Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Maureen Milburn. 7 Marion Avenue Eaglescliffe Stockton-on-Tees, TS16 0LJ
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th October 2020 at 6.30 pm. Due to the measures in place to restrict the spread of Covid 19 the meeting was conducted remotely using 'Zoom'.

Present:
Cllrs Davies (Chair), Paul John, Michael Lowson, Gareth Rees, and Lynne Williams
Maureen Milburn (Parish Clerk)

27/20 Apologies for absence. None were received
28/20 Declarations of interest in items on the agenda. No Declarations of interest were received.
29/20 Minutes – The minutes of the previous meeting held on **Tuesday 15th September 2020** and conducted remotely using Zoom, were **agreed** as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr John and seconded by Cllr Davies.
30/20 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting – There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings held **on Tuesday 15th September 2020**.
31/20 To consider and authorise the payment of accounts.

a) The following payments were **agreed**:

Cheque no 000039	Mrs M Milburn	Salary - £248.05 Expenses - £10.00 Minus HMRC payment of £134.40	£123.65
Cheque no 000040	HMRC	Outstanding PAYE/Tax/NI £115.86 PAYE/Tax/NI Oct 2020 £28.40	£144.06

b) The quarterly Financial Statement as of the 30th September 2020 was **approved** and accepted

32/20 Correspondence. The correspondence list for September to October 2020 was **noted.**
33/20 To consider a request from Cllr Lowson to have absences from the 09th June 2020 up to the present date removed and for the six-month rule to be dis-applied.
Discussions took place about submitting absences, the six-month rule and dispensations. Cllr Lynne Williams did not agree with the interpretation of the six-month rule that was applied and will be seeking further clarification **Noted**
34/20 To discuss the effectiveness of the Zoom Basic package for Council use.
After discussions it was **agreed** unanimously that the basic package currently in use should be upgraded to the next package.
35/20 To discuss the purchase of a mobile phone or tablet for Councillors use.

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After discussion it was **agreed** that if the Zoom package is upgraded there will be no requirement to purchase a mobile phone or tablet.

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36/20 To discuss and consider the web compliancy regulations and accessibility statement

The Clerk gave a brief overview of the requirements for the web compliancy. This was **deferred** to the next meeting.

37/20 To discuss the maintenance, location and ownership of the street furniture – Cllrs queried when the damaged bench recently reported to Care for Your Area would be repaired and returned to full use, they also discussed relocating the stone benches from the entrance of the village into a more user-friendly position. The Clerk will seek clarification. **Deferred** to the next meeting.

38/20 To discuss The Parish Notice Board

It was noted that the Parish Notice board is in disrepair and will need replacing or updating. Cllr John will speak to the builders currently working in the Village Hall and ask for a price to repair or replace the notice board. **Ongoing.**

39/20 To discuss the reinstatement of the Crocus bed at the entrance of St James Close/Astral Park – Deferred to the next meeting

40/20 Councillors report-

a. Councillor Williams raised concerns over the number cars being broken into in the local area. It was also reported that youths have been trying doors to gain access. The Police have been involved and awareness has been raised using Social Media. It is hoped once the pandemic has ceased that police may be able to hold awareness raising sessions within the community.
b. To receive an update on the Parish Hall refurbishment project. Cllr John reported that the Hall is progressing well and will hopefully be ready in two weeks' time

41/20 Clerks Report –

a. The resignation of the Clerk was **noted** with effect from 13th October 2020
b. The arrangements for the vacancy for Parish Clerk was discussed. The Clerk will arrange for the advertisement of the post and will continue to work on a week to week basis for a short period of time. **Agreed.**
c. The Clerk informed the meeting that a casual vacancy will be advertised to fulfil the vacancy of Parish Councillor. Cllr Mudd had failed to attend or submit his apologies for the last six consecutive meetings despite informing the Clerk that he would be attending this meeting. Cllr Lynne Williams did not agree with the interpretation of the six-month rule that was applied and will be seeking further clarification **Agreed.**
d. The Clerk queried whether Councillors would like to discuss further the application for the installation of the Solar Farm at Cowley House Farm with Lightsource BP. It was **agreed** that the representative be invited to speak at the next meeting.

42/20 Public Discussion – There were no members of the public present

43/20 Planning – There were no issues raised on the planning application presented to the meeting

44/20 Items for information. No items for information and consideration for the next agenda were received.

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The next meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 10th November 2020 at 6.30PM. The location and format of the meeting will be agreed nearer to the time depending upon the Covid 19 measures in place.

There being no further business the meeting closed as 19.52pm

Signature_____**Date:**_____

Signature_____**Date:**_____

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