

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE
3RD MAY 2022**

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chairperson), Mrs. A. Galley, Mrs. G. Ismail, Mrs. P. Maddison, David Smith, T. Unsworth.

APOLOGIES

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Reason for Absence</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Ms. J. Grant</i>	<i>Annual Leave</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>J. Hughes</i>	<i>Other commitments</i>	<i>Approved</i>

PUBLIC

No members of the public were present.

Meeting Commenced: 6:30pm

1. Draft Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd March 2022 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chairperson as an accurate record.

2. Co-option

Following notification from the Electoral Services Officer at D.D.C. the vacancies were advertised.

Only 1 resident had applied for the position.

The candidate was nominated and seconded by the existing members of the Council present.

Resolved: That Mrs. A. Galley be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

3. Police Report

No police report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted

4. Unitary County Councillor's Report

Because no County Councillors were present a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

5. Public Question and Answer Session

No questions were raised by members of the public

Resolved: That the information be noted

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

- Welfare Park Access – The Parish Clerk reported that the Council's solicitor had requested the 3rd party to provide additional information. Because they had failed to do so progress could not be made at this time juncture.

- Welfare Park Storm Damage – The Parish Clerk reported that the insurance claim had been submitted and a settlement reached. Arrangements were now in hand to have the fencing re-erected as soon as possible.
- Defibrillator Update – Councillor Mrs Maddison reported that the defibrillator had been accessed on two occasions recently.
- D.C.C. Land Transfer & Monument – the Parish Clerk reported that Durham County Council had not yet made a decision on the transfer or lease arrangements.
- Youll House Handover – The Parish Clerk reported that keys for the facility had now been handed over to the Community of Hope and an invoice had been raised for the 2022/23 rent payment.
- Village Centre Closure – The Chair reported that because of staff shortages due to Covid the Village Centre had had to be closed for 1 week.
- Covid Risk Assessments - The Chair reported that although Covid was declining restrictions were still in place but these would be lifted when it was deemed appropriate to do so.

Resolved: That the information be noted

7. Freehold of Village Centre

The Chair reported that Durham County Council had transferred the ownership of several Community Centers to various Parish Council's and Community Associations as part of an Asset Transfer Arrangement.

Resolved: That Durham County be approached to ascertain if they would be prepared to transfer the freehold of the Village Centre to the Parish Council under the same initiative.

8. Allotment Issues

The Parish Clerk reported that the invoice for 2022/23 had been issued to all tenants and arrangements for occupation of vacant plots by new tenants was in hand.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

9. Annual Governance & Accountability Return Ending 31st March 2022

The Parish Clerk reported that the accounts had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234).

Members were requested to approve Section 1 and then Section 2 of the Governance & Accountability Return in accordance with the statutory regulations.

Resolved: That Section 1 and Section 2 the Annual Governance & Accountability Return be approved and that it be signed by the Chairperson on behalf of Thornley Parish Council. In addition, arrangements be made to inform residents of their rights to inspect the accounts etc., in accordance with the statutory regulations.

10. Training & Development

No training was available at this time.

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

11. Report of the Facilities & Community Officer

The report was tabled for consideration

Resolved: That the information be noted.

12. Cleaner Vacancy

The Parish Clerk reported that the position of Cleaner at the Village Centre was vacant. A temporary cleaner had been recruited but it was essential that the post be filled on a more permanent basis.

Resolved: That the post be advertised in accordance with existing policy.

13. Planning Applications to D.C.C.

Durham County Council provided details of the following planning application for consideration.

- DM/DM/21/01220/FPA
- DM/21/04099/RM
- DM/21/04158/FPA
- DM/21/04109/FPA
- DM/22/00788/
- DM/22/00857/RM

14. Welfare Park - Renovation & Development

The Parish Clerk reported that because of the condition of the playing surface quotations had been requested from specialist firms to undertake appropriate works.

It was suggested that the former "Cricket Square" should be developed as a training pitch at the same time if possible.

Resolved: That an application for be submitted to Durham County Council for Section 106 Funding

15. Hire & Usage Policy – Welfare Park & Village Centre Field

Because of the onset of the football season it was suggested that a hire & usage policy be developed for each of these facilities.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerks convenes a meeting of Councillors to draft suitable terms & conditions for consideration by the full Council.

16. 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 the Parish Clerk settles any outstanding accounts.

Meeting Terminated: 8:30pm