**Thornley with Wheatley Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 18 September 2017 at 7.30 pm**

 **at the Derby Arms, Thornley**

**Present:** Mr M Hayhurst (Chairperson)

Mrs C Ansbro (Vice-Chairperson/Clerk)

 Mrs G Airey (Responsible Finance Officer)

 Mr P Hallett

ApologiesMrs J Faraday

* + 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Faraday.

* + 1. **Declaration of Interests**

To avoid any potential conflict of interest Mr Hallett was not involved in the email discussion on the Agenda item relating to the planning application for the erection of a working nursery at Little Town Lakes and Mr Hayhurst was not involved in the email discussion regarding the resubmission planning application in respect of Barn 1, Wheatley Farm.

**17.9.3** **Minutes of the last meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2017 were approved and signed.

**17.9.4** **Matters Arising from the meeting held on 22 May 2017**

1. **Purchase of Planters**

The planters had been put in place and secured and had been planted up with summer bedding. Mr Hayhurst had strimmed the grass verge around the planter adjacent to the Cricket Club and the verge around the other Thornley with Wheatley sign had been cut down. Members felt the planters now provided an excellent focal point at each boundary sign.

1. **Visit to see improvements at Thornley School**

This item had also been referred to in the Annual General Meeting. Councillors were aware that members of the Parish had been asking how the improvements were progressing as there did not seem to have been much evidence of work taking place for some time. It was noted that Thornley Community Space had posted on Facebook asking for volunteers to join a working weekend on 7/8 October to help with painting, clearing etc. Whilst Members felt that this was a good initiative it was still considered that the Parish Council needed an update on the renovation of the school and the work outstanding before the building could be brought into use. It was, therefore, agreed that the Chairman would write to Community Space requesting representatives to attend the next Parish Council meeting in November to provide an update and to agree a date for the PC to visit the School.

Mrs Ansbro also informed Councillors that she had forwarded details of a possible funding stream to Community Space for them to explore.

**RESOLVED** Chairman towrite to Thornley Community Space requesting representatives to attend the PC meeting in November to provide an update and to agree a date for the PC to visit the School.

**Action –** M Hayhurst

1. **Development of website**

Mrs Ansbro reported that the website had now been populated with documents as required by the “Transparency code for smaller authorities”. These included the Parish Council’s Statements of Accounts from 2015. Further development of the website would be ongoing.

* + 1. **Accounts**

Mrs Airey and Mrs Ansbro updated Members on the submission of the Annual Return to the External Auditors for year ended 31 March 2017. Due to their lack of experience in completing the required documentation the Auditors had raised some queries on the Return and further work had been required. Queries had been responded to in detail and the Auditors had subsequently confirmed that they could complete their work. Their report, once received, would be brought to a PC meeting for discussion and would be published on the website.

The public had been notified via the website of the availability for inspection of the, as yet, unaudited PC Accounting Statements for year ended 31 March 2017 . Documents had been made available to view from 29 June 2017 to 9 August 2017 and the public had been informed of their rights to question the Auditor about the accounts if they wished.

**RESOLVED** Auditors’ report, once received, to be brought to a PC meeting for discussion and then published on the website.

**Action** – G Airey/C Ansbro

* + 1. **Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Emergency Cover Review 2017 consultation**

Members had had the opportunity to read the documentation submitted by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service. They agreed with the proposals for no change to the Emergency Cover review for 2017-20 and the adoption of a Pre-Alerting Policy (a method of operation whereby, once an addressable location has been identified by a call handler at Fire Control, an early mobilising message is dispatched to the responding crews).

* + 1. **Consultation on the amendments to the Ribble Valley Housing and Economic Development Plan**

Details had been emailed to Councillors on 1 August for consideration. No comments had been proposed.

* + 1. **Planning Applications**
1. **Lyme House Farm – conversion of barns to two new dwellings (No 3/2017/0489)**

Due to the timescale for responding to the consultation on this application Members had been requested for their comments via email prior to the meeting. No objections had been raised in respect of this planning application.

1. **Erection of working nursery and shop at Little Town Lakes (No 3/2017/0664)**

Due to the timescale for responding to the consultation on this application Members had been requested for their comments via email prior to the meeting. Members had considered this application in detail and felt that the development had been planned in keeping with surrounding countryside, with sympathetic use of the site and materials. The development had potential to support the local economy and other businesses and to provide interest to both locals and visitors to the area. The planning application was therefore strongly supported and RVBC had been notified accordingly.

1. **Old House Farm – erection of an agricultural store to replace two previous buildings (No 3/2017/0691)**

Due to the timescale for responding to the consultation on this application Members had been requested for their comments via email prior to the meeting. No objections had been raised in respect of this planning application.

1. **Conversion of Barn 1, Wheatley Farm (No 3/2017/0712) Resubmission of application No 3/2017/0272**

Due to the timescale for responding to the consultation on this application Members had been requested for their comments via email prior to the meeting. No objections had been raised in respect of this resubmission.

1. **Lyme House Farm proposed cattle building (No 3/2017/0744)**

Due to the timescale for responding to the consultation on this application Members had been requested for their comments via email prior to the meeting. No objections had been raised in respect of this application

1. **Retention of unauthorised works to construct a two-storey extension at Seven Acre Bungalow (No 3/2017/0770)**

Members discussed this application in detail. The PC was aware of a previous application to build a garage/annex at Seven Acre bungalow which they had supported but which had been refused by RVBC Planning. Approval had subsequently been granted on appeal dated 11 January 2017. The Appeal Decision stipulated conditions, one of which was

“The garage/annex building hereby permitted shall not be occupied at any time other than for purposes ancillary to the residential use of the dwelling known as Seven Acre Bungalow”.

Members concluded that they could not condone the building of a two-storey extension which was not supported by planning approval. RVBC would be notified accordingly.

**RESOLVED** – Ribble Valley Borough Council to be notified of the Parish Council’s comments on these Planning Applications

**Action -** C Ansbro

* + 1. **Parish Councils’ Liaison Committee**

The Agenda for the PCLC meeting to be held on 14 September 2017 had been circulated to Members and was noted.

* + 1. **Any Other Business**
		2. **Questionnaire regarding fracking**

Mrs Ansbro brought a questionnaire to the meeting which had been forwarded by a sixth-form geography student. The student was conducting a survey to help understand opinions of key decision makers in the context of “Is fracking the answer to the UK energy needs or is it an environmental ticking time-bomb”. Members completed the questionnaire.

* + 1. **Thefts**

Councillors were aware that there had been a spate of thefts/attempted thefts in the local area recently. Mr Hallett informed the PC that CCTV cameras located around his premises had recorded two people acting suspiciously and the Police had been informed. Members were advised to be vigilant and report any unusual activity.

* + 1. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Monday 20 November 2017 commencing at 7 pm.

 The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

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Signed Date