Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th October 2021 at 6.30 pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Davies, Gillson, Rees and Williams

In Attendance: M. Ireland, Clerk

1. **Public Forum**: No members of the public present.

2. **Apologies for Absence**: Cllr Lowson, Ward Cllr J. Gardner

3. **Declarations of Interest**: None made.

4. **Minutes of 14th September 2021**: Cllr Gillson proposed, with Cllr Rees seconding, the approval of the minutes without amendment. Cllr Rees concurring, it was **resolved** to accept the minutes as a true record.

5. **Matters Arising**:
   - ***(a) Resident issue –*** The Clerk informed that a very kind letter of thanks for the support hade ben received from the Residents concerned.
   - ***(b) Christmas Tree Lights –*** The Clerk informed that SBC had agreed to switch on the Christmas tree lights on 1st December.
   - ***(c) Footpaths Officer*** - The clerk had identified the relevant officer at SBC and reported the footpaths issues.
   - ***(d) CFYA*** – had sent thanks for the compliments.

6. **Casual Vacancy:** Cllr Williams informed that two people had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council following the Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk requested their names and contact details be forwarded to her; she would then send them information on what was involved and would arrange a date for them to attend an Interview with the Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee would then make a recommendation to the full Council. If accepted, the individual identified would be co-opted. All agreed this was a positive way forward. It was **resolved** that the Personnel Committee would be Cllrs Gillson, Rees and Williams, with Cllr Williams in the Chair. **Actions:** Cllr Williams to forward details to Clerk, Clerk to provide candidates with information on role of a Parish Councillor and to arrange Interviews.

7. **Meeting with Representatives of Homes by Carlton:** Cllr Rees reported the meeting with the Site Manager had been very positive, suggestions made by Councillors in attendance had included the playpark ramp and the Parish Hall roof replacement and he had agreed to take these suggestions to his company Directors. Cllr Williams informed that the latest costing for the roof was between£10-15,000, but this did not include solar panels. Nothing further had been heard from Michael Marram, so Councillors suggested the Clerk write to ask if he had any suggestions of his own as to what the firm might be able to offer. **Action:** Clerk to write to Mr. Marram as suggested.

8. **A177/Durham Road Accident Black Spot:** A resident had written to the Chairman expressing concern and frustration about the lack of action over number of accidents and near accidents on this road. In it was noted that SBC had purchased the verge alongside Howden Hall some time ago, when plans were to widen the road. It is suggested that, if the hedge nearest the road were

to be removed, this land could be used to provide a safe path for both cyclists and pedestrians. The resultant 'pinch point' at the bridge would be only for a short stretch, and not the full way along. If the disused steps at the far side of the underpass, which is a pedestrian access to the A177 were reinstated, this would provide access to Blakestone Lane/Old Durham Road.
After some discussion, which included the links to the Sustrans cycle route, it was **agreed** that the SBC Highways Officer be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss options to improve safety**. Action**: Clerk to invite SBC Highways Officer and write to Sustrans Northern Office.

9. **SBC Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy Survey:** The Clerk read out the questions in the survey, noting Councillors' responses. The Clerk will now complete the survey on-line.
Action: Clerk to complete survey.

10. **Annual Fete:** Cllr Williams raised concern that the land required for the September 2022 Village Fete, on land behind Astral Park, currently owned by Mandale Homes, has not yet been fully landscaped to the satisfaction of SBC. The land will have to be levelled and grassed by spring if it is to be ready for use in September. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should request a timeline from SBC Planning for enforcement of the Planning conditions. **Action:** Clerk to seek information from SBC Planning Department, copying in Cllr Gardner and Alex Cunningham MP.

11. **Maintenance &Village Improvement Committee Report:**
    (i) The Clerk informed that the Ward Councillor's Budget grant had been received and banked. It was **agreed** to purchase the planters and equipment, immediately.
    (ii) The SBC Arborist had suggested that the PC write to Thirteen Group, as the dead trees were on their land. **Action**: Clerk to write to Thirteen Group about the trees.
    (iii) The Vane had offered to Contribute £200 towards the costs of a planter and the Clerk had provided them the Council's bank details, at the request of the Chairman. It was **agreed** to purchase a suitable plaque, engraved with: 'Kindly Sponsored by The Vane Arms'. **Action:** Clerk to obtain the engraved plaque as agreed

    The Clerk noted that bulbs should be planted in a mixture of compost and vermiculite and raised on feet to ensure the bulbs did not rot. All other actions were either completed or planned.

12. **Finance:** The Clerk presented the Financial Reports for the previous period. It was **resolved** to accept the reports.

Receipts:	**£**		**Payments:**	**£**
SBC Ward Cllr Grant	1,334.00		Helen Williams (Bulbs for planters)	158.16
			D.M. Ireland (salary July – September)	576.00
			HMRC (PAYE)	144.00
TOTAL		**1,334.00**	**TOTAL**	**878.16**

13. **Ward Councillor's Report:** None Received.

14. **Annual Parish Meeting:** All felt it had been a very good evening, enjoyed by all. The Clerk noted she had received a very kind letter of thanks from the Mayor. Several good suggestions had been made by residents for inclusion in the Parish Plan. Feedback had been positive, and the only concern was the lack of younger residents. This is something that needs to be addressed for the next parish Meeting, to take place at the 'normal' time, in April.

15. **Precept Demand:** The Clerk requested Councillors to bring proposals to the November meeting, of what they would wish to include in the 2022/23 budget. This would allow her time to cost these before Councillors made the final decision on the budget in December.

16. **Correspondence:** SBC Consultation on the Minerals & Waste Development Plan Document, between 24th September and 5th November 2021. Noted.

17. **Planning:**

    21/2290/FUL – Temporary 10.8 MW Solar Farm, land north of Letch Lane, Carlton – **No Comment**

The Clerk noted she had received no response to her several emails to the Planning Department.

18. **Items of Concern to Councillors:** None raised.

19. **Date of Next Meeting:** 6.30pm Tuesday 9th November 2021.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Minutes Authorised By:

Minutes Seconded By:

Date: