

**MINUTES OF  
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE  
6TH JULY 2021**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chairperson), Mrs. P. Maddison, David Smith, T. Unsworth. Mr J Miller**

**APOLOGIES**

- Councillor J Grant

**PUBLIC**

- No members of the public were present..

**Meeting Commenced: 7:00pm**

**26. Draft Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th May 2021 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chairperson as an accurate record.

**Resolved: True record.**

**27. Draft Minutes of the Allotments Committee**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd June 2021 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chairperson as an accurate record.

**28. Police Report**

The Parish Clerk reported that PCSO Sarah Kinghorn had been transferred to another area.

Her replacement had been requested to provide a report but nothing had been received.

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

**29. County Councillor's Report**

Councillor J Miller reported that he had accompanied the Chair of the Parish Council Mrs Joyce Unsworth and the Parish Clerk around the village and had reported the issues identified to the County Council.

He also informed members that an outstanding AAP grant application for Christmas Lighting was now being processed. Members expressed their frustration on the application process and the difficulties small organisations faced obtaining relatively small sums from the A.A.P.

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

**30. Public Question and Answer Session**

No questions were raised by members of the public

**Resolved: That the information be noted**

### 31. **Matters Arising – Progress report of the Parish Clerk & Councillors**

The Parish Clerk updated members on the following issues:-

- **Welfare Park Access** - As previously agreed<sup>1</sup> the issue of access to the Welfare Park had been referred to the Councils solicitor who had now advised that the resident that had removed barrier had no legal right over the track. They had advised the residents Solicitor that unless their client could prove otherwise the matter should be considered closed. Further developments would be reported to the Parish Council.
- **Youll House Refurbishment** - Despite some difficulty getting the utility services reinstalled the refurbishment of Youll House was nearing completion. Members be asked to attend negotiations of the lease with the church.
- **Village Matters & Transfer of Shrub beds from D.C.C** – A site meeting attended by County Councillor Jake Miller and officers of D.C.C. had taken place and negotiations were ongoing.
- **Rubbish to the rear of Hartlepool Street** – This had been reported to the Street Wardens by county Councillor Miller.

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

### 32. **Co-option of Councillors:**

The Parish Clerk reported that following the local election there were 5 vacant seats on the Council. A draft leaflet for distribution to every household advertising the vacancies was tabled for discussion.

***Resolved: That the vacancies be advertised initially on the Parish Website, Village Centre Facebook and posters in local retail outlets. If no applications are received a leaflet drop should be organised.***

### 33. **Planning Matters**

Members considered all applications provided by Durham County Council.

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

### 34. **Welfare Park - Use by Junior Teams.**

The Parish Clerk reported that the Junior Football Team had requested the use of the pitch to train on.

***Resolved: That that the team could use the former cricket pitch area free of charge.***

### 35. **Welfare Park - Hire Fees**

The Parish Clerk suggested that that prior to reviewing the annual hire fees in the light of the continuing Covid Pandemic it would be useful to meet with the football team representatives.

***Resolved: That the senior teams will be invited to attend a meeting to discuss the situation prior to reviewing the annual fees.***

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<sup>1</sup> Minute 15 refers

**36. Members Code of Conduct 2021**

The Parish Clerk reported that S.L.C.C and C.D.A.L.C had produced a Revised Code of Conduct.

***Resolved: That the revised code be amended to suit Thornley Parish Council and adopted.***

**37. Paul Howell MP.**

Paul Howell MP extended an offer to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council to discuss local matters and answer questions from members.

***Resolved: The Parish Clerk write to Mr Howell inviting him to a Parish Meeting when it was convenient.***

**38. Training & Development**

No training was available at this time.

***Resolved: That the Parish Clerk will circulate information to members as it became available.***

**39. Report of Facilities & Community Officer**

Groups are returning to the Centre and a summer programme is planned.

***Resolved: The summer programme will be sent to Councillors for their information.***

**40. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports**

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

***Resolved: That the report be accepted and that the Parish Clerk settles any outstanding accounts.***

**41. 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), to consider any item the Chair considers urgent, following consultation with the Proper Officer.

**42. Lifting Covid Restrictions**

That notwithstanding Government Guidelines the Chair reported that parish staff would continue to wear face covering in the Village Centre and follow social distancing rules.

**43. RoSPA Annual Playground Inspection.**

The annual inspection report of RoSPA on play equipment was tabled for consideration. No major issues had been discovered and minor areas of concern would be addressed.

***Resolved: That the report be accepted.***

**44. Proposed Meeting with the Allotment Association**

The Parish Clerk reported that several attempts had been made to contact the Association officials no avail.

***Resolved: That the actions previously agreed by the Allotment Committee be implemented.***

***Meeting Terminated: 8:30pm***