

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE
5TH JULY 2022**

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

No apologies were received

PUBLIC

One members of the public was present.

Meeting Commenced: 6:30pm

17. Draft Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd May 2022 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chairperson as an accurate record.

18. Police Report

The Parish Clerk reported that the police presence in the village was being revised and as a result no police report was available.

Resolved: That the information be noted

19. Unitary County Councillor's Report

Because no County Councillors were present a report was unavailable.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

20. Public Question and Answer Session

A member of the public highlighted the plight of certain sectors of the community who were finding it difficult in the current economic climate to sustain themselves and asked if the Parish Council were able to offer support to a Self Help Group if one could be formed.

Resolved: That if a detailed proposal was submitted it would be given every consideration and supported by the Parish Council were possible.

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

The Parish Clerk reported on the following issues:-

- Emergency Plan – Details of a local emergency plan were still being developed by County Councillors.
- 106 Funding – Funding had been secured to renovate the Welfare Park playing surface and develop an area on which teams could train.
- Vandalism – There had been several incidence in recent weeks including damage to the Welfare Park Pavilion. All had been reported to the police and fire brigade and investigations were continuing.
- Welfare Park Access/Fencing – The access issue had been resolved and the damaged fencing had now been re-erected making the facility secure.

- D.C.C. Land Transfer & Lease of Welfare Park –D.C.C. had now undertaken works to improve the standard of a certain number of shrub beds and as a result it would no longer be necessary for them to be transferred to the Parish Council for them to maintain. The transfer of the land immediately in front of Youll House was still under consideration. The Parish Council’s request to obtain land on which to develop a car parking facility for teams using the Welfare Park had been rejected by D.C.C. The lease that existed between the Parish Council and D.C.C. for use of certain areas of the Welfare Park had now expired. Details of the terms for a new lease being proposed by D.C.C. were awaited.
- Hire & Usage Policy Welfare Park & Village Centre Field – Because of other commitments it had not been possible to convene a meeting of members to discuss proposals. As a result it had been decided the best course of action would be for the Parish Clerk to create a draft policy for consideration of members at a later date.
- Cleaner Vacancy – Only one application had been received from the current temporary employee. Following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council it had been agreed that the person be appointed on a permanent basis subject to the usual conditions of employment.
- Defibrillator – Councillor Mrs. Maddison reported that the defibrillator had been accessed 3 time in recent weeks and was proving to be an asset to the community.

Resolved: That the information be noted

22. Village Centre Phase II development

The Chair outlined proposals to construct a BMX Pump Track on the former Thornley Pit land at the rear of the Village Centre.

Resolved: That the proposal be developed, quotation be obtains and sources of funding be investigated for further consideration by the Council.

23. Allotments Inspection

The Parish Clerk reported that the allotments were being inspected on a regular basis. Whilst the majority of tenants were complying with their agreement some were not.

Resolved: That in accordance with the Tenancy Agreements “letters to improve standards” be sent to tenants where necessary.

24. Community Action Team

Members were informed that D.C.C. operated a program whereby a team would visit designated locations and address issues of concern such as accumulated rubbish left in vacant properties and arrange litter picking in hedgerows etc.

Resolved: That additional information be obtained.

25. Request for Donations

Thornley Banner Society requested the initial sum granted be increased to a total of £1605.00 to cover increase in fuel and fuel costs to attend Durham Miners Gala¹

Resolved: That the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government act 1972, should incur the following

¹ Parish Meeting held on 3rd September 2019 Minute 55 refers

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 a total expenditure of £1605.00.

26. Risk Assessments – Legionella

Members were advised that Northumbrian Water had been approached to undertake a legionella risk assessment at the Village Centre and Welfare Park to ensure compliance.

Resolved: That the information be noted

27. Report of the Facilities & Community Officer

The report was tabled for consideration

Resolved: That the information be noted.

28. Correspondence

ADT provided a quotation for the upgrading of the CCTV equipment in the Village Centre.

Resolved: That additional quotations be obtained for further consideration by the Parish Council.

29. Training & Development

The Parish Clerk provided members with a list of training courses currently being arranged by the County Durham Association of Local Councils.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

30. Planning Matters

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

- DM/22/01123/FPA
- DM/22/01003/RM
- DM/22/01306/FPA
- DM/22/01364/FPA
- DM/22/01422/VOC

Resolved: That the information be noted

31. 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.

32. 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.

33. Freehold of Thornley Village Centre

The Chair informed Councillor that D.C.C. had disposed of a number of their Community Centers via an Asset Transfer initiative.

Resolved: That D.C.C. be asked if they would consider offering the freehold of the Village Centre to the Parish Council.

34. Planning Matters

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

- DM/22/00613/FPA
- DM/22/00788/FPA
- DM/22/01306/FPA

Resolved: That no objections be raised

Meeting Terminated: 8:20pm