**Thornley with Wheatley Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish/General Meeting held on Monday 18 September 2017 at 7 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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Thornley with Wheatley Parish Council Annual Parish/ General Meeting.

**AGM 17.1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Faraday.

**AGM 17.2 Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**AGM 17.3** **Minutes of the last AGM meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2016 were approved and signed.

**AGM 17.4** **Matters Arising from the meeting held on 27 June 2016**

There were no matters arising

**AGM 17.5 Appointment of Officers**

The following appointments were confirmed

Mr M Hayhurst - Chairman

Mrs C Ansbro - Vice Chairman/Clerk

Mrs G Airey - Responsible Finance Officer

Mr P Hallett - Representative on Parish Council Liaison Committee

**AGM 17.6 Annual Accounts Review**

Mrs Airey and Mrs Ansbro referred to the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2017, which included the Annual Governance statement 2016/17. Members had reviewed and approved the Annual return at the May 2017 meeting in order to meet the timescale for submission to the External Auditors. The Parish Council’s Annual Balance Statement for year end March 2017 had also been approved and signed at the May meeting. Relevant documents had subsequently been submitted to the Auditors and posted on the PC’s website.

**AGM 17.7 Chairman’s Review of last 12 months**

The Chairman outlined the achievements/developments which the Parish Council had been involved with during the last 12 months.

The refurbishment of the white railings in the Parish which had begun at the end of 2015 had continued through the Summer of 2016. Volunteers had come forward at various stages, which had been greatly appreciated, and the repainting of the railings had been a huge improvement.

In November 2016 the PC had been notified that BT was consulting on the proposal to remove a number of public telephone boxes. The one in Thornley near Banks Cottage was one of them. The PC objected to this and RVBC supported our objection. BT recognised our objection and the Chairman was pleased to say that we still have a phone box.

At our meeting in March 2017 the PC was pleased to note that the Thornley with Wheatley sign, which we had purchased, had been put in place adjacent to the Cricket Club and we decided to purchase planters to be situated at each of the Thornley with Wheatley signs. We also became aware of the requirements of the newly introduced Transparency code for smaller authorities and the Chairman commended Mrs Airey who volunteered to take on the role of Responsible Financial Officer. At the March meeting we also explored the setting up of a website.

In May 2017 we further discussed a Parish Council website and our Clerk, Carol, advised us that her son Alex, who had recently completed his degree in IT systems and software development, would be prepared to help us with the setting up of our website, following which Carol would be the Administrator. This had been agreed and the Chairman continued by saying that he would like to commend Carol and Alex on the work they had done on developing and populating the website which he thought looked great.

During the Summer 2017 the planters were put in place and planted up with summer bedding and the Chairman said he thought they were a great addition to the Parish boundaries.

In October 2016 we had an email update from Thornley Community Space on progress with the development of Thornley School and we were informed that the roof had been repaired and windows replaced making the building watertight. We were also informed that it was hoped in the New Year to be able to open up the building one weekend to let people look around the see progress so far. A further email in February 2017 explained that the next stage was to start on internal work with the planning and costing of electrical, plumbing and heating work. Security of the building was also being considered. Community Space said they were currently in the process of submitting another 2 grant applications and hoped that by Summer 2018 they could be in a position to make use of the building again. The PC have indicated that they would like to view progress with the refurbishment scheme but to-date this is still to be arranged and will be the subject of further discussion at the Parish Council general meeting.

**AGM 17.8 Issues raised by Electors**

Mr Hayhurst informed Member that he had received comments from people living in the Parish regarding progress with the School project as work on the refurbishment not been evident for some time. Other Parish Councillors were also aware that people were asking how things were going. It was noted that improvements to the school and the potential of a site visit by the PC would be discussed in more detail at the general PC meeting which would follow the AGM.

**AGM 17.9 Any Other Business**

There were no items of other business.

**AGM 17.10 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The provisional date for the next AGM is 21 May 2018.

The AGM closed at 7.30 pm

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Signed Date