought. Any comments the Parish Council wished to make would also be taken into account before a decision was made.

Travellers in Thornley had been served notice and this would be enforced on 13th July 2009. Stronger action in relation to travellers had been proposed and was been considered by the County Council.

Action had been taken to remedy the deteriorating walls and prune back overhanging trees in Gore Hall Estate and Dunelm Road.

Trading Standards had been asked to investigate the validity of the auction/mart taking place on Gore Hall Farm, Thornley.

On behalf of Councillor Brunskill, the Parish Clerk asked if the Tidy Easington District Meeting and the Community Safety Partnership Meeting formally arranged by the now defunct District of Easington Council would be resurrected in any form by Durham County Council. Councillor Nicholls said he would investigate and report back to the Parish Council at a future meeting.

Councillor Nicholls reported that Keith Scott (who was present at the meeting) was being returned to the Street Warden service. Keith had been seconded from the warden service to investigate instances of fly-tipping throughout the area.

Members highlighted concern at the deplorable standard of resurfacing repair undertaken by contractors employed by the County Council at the rear of Dunelm Road.

It was also pointed out that damage had been done to kerbs on the Gore Hill Estate by their vehicles and that a number of potholes still required attention. Councillor G. Wilson sought advice on the adoption of the private road at the rear of his property. Councillor Nicholls reported that owners must bring the road up to adoptable standards but further advised that grants for this work were no available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and that, DCC be advised that the support given by Keith Scott had significantly reduced the fly-tipping in the village.***

**58. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

Councillor Attey reported that the AGM had been attended and all officials had been re-elected.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**59. Youll House Age Concern**

Councillor G. Wilson Reported that the water leak had still not been satisfactorily repaired and that investigations were continuing. A recent Pie & Pea evening had been well attended and a Coffee Morning was now being planned.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**60. Maintenance Report**

The report of the Chargehand Gardener was considered and members congratulated the staff on the high level of maintenance and standard of the floral decorations in the village.

It was suggested that D.C.C. Envirocall be asked to take enforcement procedures against dog fouling offenders.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and that Envirocall be asked to enforce dog fouling procedures.***

**61. NALC Annual Conference**

The Parish Clerk reported that the National Association of Local Councils was to hold its National Conference entitled **Putting People First** in London on 4th & 5th September 2009 at a cost of £310.50 per delegate.

***Resolved: That the Parish Council be represented by Councillors Mrs. Attey & Mrs. Brunskill or in the event that they could not attend the Clerk make alternative arrangements.***

**62. Request for Donation (REF: 5848)**

Thornley Moving Forward requested a donation to support prizes for a Summer Fete to be held on the Pit Wheel site on 25th July 2009.

***Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £100.***

**63. Review of Allotment Rents**

The Parish Clerk reported that it was appropriate at this time to consider arrangements for reviewing allotment rents 2010/2011.

It was suggested that before any decision were made, a meeting with the Coopers Close Allotment Association representatives be arranged to obtain their views.

***Resolved: That the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Coopers Close Allotments Association be invited to meet with Councillors Mrs. Unsworth, Mrs. Attey and G. Wilson.***

**64. Review of Welfare Park Hire Charges**

The Parish Clerk reported that it was appropriate at this time to consider arrangements for reviewing the Welfare Park hire charges 2009/10.

It was suggested that before any decision were made, a meeting with representatives of the football teams using the facility for home games be arranged to obtain their views.

***Resolved: That representatives of the football teams using the facility be invited to meet with Councillors Mrs. Unsworth, Mrs. Attey and G. Wilson.***

**65. Floral Displays – Youll House**

Councillor Mrs. Middleton suggested that the Parish Council initiate the planting of Summer & Winter bedding outside Youll House.

The Parish Clerk reported that although the Parish Council was responsible for the fabric of the building no budget existed for the provision of bedding plants and reminded members that Youll House Age Concern had sole operational use of the facility.

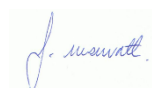
Members expressed concern that the only practical location for bedding plants was at the rear of the building where they would be of little visual benefit to the community.

It was pointed out that a number of flower troughs had been donated and that members of Age Concern may be able to obtain sufficient plants at little or no cost from retail outlets in the area to fill them.

It was suggested that if Age Concern obtained the plants the Parish Council staff would assist with the planting and water them.

***Resolved: That the Parish Council does not initiate the planting of Summer & Winter bedding at Youll House but that they would plant any obtained by Age Concern Youll House and water them during the flowering period.***



A small, light blue rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature appears to be "J. M. Smith" written in a cursive style.

**66. Planning Permission (REF: 5837)**

The District of Easington advised that planning permission had been granted to Ms N. Van Den to construct detached garage at 2, The Old Hospital, Bankdam Farm, Wheatley Hill, Co. Durham .

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**67. Review of Agenda Format**

The Chairman suggested that the Public Question & Answer period be moved further down the agenda for future Parish Council meetings.

***Resolved: That the change of agenda format be brought into effect for the meeting to be held on 1st September 2009.***

**68. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports**

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

***Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.***

**69. 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.*

**70. Request for Donation (REF: 5858)**

A request for a donation was received from the Butterwick Hospice. It was reported that a donation was made each November to the Hospice in lieu of fees payable to the bugler at the Remembrance Day service.

***Resolved: That the letter be received.***

**71. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5862)**

A letter of thanks was received from New Thornley Banner Group for the Parish Council's recent donation.

***Resolved: That the letter be received.***

**72. Remembrance Day Wreaths (REF: 5863)**

The Parish Clerk reported that a request had been received concerning the ordering of wreaths for the Remembrance Day Service.

He pointed out that due to a duplication of orders in 2008<sup>5</sup> the Parish had 3 surplus wreaths and that none would be required this year.

It was suggested that in an effort to recoup expenditure previously incurred, the Parish could provide wreaths to 3 other organisation in the village.

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<sup>5</sup> Meeting held 7th October 2009 minute 181 refers

**Resolved: That no wreaths be purchased in 2009 and that New Thornley Partnership, Thornley Moving Forward and the Catholic Club be asked if they wished to purchase the excess wreaths.**

**73. Trespass on Pit Wheel site**

The Parish Clerk reported on incidence of trespass and disturbance caused by vehicles gaining access to the site and suggested that in an effort to prevent further occurrences the existing field gate be re-located.

**Resolved: That the field gate be relocated.**

**74. School Project**

Councillor Attey reported on a project undertaken by children attending Thornley Primary School that highlighted their concerns.

It was suggested that the Parish Council take on board some of the issues and interact with the group.

It was further suggested that the presentation document that had been produced be linked into the Thornley & Wheatley Hill Strategy.

**Resolved: That Councillor Mrs. Attey be appointed to interact with the School Project.**

**75. Proposed Stables – Hilltop Bungalows**

Durham County Council advised that a revised proposal had been submitted for the construction of stables at land south east of hilltop bungalows.

Members were informed that whilst residents did not offer objections in principal to the development they were concerned that the access route could be considered hazardous may result in a road traffic accident.

**Resolved: That the Parish Council supports the residents of Thornley in their objection and that Durham County Council be advised accordingly.**

**76. Winter Maintenance**

Durham County Council advised that they were carrying out a Scrutiny Review of Winter Maintenance and requested information on problem areas and any proposals on partnership working.

Members highlighted some of the difficulties faced by residents particularly in the Gore Hill and Bakery Bank areas.

It was suggested that if more rock salt containers were located at strategic points in the village, and these were regularly refilled, residents would spread the salt as and when required. The spreading of salt could also be supplemented out by the Parish Council staff.

**Resolved: That Durham County Council be advised accordingly.**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
1ST SEPTEMBER 2009**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. E. Laidler, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, G. Wilson.**

**APOLOGIES**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>J. Ollett</i>	<i>Illness</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>T. Unsworth</i>	<i>New Thornley Partnership</i>	

**77. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th July 2009 were accepted as a true record.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**78. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed PC Neil Johnson to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the police had dealt with 130 incidents the majority of which were for anti social behaviour. Others were as follows:-

Burglary	3
Criminal Damage	4
Vehicle related	16

Members expressed concern that some incidents that had been reported to the police e.g. theft of floral decorations from Youll House, had not been followed up.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**79. Street Wardens Report**

As the Street Wardens were not present no report was available.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**80. Unitary County Councillor**

Councillor Nicholls reported that because of the summer recess this was a generally quiet period with very few meetings of the council taking place.

The clearance of the roadside path from Thornley to Ludworth had been delayed but this would be actioned very shortly.

The walls on the Gore Hill Estate had been repaired but were constantly being damaged. Further investigation would take place in an attempt to rectify the problem.

Some progress was being made in relation to the continuation of bus services in the village and further meetings planned to be held with Arriva.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**81. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

Councillors Mrs. Attey and Brunskill reported that the meeting clashed with the Parish Council meeting (tonight) and were not therefore able to attend.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**82. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that during the recess the facility had been redecorated by the members.

A Pie and Pea supper was to be held later in the month to raise funds.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**83. Public Question and Answer Session**

Residents asked what measures could be taken to enforce a 50mph speed limit on the A181 near the former Crossways Hotel junction.

Councillor Nichols reported that he would arrange for this to be investigated by David Battensby of D.C.C. Highways Department.

Questions were raised into the proposed sale of the land on which the existing 5-a-side football pitch was erected.

The Parish Clerk reported that the applicant had now submitted an application to Durham County Council for Planning Permission.<sup>6</sup> The decision by D.C.C. would determine the future course of action by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council was asked what further action could be taken to prevent access to the pit wheel site by motorists.

The Parish Clerk outlined the current position and stated that the installation of an additional gate at entrance to the site on the Bridleway was under consideration.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**84. Proposed Parish Council Action Plan.**

The Chairman referred to a copy of a plan produced by Seaham Town Council<sup>7</sup> and suggested that Thornley Parish Council may need to consider the production of its own version in the future if "quality status" was to be obtained. In addition it would serve to inform residents what schemes or projects the Parish Council was to undertake and give details of council spending etc.

It was pointed out that some funding may be available from various sources to aid in its production.

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<sup>6</sup> Minute 88 refers.

<sup>7</sup> A copy was available to all members to read at their leisure.

**Resolved: That a decision be deferred to allow sufficient time for the details of available funding to be obtained.**

**85. Citizens Advice Bureau – Thornley.**

A letter requesting the Parish Council to support the continuation of the bureau in Thornley was received.

The Parish Clerk reported that since receiving the letter it was understood that the service was to continue in a reduced format but the bureau in Wheatley Hill was operating as normal.

Councillor G. Wilson agreed to investigate and report back to the next Parish Council meeting.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**86. Travellers Encampment.**

The Chairman reiterated the views expressed at a residents meeting held earlier in the evening that had been attended by the local MP<sup>8</sup> and explained that Durham County Council was to be requested to fence the rear of Thornlaw South (following the demolition of houses in that area) to prevent unauthorised access to parish council land.

It was pointed out that if the parish council was to undertake the work the resultant increase in the parish precept would probably be unacceptable to residents in Thornley.

In addition a request was to be submitted to DCC to ensure that parish council representatives (Councillors Ann Attey and Marion Brunskill) were present at all meeting at which the subject of travellers was discussed.

Councillor Mrs Attey reported that the increase in “travellers” visiting other villages in the area was of such concern that it was now on the agenda for discussion by all representatives on the Easington Area Association of Town & Parish Council’s.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**87. Invitation (REF: 5885)**

The Chairman of Durham County Council invited representatives of the Parish Council to attend a charity social evening at Bishop Auckland Golf Club on 11th September 2009 commencing 7:30pm. Tickets priced at £5.00 each.

**Resolved: That the invitation be received.**

**88. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2009/PL/5/20090328)**

Durham County Council advised that Mr. K. Turner had applied for planning permission change the use of land to fairground storage at land west of 2, Fairview, Thornley, Co. Durham.

**Resolved: That no objections be raised.**

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<sup>8</sup> Minute 103 refers.

**89. RoSPA Playground Inspection Course.**

The Parish Clerk advised that the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents was to hold a training course at Bishop Auckland later in the year. It is suggested that in the long term it would be beneficial to the Parish Council if the manual staff attended the course and became certificated in these procedures as it would enable the monthly inspections to be undertaken "in house" and negate the need to employ staff from Durham County Council. Cost per employee was approximately £400.00

***Resolved: That Michael Abbs be authorised to attend the course and that Tony Stevens be authorised to attend a future course.***

**90. Request for Donation (REF: 5888)**

Hartlepool & District Hospice requested a donation to help fund their work over the coming year.

Members were advised that a donation of £50.00 was made in July 2008.

***Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £50.00.***

**91. Invitation (REF: 5886)**

The Chairman of Durham County Council invited representatives of the Parish Council to attend a "spend an evening in 1913" at Beamish Museum on 23rd September 2009. Tickets were priced at £20.00 each.

***Resolved: That the invitation be received.***

**92. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5876)**

Durham County Council provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 26th May 2009. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**93. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5877)**

Durham County Council provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 24th June 2009. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**94. Annual Playground Inspection (REF: 5881)**

RoSPA provided their Annual Inspection Report of play equipment in the village.<sup>9</sup> In all cases the faults identified were either, very low, low or medium risk items. Items requiring attention would be addressed as soon as possible.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**95. Refusal of Planning Permission (REF: PL/5/2009/0149)**

The Durham County Council advised that Mr. G. Murray had been refused planning permission to construct two storey rear extension & private garage at 96, Dunelm Road, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3HY.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**96. Planning Permission (REF: PL/5/2009/0152)**

The Durham County Council advised that Mr. S. Westgarth had been granted planning permission to construct a private garage at 55, Dunelm Road, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3HW.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**97. Planning Permission (REF: PL/5/2009/0188)**

The District of Easington advised that Mrs. A. McCarroll had been granted planning permission to construct front extension & detached garage at 38, Gore Hill, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3DU.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**98. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5884)**

A letter of thanks was received from New Thornley Partnership for the Parish Council's recent donation.

***Resolved: That the letter be received.***

**99. Planning Permission (REF: PL/5/2009/0315)**

The District of Easington advised that Mr. A. Richardson had been granted planning permission to construct a two storey extension, single storey side extension & roof alterations at 28, Hartlepool Street South, Thornley, Thornley, Co. Durham.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**100. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5889)**

Durham County Council provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 29th July 2009. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

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<sup>9</sup> Report available to members



**101. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports**

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

***Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.***

**102. 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.*

**103. Address by Phil Wilson MP**

Mr. Wilson, who had attended a meeting with residents earlier in the evening to discuss travellers in the village, was given permission to address members. He gave a brief outline of the content of the meeting which had focused on the issues raised by residents resulting from the regular visits made by travellers to Thornley.

He would take on board the comments made and would be pursuing appropriate courses of action. He also planned to attend the next residents meeting on 6th October 2009 to provide a progress report.

On his return to the House of Commons he would investigate what action could be taken to change the law on the use of horse drawn traps by young people on the public roads.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**104. Annual Audit Return 2008/9**

The Parish Clerk reported on points of clarification and minor amendments required to the Annual Audit Return by the external auditor BDO Stoy Hayward LLP.

Members were asked to authorise the necessary amendments.

***Resolved: That the amendments to the Annual Audit Return be authorised.***

**105. Installation of Boulders to prevent fly tipping on the Pit Wheel Site**

A verbal request was received to place an additional number of boulders on an area of the Pit wheel site to prevent the dumping of rubbish.

The Parish Clerk reported that the area in question (the triangle of land immediately behind the library) was the responsibility of Durham County Council.

***Resolved: That Durham County Council be requested to carry out the works required.***

**106. Reports of the Area Action Partnership**

Members suggested that the person appointed to represent parish councils' on the Area Action Partnership be invited to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council to provide an update on proceedings.

***Resolved: That an invitation be sent to Mrs Pat. English.***

**107. Police Liaison Meeting**

The Chairman expressed the concern of members that the Parish Council Meetings had been delayed on two previous occasions because the Police Liaison meeting (held immediately prior to the parish meeting in Youll House) had overrun.

It was suggested that Inspector Harrison be asked if the time of his meeting could be changed or if not the he ensure that his officers clear the building in time for the parish meeting to commence on time.

***Resolved: That Inspector Harrison be contacted as suggested.***

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**PURPOSES**

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
6TH OCTOBER 2009**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. E. Laidler, Mrs. J. Middleton, J. Ollett, W. Turnbull, G. Wilson.**

**APOLOGIES**

*No apologies were recorded.*

**108. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councillor Mrs Brunskill referred to minute 99 and pointed out that the reference should be Durham County Council and not the District of Easington. The Chairman referred to minute 84 and asked if all Councillors had had the opportunity of studying the Seaham Town Council action plan and now aware of the benefits that production of such plans could bring to the village. Having noted these observations the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st September 2009 were accepted as a true record.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**109. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed PC Steve Rowe to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the police had dealt with 62 in Thornley.

Anti social Behaviour	13
Criminal Damage	2
Vehicle related	1
Vehicle nuisance	3
Speeding	1

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**110. Street Wardens Report**

As the Street Wardens were not present no report was available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**111. Travellers**

The Chairman welcomed Phil Wilson MP to the meeting who updated members regarding measures being taken to alleviate the difficulties caused to residents by travellers visiting Thornley.

A meeting, to be attended by all interested parties, was to take place on 12th October 2009 to discuss the situation and measures that could be taken to resolve the problems whilst taking into account the rights of residents and travellers.

He was continuing to investigate if legislation could be changed regarding the use on public roads of horse drawn vehicles by young people and if "village green status" could be utilised to minimise the destruction to public areas. Because of high unemployment levels in the area a series of "community surgeries" was to be held which would be attended by various agencies. These surgeries had proven very effective in the past at finding work for the unemployed particularly young people.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**112. Unitary County Councillor**

Councillor Nicholls reported that a site meeting to discuss difficulties faced by drivers at the Crossways junction on the A181 was to be held on 12th October 2009.

The clearance of roadside paths between Thornley and Ludworth had been delayed but it was anticipated the work would be carried out in November 2009.

A letter had been received from several businesses in Thornley asking that the Yellow parking restriction lines on Hartlepool Street be removed as they were affecting trade. Other issues relating to a proposed redevelopment of the Villas had also been raised.<sup>10</sup>

Leaflets outlining Welfare Rights were now available at various locations.

The proposed clinic in Wheatley Hill was on target and would be run by the doctors in the practice.

The re-construction of walls in the Gore Hill area of Thornley was still under investigation.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**113. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

Councillor Mrs Attey reported that no meeting had been held.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**114. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that the operation was running smoothly but more members were needed on all groups.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**115. NALC Conference**

The Chairman gave a comprehensive report on the conference which she had attended along with the Parish Clerk.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> See also minute 112 below

<sup>11</sup> A written summary was provided to members in advance of the meeting.

Overall the conference had been seen as very worthwhile and the knowledge and information gained could only serve to improve the Council's own operation and its' desire to obtain quality status.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**116. Public Question and Answer Session**

There were no questions from the members of the public who were in attendance.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**117. Capital Program 2010/2011**

The Parish Clerk provided a report detailing the existing capital works program and advised that it be reviewed in order that the amounts required to facilitate projects could be incorporated into the 2010/2011 budget.

No additional projects were added to the list by members.

***Resolved: That the suggestions outlined in the report be approved.***

**118. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2009/PL/5/2009/0360)**

Durham County Council advised that Miss A. Worrall had applied for planning permission for a partial change of use of an existing stable building to create granny flat at Station House, Hartlepool Street, South Thornley, Co. Durham.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**119. Request for Donation (REF: 5934)**

Communicare requested a donation from the Parish Council to help fund their work over the next twelve months.

***Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £200.00***

**120. Withdrawal of Planning Application (REF: 5919)**

Durham County Council advised that Mr. T. Rowell had withdrawn his application for planning permission to construct a Stables at Land, Co. Durham.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**121. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5931)**

Durham County Council provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 2nd September 2009. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**122. Letter of Thanks (REF: 5935)**

A letter of thanks was received from Hartlepool & District Hospice for the Parish Council's recent donation.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**123. Planning Permission (REF: 5939)**

Durham County Council advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. A. Richardson to construct two storey rear extension, single storey side extension and roof alterations at 28, Hartlepool Street South, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3BG.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**124. Cemetery Mapping**

The Parish Clerk advised members that estimated costs were being sought for the purchase of a digitised map of the Thornley Cemetery that could be linked to the council's current computerised records system. The mapping system, if purchased and installed, would provide a fully integrated database allowing details of all graves, including photographs, to be readily accessed by council staff and members of the public as required.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**125. Parking Restrictions – Stanley Terrace**

***The Chairman declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.***

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Mrs Attey took the chair.

For the benefit of members, the Parish Clerk read out a copy of a letter, written by the owners of several businesses in Thornley to the Chief Executive of Durham County Council, which he had received. It expressed concern that the prohibition of parking on Stanley Terrace by yellow lines and the issuing of parking fines to motorists was having a detrimental effect on trade.

The letter also raised questions concerning Renaissance Funds dedicated to the improvement of Thornley being transferred to other villages and had asked who had made these decisions and why the Thornley Parish Council or New Thornley Partnership had not been consulted.

The letter concluded by asking for support in having the yellow lines removed and or additional parking to be provided in the area.

It was pointed out that the issue of yellow parking lines on Stanley Terrace had been discussed on many occasions over a number of years and that the decision to reinstate them had been made by Durham County Council in conjunction with Durham Constabulary. It was therefore considered unlikely that they would be removed.

***Resolved: That the whilst the Parish Council could not support the removal of the yellow no parking lines it would support the provision of additional parking areas and seek answers from Durham County Council regarding the alleged transfer of funds dedicated to improve Thornley to other villages in County Durham.***

***The Chairman, Councillor Mrs. Unsworth retook the chair.***

**126. Apprentice Gardener**

Members were advised that the apprentice Sean Pickett had commenced his formal training at Houghall College on Tuesday 6th October 2009.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**127. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports**

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

Councillor Mrs Attey sought clarification on particular areas of expenditure.

**Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.**

**128. 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.*

**129. New Thornley Partnership**

The Chairman welcomed Terry Unsworth to the meeting who reported that meetings had reconvened following a short summer recess. Meetings were well attended and new members were being encouraged.

Adam White (Durham County Council) was introduced to members who gave an update on plans to construct a new Resource Centre in Thornley.

The residents' consultation process was now complete and Durham County Council had earmarked a substantial amount of funding for its construction. Other funding was now being sought.

Architects had been appointed to design the centre and stakeholders, who would be required to operate the centre once it was complete, were being identified.

Durham County Council was also in the process of appointing a number of officers who would carry the project forward.

It was suggested that it would be advantageous if the Parish Council be represented on the New Thornley Partnership.

**Resolved: That the information be noted and that Councillors Mrs J. Unsworth & Mrs. M. Brunskill be delegated to attend meetings of the New Thornley Partnership.**

**130. Thornley Moving Forward**

Councillor Mrs Attey reported that 2010 would be the 40th anniversary of the closure of Thornley Pit and to mark the occasion the group was planning to stage a procession of mining banners etc as part of a Summer Fete. Further details would be made available at a later date.

A Children's Christmas event was also being planned as this had proven to be successful in the past.

**Resolve: That the information be noted.**



**131. AAP Meetings**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs P. English to the meeting who presented a comprehensive report on the initial meetings of the Area Action Partnership.<sup>12</sup>

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**132. City of Culture Bid 2013 (REF: 5941)**

Durham City Council sought the support of the Parish Council and other stakeholders in bidding for City of Culture 2013.

***Resolved: That the Parish Council sends a letter of supporting the bid.***

**133. Cemetery Improvements**

The Parish Clerk informed members that routine maintenance work in the cemetery had revealed that sections of the perimeter fence which had possibly been in place since 1934 was now in need of replacement.

Quotations had been obtained totalling £12,709.00.

Members expressed the opinion that in the present financial climate it would be difficult to raise the sums required without adversely increasing the precept for 2010/11.

It was suggested that existing hawthorn shrubs growing in the area, supplemented by additional planting be utilised as an alternative. It was considered that this would be a suitable and more environmentally friendly alternative and would save the parish council funds over a number of years.

It was also suggested that proposals for design and layout of the cemetery extension be drawn up for consideration by members. Proposals should include the provision for the interment of cremated remains in "sanctums", for a memorial wall and for a dedicated area for the burial of children in personalised surroundings.

***Resolved: That the damaged perimeter fence be removed and be replaced by hawthorn and other suitable plants and that design plans as outlined be drawn up for consideration of members.***

**134. Audit of Accounts Ending 31st March 2009 (REF: 5942)**

The Parish Clerk reported that BDO Stoy Hayward LLP had completed the audit of the parish council's accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2009.

No issues had been raised by the auditor and the accounts were in order.

Arrangements must now be made for residents to view Notice of Conclusion of Audit.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and that arrangements be made for residents to view the Audit details.***

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<sup>12</sup> Copy of the report was made available to members.

**135. Showmen's Compound**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill raised the issue of potential construction works outside the showmen's compound and asked if the parish council had been advised or if any additional information was available.

It was reported that no information was available had been forwarded to the Parish Council however, Councillor Ollett stated that it was possible that the development was part of a previous planning application, granted to the showmen by the former District of Easington, whereby they had to construct a perimeter wall to screen the compound from view.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

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**PURPOSES**

A small, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. M. Smith", is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
3RD NOVEMBER 2009**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. E. Laidler, Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, G. Wilson.**

**APOLOGIES**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>J. Ollett</i>	<i>Other Business</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>T. Unsworth</i>	<i>New Thornley Partnership</i>	

**136. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th October 2009 were accepted as a true record.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**137. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed Sgt. Hawks to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the police had dealt with 43 in Thornley.

Burglary	2
Theft	3
Anti social Behaviour	4

Following the previous meeting the police had investigated the parking of used cars for sale being parked on the grass verges in the vicinity of the former Crossways Hotel.

Whilst the practice had been curtailed for a period of time it was now on the increase and further action was being taken.

Sgt. Hawks informed members that the former Community Safety Partnership was to be incorporated into the Safe Durham Partnership being relocated into Peterlee Police Station. In the meantime its' officers could be contacted at Lee House, Peterlee.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**138. Street Wardens Report**

As the Street Wardens were not present no report was available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**139. New Thornley**

Councillor Mrs. Attey reported that A Children's Christmas Party was to be held in the Working Men's Club on 12th December 2009.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**140. Travellers**

Councillors Mrs Attey reported that she and Councillor Margaret Hind had attended a site meeting along with representatives from various agencies. The general attendance had been poor and the content of the discussions and outcomes disappointing.

Very little progress had been made even though the issue was having such an adverse impact on the lives of residents.

Although there were powers available to officers it did not appear that they were being enforced and there was some concern that a "code of conduct" agreed with travellers was not being adhered to.

Even though assurances had been given by the Durham County Council that a number of sites throughout the county would be investigated this had not been the case and only those in the vicinity of Thornley & Wheatley Hill had been looked at.

Local farmers had been asked to consider earmarking land for a site for the travellers but this had not been favourably received.

It had been generally accepted that the residents of Thornley had suffered more than most throughout 2009 and that more stringent measures must be taken to prevent any re-occurrence in future years.

The Travellers Liaison Officers had been instructed to liaise more closely with Thornley Parish Council.

There had been a further site meeting in Coopers Close at which it had been suggested that boulders or some form of trenching works might alleviate the problem.

A further suggestion was that local council's use any disposable financial assets to aid the financing of required works.

Members were also informed that Phil Wilson MP had raised the issue of travellers in Parliament.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**141. Unitary County Councillor**

Councillor Nicholls reported that plans were being drawn up in relation to the travellers in an effort to prevent further disturbance and disruption in villages.

The issue of speeding cars on the A181 in the vicinity of the former Crossways Hotel was still being investigated.

Adam White was now taking a leading role in the development of a new Resource Centre in Thornley and suggestions that it could be incorporated with a library service were being looked into.

A site meeting to discuss the issue of yellow lines preventing parking on Stanley Terrace was to take place on 27th November 2009 at 2:00 pm.

The issue of bus services arriving late was being discussed with Arriva.

It was suggested that representatives of Thornley, Wheatley Hill and Deaf Hill Parish Council's meet to consider the redevelopment of the mining memorial on the A181 roundabout.

**Resolved: That the information be noted and that Councillors Mrs. Brunskill, Hind and Unsworth be authorised to attend any meeting to discuss the miners memorial.**

**142. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

As no meeting had been held a report was unavailable.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**143. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that a Coffee morning was to be held on Saturday 7th November 2009 in an attempt to raise funds and that a Christmas Party had been arranged for members on 7th December 2009.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**144. Public Question and Answer Session**

An allotment tenant asked if the paths servicing the Coopers Close allotment site would be resurfaced.

The Parish Clerk reported that this had been raised on a number of occasions but it had not been possible to undertake the work because funds were not available.

A resident reported on a recent incident where an untethered horse on parish council land had caused some anxiety to residents walking in the area and sought clarification on council policy.

The Parish Clerk explained the policy and gave details of the circumstances and procedures necessary to resolve problems caused by horses.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**145. Review of Welfare Hire Charges 2010/2011**

The Parish Clerk reported that it was appropriate at this time to consider reviewing the annual rental for the use of the Welfare Park by football teams using the facility as their "home" pitch during the forthcoming playing season.

The current fees were £350 per team and that to date 2 teams had expressed an interest to use the facilities during 2009/2010

The Parish Council's net expenditure on the facility during 2008/9 was £4,074.00 and a further £2,960.00 had been expended since 1st April 2009.

Members were reminded that it had been proposed that a meeting between members of the Football teams and the Parish Council would be convened to discuss any proposed increases.

It was suggested that due to the current economic situation and the global recession members may feel disposed to freeze the charge for the forthcoming season at the present level.

**Resolved: That the charges be frozen for 2009/10 at £350.00 per team.**

**146. Review of Allotment Rents**

The Parish Clerk reported that it was appropriate at this time to consider reviewing the annual rental for the Parish Council's allotment sites in Thornley.

The current charge being £30 per tenant per annum.

The Parish Council's net expenditure on allotments during 2008/9 was £800.00 and no expenditure had been expended since 1st April 2009.

Members were reminded that it had been proposed that a meeting between representatives of the allotments association and the Parish Council would be convened to discuss any proposed increases.

It was suggested that due to the current economic situation and the global recession members may feel disposed to freeze the charge for the forthcoming season at the present level.

***Resolved: That the charges be frozen for 2009/10 at £30.00 per allotment.***

**147. Provision of Christmas Tree**

Members were made aware that in previous years a Christmas tree had been erected in the village over the festive season and that on a number of occasions the children from the local schools had been involved in its decoration or a carol service when the lights were switched on.

The estimated cost of a purchasing a suitable tree this year would be £500.

Members were asked to determine if a Christmas tree was to be erected on the village green over the festive season in order that appropriate arrangements can be made.

***Resolved: That a suitable Christmas tree be purchased.***

**148. Hanging Baskets**

It was suggested that the number of hanging baskets located in the village be extended during 2010.

The Parish Clerk advised that the original baskets were provided by the New Thornley Partnership and that permission and authorisation for any additional baskets for erection on lamp posts had to be obtained from Durham County Council.

Members were asked to determine if further hanging baskets should be provided at the cost of the Parish Council.

The Chairman reported that the former "Pride in Easington" initiative was being extended throughout the county and that a number of floral planters may be made available to parishes at little or no expense.<sup>13</sup>

***Resolved: That a decision be deferred until further information on the provision of floral planters was obtained.***

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<sup>13</sup> See also Minute 182

**149. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2009/0421)**

Durham County Council advised that Mr & Mrs Smith had applied for an extension of the time limit for the implementation of planning permission for residential development (outline) at land rear of Glenside, the Villas, Thornley, Co. Durham.

***Resolved: That no objection be raised.***

**150. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2009/0400)**

Durham County Council advised that Mr. A. Burnham had applied for planning permission to construct a private garage at 7, Gore Hill, Co. Durham.

***Resolved: That no objection be raised***

**151. Maintenance Report**

The report of the Chargehand Gardener previously circulated was considered.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**152. Members Code of Conduct.**

The Chairman reminded members of the need to be fully aware of their responsibilities in relation to the Code of Conduct.

To safeguard themselves they should ensure that they declared an interest in any issue under discussion by the Parish Council if it related to them in any way.<sup>14</sup>

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**153. Members Training**

The Chairman highlighted the importance of members being aware of their role and responsibilities as councillors particularly if the council was to achieve "Quality Status".

It was suggested therefore that members received appropriate training in various aspects of local government procedures.

***Resolved: That informal training be arranged as soon as possible and that costs for formal training be obtained.***

**154. Invitation REF: 5952)**

The Chairman of Durham County council advised that he was to hold a Civic Reception on Friday 11th December 2009.

Further details would be provided.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

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<sup>14</sup> Copies of the Code of Conduct were made available to members.





**155. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5953)**

Durham County Council provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 30th October 2009. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**156. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports**

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

***Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.***

**157. Any Additional Urgent Items of Business**

*In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) Act, 1985, section 100B (4)(b), 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.*

**158. Charity Events (REF: 5960)**

The Chairman of Durham County Council provided details of two charity events to be host by him in the near future.  
Cost of tickets was £10.00 each.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**159. East Durham Citizens Advice Bureau (REF: 5962)**

Representatives of the Parish Council were invited to attend their Annual General Meeting to be held at Shotton Hall, Peterlee on Wednesday 18th November 2009 commencing 1:00pm.

***Resolved: That the invitation be received.***

**160. Invitation (REF: 5963)**

The Chairman of Durham County Council invited the Chairman and Partner to attend his Civic Carol Service at St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Crook on 17th December 2009 commencing 7:00pm.

***Resolved: That the invitation be received.***

**161. Planning Permission (REF: 5964)**

Durham County Council advised that planning permission had been granted to Miss. A Worrall to convert part of an existing stable building to create a granny flat at Station House Hartlepool Street South, Thornley, Co. Durham DH6 3BQ.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**162. Remembrance Day Service**

The Parish Clerk reported that in accordance with previous policy wreaths were now available for placing on the War Memorial at service being arranged to take place on Remembrance Sunday.

The local schools sought permission to hold their own service on Wednesday 11th November 2009.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and that no objection be raised in relation to the school service.***

**163. Review of Cemetery Charges**

The Parish Clerk reported that it was appropriate at this time to review the scale of charges relating to Thornley Cemetery from 1st April 2010.

***Resolved: That the charges for residents of Thornley be increased as follows: Exclusive rights of Burial £185.00, Exclusive Rights of Burial (Cremated Remains) £75.00, Internments of persons over 5 years of age £185.00, Interment of Cremated Remains £75.00 Permission to Erect Headstones £70.00 and that charges for Non Residents of Thornley be increased in accordance with current practice.***

**164. Parish Precept 2009/2010**

The Parish Clerk advised that it was appropriate at this time to consider the budget for 2010/11 and set the precept to be raised via Durham County Council.

Based on the decisions made by members since April 2009 the estimated net expenditure for 2010/11 was £125,968.

For guidance the Parish Clerk explained that this would require a 8.21% (approximate) increase in the precept from £113,322 to £119,645 to result in a net expenditure of £0 any lesser increase would require transfer of funds from general reserves.

***Resolved: That the Parish Precept for 2010/11 be increased by 5% to £116,086.***

**165. Inter-village Event**

Councillor Mrs Brunskill gave details of an event organised by East Durham Homes which had been hugely successful. All those attending had thoroughly enjoyed participating. It was disappointing therefore to report that the attendance from Thornley had been poor.

It was pointed out that local resident associations had played a major role in organising the teams from the respective villages. As Thornley was only now forming its own association this may have had a bearing on the attendance of teams from the village.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

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**PURPOSES**

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
1ST DECEMBER 2009**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors Mrs. A. Attey (Chair), Mrs. J. Middleton, W. Turnbull, G. Wilson.**

**APOLOGIES**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Mrs. M. Brunskill</i>	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. I. Hind</i>	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. M. Ingram</i>	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. E. Laidler</i>	<i>No Transport</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. J. Middleton</i>	<i>Illness</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. J. Unsworth</i>	<i>Personal Business</i>	<i>Approved</i>

**166. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd November 2009 were accepted as a true record.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**167. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed Sgt. Hawks to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the police had dealt with the following incidents in Thornley.

Burglary	1
Criminal Damage	2
Theft from Vehicles	2
Theft of Motor Vehicles	2
Parking Offences	1
Speeding	1
Anti social Behaviour	4

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**168. Street Wardens Report**

As the Street Wardens were not present no report was available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**169. New Thornley**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that Adam White had stated that a large amount of the funding required to construct a new Resource Centre in Thornley was now in place.

A Children's Christmas Party was to be held in the Working Men's Club on 12th December 2009.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**170. Travellers**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that it was alleged that Durham County Council were investigating permanent sites for travellers in Thornley & Wheatley Hill. The Chairman explained that at a recent meeting attended by Councillor Maurice Nicholls a number of sites had been identified but none were in Thornley or Wheatley Hill.

**171. Unitary County Councillor**

As Councillor Nicholls was not present no report was available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**172. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

The Chairman reported that the meeting had been held earlier in the evening. John Higgins had resigned and had been replaced. Sheila Pearce (A.A.P.) was to update representatives but had not delivered her report before Councillor Mrs. Attey had had to leave to attend the Parish Council Meeting.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**173. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that a grant, obtained from the Health Forum to fund an event, had had to be returned because the group did not have a bank account.

A Christmas Party for members was to be held on Tuesday 8th December 2009.

A water bill amounting to £1000.00 was still outstanding.

The Annual General Meeting of Age Concern had been attended.

**174. Public Question and Answer Session**

No members of the public were in attendance.

**175. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2009/PL/2009/0434)**

Durham County Council advised that Mrs M. Yeoman had applied for planning permission to remove deadwood and crossing branches from 1 No Ash tree at TPO Glenside, Thornley, Co. Durham.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**176. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2009/PL/5/2009/0472)**

Durham County Council advised that Miss Strong had applied for planning permission to construct two stables a tack room and outside shelter at land east of Coopers Close, Co. Durham.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**177. Request for Donation (REF: 5970)**

Durham County Council requested a donation in order to maintain the County of Durham School Benevolent Fund which endeavours to help needy families purchase shoes and winter clothing.

Members were advised that a donation of £50.00 was made on 3rd May 2005

**Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £50.00**

**178. Request for Donation (REF: 5977)**

Peterlee Women's Refuge applied for a donation toward their Christmas Appeal.

Members were advised that £50.00 was donated in 2008.

**Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £50.00.**

**179. Request for Donation (REF: 5982)**

Thornley Sure Start Children's Centre applied for a donation to enable them to send children to visit Santa at Tweddle Farm in December.

Members were advised that no previous donations have been made to the centre by the parish council.

**Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £100.00**

**180. Removal of Lengthsman from Thornley**

Members were advised that Durham County Council had now removed the permanent lengthsman service from Thornley without explanation.

It was understood that a temporary lengthsman would be placed in the village on a regular basis.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**181. Playground Inspection Reports (REF: 5975)**

Durham County Council provided Playground Inspection Reports dated 26th October 2009. In most cases the equipment had no defects. Where parts were required these had been ordered and would be fitted in due course.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**182. Civic Pride (REF: 5981)**

Durham County Council advised that they were unable to provide planters to Thornley Parish Council but they were prepared to enter into discussions regarding future proposals.<sup>15</sup>

***Recommendation: that the information be noted***

**183. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports**

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

***Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.***

**184. Date and time of next meeting**

The Parish Clerk advised members that it had been normal practice at this time of year to cancel the January meeting because of the Christmas festivities and to hold the next meeting in February of the New Year.

***Resolved: The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Tuesday 2nd February 2009 at 7:00 p.m.***

**185. Any Additional Urgent Items of Business**

*In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) Act, 1985, section 100B (4)(b), 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.*

***Resolved: That the accounts be approved.***

**186. Request for Donation**

Councillor Ollett reminded members that in previous years the Parish Council had made a donation to the Butterwick Hospice in lieu of payment for the services of a bugler at the Remembrance Day Service and requested that a similar donation be made this year.

***Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £50.00***

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<sup>15</sup> See also Minute 148.

**187. Yellow Parking Lines**

Councillor G. Wilson reported that a site meeting to discuss the issue of yellow lines preventing parking on Stanley Terrace took place on 27th November 2009 at 2:00 pm but no representatives from the Parish Council were in attendance.

The Parish Clerk reported that notification for the meeting had not been received but he had been informed that Councillors Mrs Hind & Ingram who were to attend were aware of the details.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**188. Vote of Thanks**

Councillor Mrs. Unsworth requested that Councillor Nicholls be thanked for arranging the reinstatement of the footpaths between Thornley and Ludworth.

***Resolved: That a vote of thanks be recorded.***

**189. Allotment Tenancies**

It was suggested that non residents of Thornley no longer be permitted to place their names on the waiting list for allotments.

***Resolved: That the item be deferred until a greater number of members of the Council were present to debate the issue.***

**190. Christmas Lights**

The Chargehand Gardener reported that a Christmas tree had been erected on the village green and that the lights had been switched on earlier in the day.

**191. Staff Christmas Bonus**

The Chairman reported that it had been the practice of the Parish Council at this time of year to consider payment of a Christmas bonus to members of the workforce.

***Resolved: That the four members of staff receive a £50 Christmas bonus for 2009.***

**192. Parish Council Mobile Phone**

The Parish Clerk reported that a mobile phone had been purchased for use by staff when working alone or in order that they could be contacted if required. Members were asked to note the telephone number should they require assistance in the absence of the Parish Clerk.

The Mobile Telephone Number being – 07507698962.



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**PURPOSES**

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
2ND FEBRUARY 2010**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, W. Turnbull.**

**APOLOGIES**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Mrs. E. Laidler</i>	<i>Illness</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. J. Middleton</i>	<i>Illness</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>J. Ollett</i>	<i>Personal Business</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>G. Wilson</i>	<i>Illness</i>	<i>Approved</i>

**193. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

It was pointed out that Councillor J. Ollett had attended the meeting but the reference was that Mrs J. Middleton had attended but she had offered her apologies. In addition, it had been PC. Rowe not Sgt. Hawks that had presented the Police report.

Having noted these points the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd November 2009 were accepted as a true record.

**194. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed PC. Neil Johnson to the meeting who reported that in the previous month the police had dealt with only three reported incidents in Thornley.

Damage and Assault	1
Motor cycles/quad bikes	2

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**195. Street Wardens Report**

The Chairman welcomed Kirsty Topping and Andrew Lindridge to the meeting who reported that the wardens had dealt with five incidents in Thornley.

Motor cycles/quad bikes	4
Anti Social Behaviour	1

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**196. New Thornley**

Councillor Attey reported that members of the partnership had been informed that the decision to construct a new resource centre in Thornley was now to be discussed by members of the Cabinet at Durham County Council. It would also depend on whether the development firm Youll's would receive planning permission for a housing development on the former site of the Crossways Hotel and a £250,000 Section 106 Agreement being reached.

It was anticipated that a decision could be made within the next two months.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**197. Travellers**

Councillor Mrs Attey reported that she had tried to obtain an update from various officers at Durham County Council but very little information had been received.

A farmer owning land adjacent to the A181 had been approached regarding the development of a more permanent site but no response had been received.

Phil Wilson MP was to raise concerns with members of Durham County Council in the near future.

A target hardening initiative had determined that £5,000 would be required to fence part of the village green to prevent access but it had been pointed out that this may not resolve the problem as travellers could still access other areas around Coopers Close.

Councillor Nichols assured members that Durham County Council was doing its uttermost to ensure that Thornley did not suffer the same problems with traveller in 2010 as it had in previous years.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**198. Unitary County Councillor**

Councillor Nicholls reported that the development of a clinic was still ongoing and consultations between the doctors and the PCT would be concluded shortly.

Following discussions with Arriva, an additional bus service was no in operation and the timetable for existing services had been amended to improve delivery.

Residents and shop owners in Stanley Terrace, Thorley were to be notified directly concerning their earlier concerns regarding the yellow lines.

Members of the Parish Council expressed concerns over the low level of salting and gritting of roads in the village particularly that between Thornley and Ludworth where four motor vehicles accidents had occurred because of ice.

Details of the services and related costs for snow clearance by Durham County Council were provided and Councillor Nicholls pointed out that condition all over the country this winter had been extremely severe. All that could be done was being done by the County Council to minimise the disruption. A financial contribution provided by the PCT was to be spent on purchasing additional machinery to clear footpaths.

Members raised concerns over the withdrawal of the lengthsman from Thornley and requested Councillor Nicholls to investigate whether he could be returned or replaced.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**199. Civic Charter**

The Parish Clerk distributed a copy of a letter received from Durham County Council that provided details of the Charter.

The charter had been signed on behalf of all parish councils by the Chairman of the Durham County Council at a recently held ceremony.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**200. Area Active Partnerships**

Sheila Pearce the co-ordinator of the AAP provided an update on the work currently being undertaken and highlighted the five priority projects determined by local consultation.

Local Councillors were working with parish council to determine how the £25,000 budget allocation could best be allocated.

A budget allocation of £150,000 was to be spent on a job creation/additionally project and £5,000 donated allocated by Councillor Nicholls was to be utilised for providing a youth bus for the area Thornley, Wheatley Hill and Deaf Hill areas.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**201. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

No meeting had taken place.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**202. Youll House**

As Councillor G. Wilson was not present no report was available.

It was noted that because of the failure of the central heating boiler the facility had had to be closed. It was anticipated that it would re-open as soon as repairs had been carried out.

The Parish Clerk reported that recent heavy snowfalls had damaged the guttering around the facility. The estimated cost of repairs was £287.65. As there was an adequate budget provision, an order had been placed.

***Resolved: That the action of the Parish Clerk be endorsed.***

**203. Provision of Christmas Tree**

The chairman highlighted the fact that over the Christmas period the village tree had once again been vandalised and sought member's opinions on the viability of providing a Christmas tree every year.

Various suggestions were put forward, including the re-location of the tree.

***Resolved: That a Christmas tree continue to be provided and that it be positioned in its existing location on the village green.***

**204. Public Question and Answer Session**

A period of up to 15 minutes was allowed for members of the public to ask questions or raise items of concern.

No members of the public were present.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**205. Councillor's Illness.**

The Parish Clerk reminded members that Councillor Mrs. Laidler had suffered a stroke over the festive season.

On behalf of the Parish Council a bouquet of flowers had sent wishing her a speedy recovery.

***Resolved: That the action taken by the Parish Clerk be endorsement***

**206. Request for Donation (REF: 5996)**

The Great North Air Ambulance requested a donation to aid the work of the service over the next 12 months.

Members were advised that a previous donation of £100 was made on 3rd March 2009.

***Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £100.00***

**207. Request for Donation (REF: 5997)**

The British Red Cross requested a donation to aid the work of the service in Haiti following the recent earthquake.

***Resolved: That the application be received.***

**208. Grant Application – Tree Week (REF: 6001)**

The Parish Clerk reported that a grant application for £150 made to Durham County Council in respect of Tree Week had been successful.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**209. Invitation (REF: 6004)**

The Chairman of Durham County Council invited members of the Parish Council to a Tramp Supper at Durham Town Hall on 27th January 2010 commencing 7:30pm. Tickets were priced at £10:00 in aid of his chosen charity.

***Resolved: That the invitation be received.***

**210. Invitation (REF: 6004)**

The Chairman of Durham County council invited members of the Parish Council to a Pig Race Event at Crook Cricket Club on 22nd February 2010 commencing 7:30pm. Tickets were priced at £5:00 in aid of his chosen charity.

***Resolved: That the invitation be received.***

**211. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2009/PL/5/2009/0514)**

Durham County Council advised that the Design Gap had applied for planning permission to construct a house and detached garage with playroom above, at former site of St. Bartholomew's Church, Church Walk, Thornley, Co. Durham.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**212. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2009/PL/5/2009/0499)**

Durham County Council advised that Four Housing Group had applied for planning permission to construct eight bungalows at St. Cuthbert's Road, Thornley, Co. Durham.

***Resolved: That no objections be raised.***

**213. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports**

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

***Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.***

**214. Any Additional Urgent Items of Business**

*In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) Act, 1985, section 100B (4)(b), 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.*

**215. Planning Permission (REF: PL/5/2009/0421)**

Durham County Council advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr & Mrs Smith for an extension of the time limit for the implementation of planning permission for residential development (outline) at land rear of Glenside, the Villas, Thornley, Co. Durham.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**216. Planning Permission (REF: PL/5/2009/PL/2009/0434)**

Durham County Council planning permission was granted to Mrs M. Yeoman to remove deadwood and crossing branches from 1 No Ash tree at TPO Glenside, Thornley, Co. Durham.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**217. Planning Permission (REF: PL/5/2009/PL/5/2009/0472)**

Durham County Council advised that planning permission had been granted to Miss Strong for planning permission to construct two stables a tack room and outside shelter at land east of Coopers Close, Co. Durham.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**218. Urban & Rural Renaissance (REF: 6020) - Parking Restrictions – Stanley Terrace**

The Parish Clerk reported the contents of a letter received from Durham County Council in response to issues raised by members of the public.<sup>16</sup>

***Resolved: That this be placed on the agenda of the next Parish Council for further discussion.***

**219. Planning Permission (REF: PL/5/2010/0020)**

The District of Easington has advised that planning permission has been granted to Mr & Mrs C. Catchpole to construct a house and detached triple garage with playroom above (resubmission) at former St. Bartholomew's Church, Church Walk, Thornley, Co. Durham.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**220. Residents Association**

Councillor Mrs Brunskill reported that a residents association had been formed in Thornley and that additional members were being sought.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**221. Auditor Report of Accounts ending 30th September 2009 (REF: 5988)**

The Parish Clerk reported that the Internal Audit of accounts from 1st April 2009 to 31st September 2009 had been completed by W.J. Smith. The accounts were in order and his report and observations has been provided.<sup>17</sup>

***Resolved: The report be received and the actioned as appropriate***

**222. Resignation of the Parish Clerk**

The Parish Clerk gave notice to members that whilst he would be resigning from his post in the near future he would continue to work for the Parish Council pending a review by members.

***Resolved: That a sub group, comprising the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillor Mrs. Brunskill be convened to review the position and consider alternatives to ensure continuity of the service.***

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<sup>16</sup> Meeting held on 6th October 2009 minute 125 refers.

<sup>17</sup> A copy of the full auditors report is available for members.



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
2ND MARCH 2010**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), A. Attey, Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, J. Ollett, W. Turnbull.**

**APOLOGIES**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
G. Wilson	Illness	Approved

**223. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd February 2010 were accepted as a true record.

**224. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed PC. Paul Gooden to the meeting who reported that he was the beat policemen for the village.

In the previous month the police had dealt with 45 reported incidents in Thornley.

Criminal damage	5
Vehicle Damage	1
Fire	1
Vehicle Nuisance	3
Violence	1
Motor cycles/quad bikes	3
Anti Social Behaviour	5

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**225. Street Wardens Report**

The Chairman welcomed Kirsty Topping to the meeting who reported that the wardens had dealt with five incidents in Thornley.

Vehicle Nuisance	2
Animal Related	1
Anti Social Behaviour	2

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**226. New Thornley**

T.Unsworth reported that the previous meeting (which would have been the Annual General Meeting) had had to be cancelled because of heating problems in the venue. The next meeting, due to be held on 16th March 2010 would therefore be the Annual General Meeting.

Councillor Attey reported that an event for children was to be held in Youll House on Easter Saturday.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**227. Travellers**

It was reported that no additional information had been received.

**Resolved: that the information be noted.**

**228. Unitary County Councillor**

Councillor Nicholls reported that the Master Plan for the development of a new Resource Centre was ongoing and a report on the capital costs and feasibility were being collated.

Following discussions between officers of Durham County Council and the Parish Council the lengthsman service had been re-established in the village. Regarding the Travellers, the local farmer who had been approached on a previous occasion concerning the use of his land for an encampment had now refused to become involved and alternative sites were being investigated.

It was anticipated that the influx of travellers into Thornley would however be less than in previous years.

There had been some discussion concerning the possible removal of Yellow No Parking lines on Stanley Terrace in an effort to improve parking in the village and into the creation of a car park on land used for shrub bedding immediately outside Youll House.

Because of resident complaints over the limited snow clearance and gritting operations on the Gore Hall Estate in recent weeks the area had been included on the schedule for 2010/2011.

Discussions were ongoing between Durham county council and the Boundary Commission in an effort to resolve difficulties on the new electoral boundaries in the area and the number of elected members that would represent the various constituencies. The deadline for further submissions was 31st March 2010.

Because of ongoing difficulties with the number 22 bus service the schedule had been revised and additional buses had been commissioned to improve the situation during peak periods.

In response to member's questions, Councillor Nicholls reported that the new Health Clinic at Wheatley Hill was on target.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**229. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

It was reported that the next meeting would take place on 9th March 2010.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**230. Youll House**

As Councillor Wilson was not present no report was available.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**231. Public Question and Answer Session**

No questions were asked by those members of the public that were in attendance.

**Resolved: That the information be noted.**

**232. Urban & Rural Renaissance (REF: 6020) - Parking Restrictions – Stanley Terrace.**

Members discussed the content of a response from Durham County Council and were disappointed that the issues raised by the Parish Council in earlier correspondence had not been fully addressed.

Councillor Nicholls offered to obtain further information and suggested that if the appropriate officer from Durham County Council be requested to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council to clarify the position.

***Resolved: That further information be awaited.***

**233. Invitation (REF: 6024)**

The Chairman of Durham County Council invited members to attend an Evening of Classical Music in the Council Chamber on Friday 12th March 2010.

Tickets were priced at £10 each and all proceeds would go to charity.

***Resolved: That the invitation be received.***

**234. N.H.S. Stakeholders Event (REF: 6025)**

Members were invited to a Stakeholders Event to be held at the Ramside Hotel Durham on 3rd March 2010 commencing 12:45pm

***Resolved: That the invitation be received.***

**235. Hartlepool & District Hospice. REF: 6026)**

The hospice advised that they were willing to attend a Parish Council meeting to update members on the work undertaken.

***Resolved: That the invitation be received.***

**236. Contaminated Land Strategy (REF:6028)**

Durham County Council provided a copy of a public consultation document for members attention.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**237. Job Fund Placement (REF: 6035)**

A copy of the funding package which had been distributed to all members was discussed.

***Resolved: That there was some merit in the proposal and that if a suitable placement could be determined the Parish Council should make an application.***

**238. Parish & Town Council Conference (REF: 6029)**

Durham County Council gave advanced notice of its intension to host the event at County Hall on Monday 19th July 2010 commencing 3:30pm.

Full details would follow.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and that Councillors Mrs. Attey, Mrs. Brunskill, Mrs Unsworth, Mrs Hind and Mrs. Ingram attend.***

**239. Letter of Thanks (REF: 6030)**

A letter of thanks was received from Harbour (Peterlee women's Refuge) for the recent donation.

***Resolved: That the letter be received***

**240. Letter of Thanks (REF: 6036)**

A letter of thanks was received from the County of Durham School Benevolent Fund for the recent donation.

***Resolved: That the letter be received***

**241. Lengthsman**

The Parish Clerk reported that Durham County Council has reinstated the Lengthsman service in the village. The operational hours had been reduced however to three days per week.

Members were also informed of the reasons why Durham County Council had felt obliged to remove the service in the first instance.

The Chairman pointed out that a better knowledge and understanding of the Members Code of Conduct may have prevented the situation happening and suggested members receive further training at the first available opportunity.

***Resolved: That a special meeting of the Parish Council be arranged at which further training on the Members Code of Conduct and other related issues could be given to Councillors.***

**242. Youll House Usage**

Members expressed concern that the Youll House facility which was owned by Thornley Parish Council could not be accessed by resident groups without the permission of & payment of hire fees to, Youll House Age Concern.

The Chairman and Parish Clerk explained that this situation had been discussed on several occasions over the years by the Parish Council and a number of meetings had been held with the Youll House Age Concern Committee in an attempt to resolve it. Regrettably Youll House Age Concern had been unwilling to negotiate a satisfactory solution and therefore no progress could be made without further action on the part of the Parish Council.

Councillor Nicholls suggested that a further meeting between the Parish Council and Youll House Age Concern be arranged and agreed to attend.

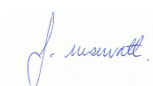
***Resolved: That Youll House Age Concern be requested to provide convenient dates on which a meeting could take place.***

**243. Summer & Winter Working Hours**

The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council may wish to investigate the benefits that may be achieved by altering the Summer and Winter working hours of the manual employees.

It was pointed out that any alteration to working practices would require changes to be made in employees contracts of employment and therefore staff would need to be consulted before they could be implemented.

***Resolved: That a special meeting of the Parish Council be convened to discuss the benefits and implications.***

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. M. Smith", is located in the bottom right corner of the page. The signature is written in a cursive style.

**244. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports**

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

***Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.***

**245. Any Additional Urgent Items of Business**

*In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) Act, 1985, section 100B (4)(b), 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.*

**246. Planning Application (REF: PL/5/2010/0064)**

Durham County Council advised that C.M. Youll had applied for planning permission for a residential development (reserved matter) on land formally occupied by the Crossways Hotel, Thornley.

**247. Area Active Partnerships**

Councillor Mrs Brunskill provided details of a £1.25million funding package for gritting roads in County Durham and asked that they be distributed to all members for information.

***Resolved: That the information be distributed with the minutes of the meeting.***

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**PURPOSES**

A small, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. M. Smith", is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

**SPECIAL MEETING OF  
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
AT  
YOULL HOUSE, THE VILLAS, THORNLEY  
30TH MARCH 2010**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chair), Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, Mrs. J. Middleton, J. Ollett, W. Turnbull.**

**APOLOGIES**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Mrs. A. Attey</i>	<i>Illness</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. E. Laidler</i>	<i>Illness</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>G. Wilson</i>	<i>Illness</i>	<i>Approved</i>

**248. Minutes of Personnel Sub-Committee 3rd March 2010**

The minutes of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 3rd March 2010 were considered.

***Resolved: That the recommendation of the Personnel Sub-Committee be accepted and agreed.***

**249. Members Training**

For the benefit of members, the Parish Clerk highlighted the potential repercussions if they did not abide by the "Members Code of Conduct" at all times when undertaking their duties as a Councillor.

The role of the Chairman was discussed along with agenda format, general protocol and operation of meetings.

The Parish Clerk outlined the criteria which would need to be met to obtain "Quality Status", the need for formal training and the potential cost.

***Resolved: That members undergo the required formal training as soon as the Parish Council is in a position to obtain "Quality Status".***

**250. Staff Working Hours - Summer & Winter**

The Chairman explained that because of severe weather conditions in recent months it had been necessary on several occasions to allow staff to finish early without loss of pay.

To redress the balance members considered the possible benefits for both the Parish Council and its staff if the number of hours worked by staff in a week in summer could be increased and the number of hours worked in a week in winter decreased whilst maintaining the overall total number of hours worked over a twelve month period. The weekly pay received by staff to being consistent throughout the year.

The Parish Clerk highlighted the fact that any alteration to contracts of employment would need the agreement of staff.





Members expressed concern that before embarking on further consideration or negotiation with staff took place more detailed information on current work practices covering a twelve months period was required.

***Resolved: That a decision be deferred for twelve months to allow the Parish Clerk to closely monitor working practices and record any variances for consideration by members.***

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
YOULL HOUSE, THORNLEY  
ON  
6TH APRIL 2010**

**Councillors A. Attey(Chair), Mrs. M. Brunskill, Mrs. I. Hind, Mrs. M. Ingram, J. Ollett, W. Turnbull, G. Wilson.**

**APOLOGIES**

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Mrs. E. Laidler</i>	<i>Illness</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. J. Middleton</i>	<i>Illness</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. J. Unsworth</i>	<i>Other Business</i>	<i>Approved</i>

**251. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill referred to minute 241 and informed members that as far as she was aware the Councillor responsible had made no attempt to apologise for their behaviour and asked that this be recoded in the minutes.

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill referred to minute 247 and pointed out that the funding package should read £1.5million not £1.25million.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd March 2010 were accepted as a true record.

The minutes of the special meeting held on 30th March 2010 were accepted as a true record.

**252. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed PC. Mellenthin to the meeting who reported that in period 3rd March 2010 to 6th April 2010 the police had dealt with 53 reported incidents in Thornley.

Criminal damage	2
Burglary	1
Violence /Assault	1
Motor cycles/quad bikes	7
Anti Social Behaviour	6

There had been a month of action targeting off road motorcycling but no seizures or warnings had been issued. The action would continue in the foreseeable future in an attempt to curtail problems caused.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**253. Street Wardens Report**

As the Street Wardens were not present no report was available.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**254. New Thornley**

Councillor Mrs Attey reported that an event for children had taken place over the Easter Weekend. Unfortunately attendance had been very poor and 13 of the 18 prizes had not been used. These prizes in the form of chocolate Easter Eggs were to be donated to the local schools.

It was pointed out that notification of the event had been given to the children by the schools approximately 2 weeks prior to the event which may have been a little too early.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**255. Travellers**

On behalf of Councillor Mrs. Unsworth the Parish Clerk distributed information regarding travellers encamped on the site of the former Crossways Hotel.

He reported however that these travellers had now relocated but that rubbish had been left on the site.

Councillor Nicholls reported that in an attempt to prevent travellers using the land at Coopers Close during 2010, a site meeting was being arranged to determine how much fencing would need to be erected around the perimeter. Once this information had been obtained a cost estimate could be provided and further action determined.

The Chairman pointed out that if access to Coopers Close was denied it was distinctly possible that travellers would then access parish council land at the rear of Thornlaw South.

To prevent this it was proposed that the members consider the construction of an earth embankment and the planting of trees.

The Parish Clerk pointed out that this might be a costly exercise and that it may not prevent determined travellers gaining access.

It was reported that a public meeting to discuss travellers visiting Thornley was to be held in Thornley Community Centre on Wednesday 21st April 2010 from 2:00pm until 3:30pm.

***Resolved: That the information be noted and that the Parish Clerk provided cost estimates for the construction of an earth embankment with trees at Thornlaw South.***

**256. Unitary County Councillor**

A site meeting was to be arranged to consider what methods could be used to address the severe and every growing problem of fly tipping and the dumping of scrap metal on the public footpath in the vicinity of Dunelm Road.

A Section 106 agreement relating to the development of homes in the Gore Hall had not yet been finalised. The landowner had been advised that he must make arrangements to clear accumulated rubbish from the site as it was becoming an eyesore.

The bus services were still a cause of concern because some were not running to schedule. It was hoped that further discussions with Arriva may help remedy the situation.

The unitary council was in the final stages of staff redeployment & recruitment.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**257. A.A.P. Report**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Sheila Pearce to the meeting who gave a comprehensive report on the current situation and within the Area Active Partnership group.<sup>18</sup>

**258. Easington Association of Town & Parish Council's**

Councillor Mrs. Brunskill gave a comprehensive report on the topics discussed at the previous meeting of the association.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**259. Youll House**

Councillor G. Wilson advised that because of illness he had not been in a position to attend meetings and therefore he could not provide report.

The Parish Clerk referred to the meeting held on 2nd March 2010<sup>19</sup> and reported that the Committee of Age Concern Youll House could meet representatives of the Parish Council to discuss usage of the facility any Tuesday or Friday afternoon at 3:30pm.

***Resolved: That Councillors Attey, Brunskill, Hind, Ingram, Ollett, Turnbull and Unsworth represent the Parish Council at a meeting to be held on Friday 23rd April 2010.***

**260. Maintenance Report**

The report of the Chargehand Gardener previously circulated was considered.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**261. Public Question and Answer Session**

A period of up to 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or raise items of concern.

A member of the public asked if the Parish council had a Website and if the minutes of the meeting were available to the public.

The Parish Clerk advised that the Parish Council did not have a Website at present but that this would be considered in the future.

Minutes of the Parish Council were posted on several notice boards in the village and within Thornley Library along with the Agenda 1 week prior to meetings taking place.

***Resolved: That the information be noted***

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<sup>18</sup> A copy of the information was provided to members with minutes of the Parish Meeting.

<sup>19</sup> Minute 242 refers.

**262. Durham Miners Gala Booklet (REF: 6055)**

Durham Miners Association has provided details of a publication on the History of the Durham Miners Gala from 1871 to 210 priced at £19.50 plus £3.50 p&p.

***Resolved: That the information be noted***

**263. Request for Donation (REF: 6067)**

Wheatley Hill History Club has requested a donation to aid with the publication and launch of a book entitled "NCB – Owners of Thornley, Ludworth & Wheatley Hill Collieries – 1956 -1976".

***Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £50.00***

**264. Alteration of Standing Orders**

The Parish Clerk reported that in accordance with minute 248 Standing Order of Council would need to be amended.

***Resolved: That Standing Orders of Council be amended as follows:-***

***2 FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS***

- a) Ordinary Meetings of the Council shall be held on the first Tuesday every two months commencing in May at 7pm unless the Council otherwise decides at a previous meeting.
- b) Notwithstanding the requirements of clause 2a) above, **no meeting** of the Council will be held in the month of **August** and in **January** the meeting be held in the second week.

**265. Letter of Thanks (Ref: 6042)**

A letter of thanks was received from the Great North Air Ambulance for the Parish Council's recent donation.

***Resolved: That the letter be received.***

**266. Planning Permission (REF: PL/5/2010/0020)**

Durham County Council advised that Planning Permission had been granted to Mr. & Mrs. Catchpole to construct a house and detached triple garage with playroom above at the site of the former Bartholomew's church, Church Walk, Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**267. Planning Permission (REF: PL/05/2010/0064)**

Durham County Council advised that Planning Permission had been granted to C.M. Youll Ltd for a residential development (Reserved Matters Application) on the site of the former Crossways Hotel, Dunelm Walk, Thornley.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**268. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports**

The Finance & Budgetary Control report detailing all income and expenditure since the last meeting and the current budget position was considered.

***Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk make arrangements to settle any outstanding accounts.***

**269. Any Additional Urgent Items of Business**

*In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) Act, 1985, section 100B (4)(b), 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.*

**270. Coopers Close Allotments Society (REF: 6071)**

The society advised the Parish Council that it was now a member of the National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Ltd.

***Resolved: That the information be noted***

**271. Planning Permission (REF: PL/5/210/0115)**

Durham County Council advised that planning permission had been granted to Mr. T. Coatsworth for a sunroom extension at 40, Cottingham Grove, Thornley. Co. Durham.

***Resolved: That the information be noted.***

**272. Request for a Donation**

East Durham Citizens Advice Bureau requested a donation to aid the work of the unit over the next twelve months.

***Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £150.00***

**273. Quality Councils**

The National Association of Local Councils advised that a free learning event was to be held at Peterlee Town Council on 20th April 2010. Case studies and visits to both Peterlee (community/sports building) and Seaham (green burials) will be made.

***Resolved: That places for the event be booked for Councillor Mrs. Attey, Brunskill & Unsworth.***

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**PURPOSES**

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