

**MINUTES OF
THORNLEY PARISH COUNCIL
THORNLEY VILLAGE CENTRE
6TH SEPTEMBER 2022**

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs. J. Unsworth (Chairperson), Ms. E. Bramfitt, Mrs. A. Galley, Ms. J. Grant, J. Hughes, 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>Work Commitments</i>	<i>Approved</i>
<i>Mrs. P. Maddison`</i>	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Approved</i>

PUBLIC

One members of the public was present.

Meeting Commenced: 6:30pm

35. Draft Minutes of the AGM

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

36. Draft Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th July 2022 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chairperson as an accurate record.

37. Co-option of Councillor

The Parish Clerk reported following notification from the Electoral Services Officer at D.D.C. the vacancies on the Parish Council had been advertised and one application had been received.

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

Resolved: That Ms.Elaine Bramfitt be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

38. 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.

County Councillor Miller reported that a new Inspector had been appointed recently.and that as a result it was anticipated that greater feedback on issues and incidents previously reported would improve.

Resolved: That the information be noted

39. Unitary County Councillor's Report

A invitation was extended to visit the Police HQ and Control Room. Councillors wishing to attend should notify the Parish Clerk.

Material dumped by flytippers at the rear of a property in Hartlepool Street had now been removed by D.C.C.

A Councillor's Surgery held in Youll House was attended by 12 residents.

A new headteacher had been appointed at Thornley Primary School.

The decision on a planning application to develop a motor cycle track adjacent to Thornley Cemetery had been postponed to allow for a noise assessment to be undertaken

Resolved: That the report be received.

40. Public Question and Answer Session

There were no residents in attendance.

Resolved: That the information be noted

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

- **Wild Flower Meadow** - Initial weedkilling had been undertaken in preparation of cultivating and seeding in Late September.
- **106 Funding** - Renovation of the main pitch and development of the training area was complete. The Section 106 funds had also been received from D.C.C.
- **Additional Dog Waste Bin** - A request had been submitted to D.C.C. to install an additional Dog Waste bin on land opposite the War Memorial. This had been refused as one was in place on the opposite side of the road. Members suggested that D.C.C. be approached again to enquire if they would empty a bin if the Parish Council would fund its purchase and installation.
- **Freehold of Thornley Village Centre** – D.C.C. had agreed in principal to the asset transfer. Further details were awaited.
- **Village Centre Phase II** – An appointment had been made for the representative of a firm specialising in the construction of Pump Tracks to visit Thornley to view the proposed site and provide cost estimates.
- **Risk Assessments** – Arrangements were in hand for Legionella testing to be undertaken in the Village Centre and Welfare Park.

42. Traffic Calming – Thornley to Wheatley Hill

The Chair highlighted the damage caused on a regular basis by motorists and vandals to the hazard warning signage at this location and proposed that D.C.C. be requested to look at a more suitable and robust alternative. County Councillor Miller agreed to investigate but pointed out that it might be difficult to achieve in view of the location.

Resolved: To await feedback from D.C.C.

43. Welfare Park/Village Centre field – User Policy

The Chair reported that the Welfare Hire Policy had been amended to include a clause regarding the Hire of the Training Pitch. Suitable signage² had been obtained to remind users of their obligations should they wish to use the field at the rear of the Village Centre.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

44. Civility & Respect Pledge

The Parish Council had been requested to agree to signing up to a Civility and Respect pledge.

² On display in the meeting

Resolved: That the Parish Agree to abide by the content of the pladge.

45. Electric Vehicle Charge Point

D.C.C. had offered to arrange a free survey to determine if an electric charge point could be installed in the village.

Members considered the accessibility and use issues having a point installed on Parish Council land and the overall benefit.

Resolved: That the offer be declined at this time.

46. Correspondence

- External Auditor Arrangements – The Parish Council was invited to consider whether it wanted to continue employing the Government Appointed External Auditors to conduct the annual audit of its accounts in the future or make its own arrangements.

Resolved: That the Parish Council continues to employ the services of the Government Appointed Auditor.

- Horden PC 75th Anniversary – An invitation was extended to all Councillors attend this celebration of the founding of the Parish Council.

Resolved: That all Councillors be authorised to attend.

- CCTV equipment – Members considered an alternative quotation provided by ADT to update surveillance equipment.

Resolved: That the quotation be received.

47. Allotments

The Parish Clerk provided details of those allotment tenants who in contravention of their agreements.

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

48. Training & Development

The Parish Clerk reported that details of forthcoming events were provided to members as they became available.

Documents and information obtained by Councillor Smith from courses he had attended had also been distributed to members.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

49. Report of the Facilities & Community Officer

The report was tabled for consideration.

Resolved: That the information be noted and a vote of thanks be recorded in the minutes for the work undertaken by Mrs. Brenda Hodgson for organising the Summer program.

50. Planning Matters

Details of all planning applications were considered.

Resolved: That no objections be raised.

52. Request for Donations

- **Durham Hospital Radio** requested a donation to further their work over the next 12 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 a total expenditure of £50.00.

- **Thornley Homing Pigeon Society** requested a donation to replace timing equipment.

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 a total expenditure of £200.00.

- **Alice House Hospice** requested a donation to aid the work of the further their work over the next 12 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 a total expenditure of £150.00.

- **Peterlee Town Council** provided details of this years Santa's Wish Appeal event.

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 a total expenditure of £50.00.

53. 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.

54. Resignation of the Parish Clerk Responsible Finance Officer

The Parish Clerk Reported reported that he wished to retire and submitted his required 3 months notice of termination.

Members thanked Mr. Moore for his long and dedicated service to the authority and wished him a long healthy and happy retirement.

Resolved: That arrangements be made to advertise the position and fill the vacancy as soon as possible to ensure a smooth handover of duties.

55. 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.

Meeting Terminated: 8:30pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Thornley Village Centre, High Street, Thornley on 1st November 2022 at 6:30p.m.