

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE
7TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

None

PUBLIC

No members of the public present

Meeting Commenced: 7:00pm

45. Draft Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th July 2021 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chairperson as an accurate record.

Resolved: True Record.

46. Co-option of Councillors'

The three applicants for the positions as Co-opted members of the Parish Council were considered.

All were nominated and seconded by existing members of the Council.

Resolved: That Mrs. G. Ismail, Mrs. J. Gaffney and J. Hughes be co-opted to the Parish Council.

47. Police report

No police report was available.

Resolved: That an email be sent to Durham Police requesting an update on crime figures.

48. Unitary County Councillor

Cllr Jake Miller reported as follows:-

- *The complicated application process had been raised with the AAP.*
- *The bushes overgrowing onto the footpath and Hartlepool Street had been reported to the Highways department and more salt bins requested.*
- *A request for additional seating at various locations in the village was under consideration.*
- *Durham City Youth Project had been contacted with a view to detached youth work in the village.*
- *Durham County Council were to appoint a Community Safety Co-ordinator with a view to running a pilot scheme involving the Parish Council.*
- *Funding was still available in the Durham County Council Section 106 account to undertake projects.*

As no progress was being made, the Chair asked Councillor Miller to raise the issue again of rubbish in the back yard of the house in Hartlepool Street.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

49. Public Question and Answers

No members of the public were present

Resolved: That the information be noted.

50. Matters Arising – Progress Report of the Parish Clerk & Councillors

The Parish Clerk updated members on the following:-

Welfare Park – Although the Access Rights issue with a resident was ongoing the Councils Solicitors had confirmed that the Council had a legal right to use the path to access and maintain the Welfare Park.

Youll House - British Gas had not updated its records when they removed the original gas meter in 2014. Until the gas was made available it was not possible to commission the central heating boiler, finish decoration and polish the flooring. It was anticipated that the proposed agreement could be discussed with representatives of the Community of Hope in November.

Transfer of shrub beds - officers of Durham County Council were still finalising their report and proposals for the transfer.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

51. Allotments Advisory Panel

The Chair and Parish Clerk had met with Officers of the Coopers Close Allotment Association (the Allotment Advisory Panel). A number of issues had been discussed and it had been agreed that warning letters for non-cultivation should be sent to a number of tenants.

The waiting list for gardens should at 18.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

52. Defibrillator

The Parish Clerk reported that a resident had requested that the Parish Council install a defibrillator.

It was pointed out that for this type of initiative to be effective its installation, operation and long term maintenance would be best if undertaken by a resident group or individual. The Parish Council could provide a degree of financial support if requested.

Cllr Ismail reported that Thornley F.C had some funds for a defibrillator ring fenced in their account and that they would be prepared to use their account to hold any funds raised by the community.

Cllr Maddison agreed to lead on this initiative and co-ordinate with other residents to investigate possible sites, raise funds, and oversee the installation.

Resolved: That the Parish Council support the initiative in principle and would consider a request for funding if required.

54. Request for Donation

Victim Support – Derbyshire requested a donation to assist with the operation of their organisation.

Resolved: That the request be received.

55. Hire of Welfare Park.

Councillor Mrs. Ismail declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion or voting procedure that followed.

Thornley F.C. requested the use of the Welfare Park host a presentation and fun day for players and family.

Shincliffe Juniors F.C which supports a number of teams requested use of the facility as their Home Pitch for the forthcoming season.

The Parish Clerk reported that there was an ever increasing demand for sports facilities and suggested that the Parish Council consider developing further provision.

Resolved: That permission be granted to Thornley F.C. to use of the pavilion and sports ground for their event and that Shincliffe FC use the Welfare Park as their Home Ground for the season. In addition the Parish Clerk arranges a meeting with Durham F. A to form a partnership to develop facilities.

56. Wild Flower Meadow

The Chair proposed that the council create a wildflower meadow on the land opposite Thornley garage.

Resolved: That costs be obtained for consideration by the Parish Council.

57. Training & Development

The Parish Clerk reported that no training was available at this time.

Resolved: That the information be noted

58. Report of Facilities & Community Officer

The report of the Facilities & Community Development Officer was tabled for consideration.

Resolved: That the report be received.

59. Annual Audit of Accounts Ending 31st March 2021

Mazar's LLP had completed the external audit of the Parish Council's accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2021. The accounts were in order and the Annual Report certified accordingly. Arrangements must now to be made for residents to view the Notice of Conclusion of Audit

Resolved: That the report be received.

60. Planning Matters

Members considered all applications provided by Durham County Council.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

61. Finance & Budgetary Control Reports

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

Resolved: That the information be noted.

62. 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.

63. EDATPC Meeting

The Parish Clerk reported that East Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils were to hold a meeting which the Councilors were free to attend.

64. Section 106 Funding

The Parish Clerk suggested that an application be submitted to Durham County Council to enhance or develop or sports provision.

Resolved: That an application be submitted.

Meeting Terminated: 8:30pm