Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 7.00 pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Davies, Gillson, Lowson, Moffat, Rees
In Attendance: M. Ireland, Clerk, L. Williams

- **Public Forum**: No members of the public were present.

- **Apologies:** None received

- **Declarations of Interest**: None declared.

- **Minutes of 12th April 2022**: Cllr Davies proposed, with Cllr Gillson seconding, the approval of the minutes. All concurring, it was **resolved** to accept the minutes as a true record.

- **Matters Arising**: (a) ***24, North Close*** – response received from the Diocese was read out by the Clerk; Diocese aware and requesting tenant to keep garden clean and tidy. (b) ***SBC Planning Dept Feedback*** - Mr. Grundy unable to attend this evening but will attend the June meeting.

- **Permit Application to dispose of Low-Level Radioactive Wastes at the Port Clarence Landfill Site:** When the application was discussed, Councillors raised concerns not only about the use of the landfill site with the potential for leakage into the surrounding area and River Tees, but also the transport of radioactive waste through residential areas. The Clerk was asked to make a **strong Objection** to the proposal and also to write to Ben Houchen, Mayor of Tees Valley, Alex Cunningham, MP and John Gardner, Ward Councillor asking them what they are doing about this. **Action:** Clerk to make strong Objection and to write as requested.

- **Maintenance & Village Improvement Committee Report:** Cllr Gilson reported that he had had a request for another planter at the bus stop, but this was already planned; a large planter is to be placed near the new estate on Durham Road. Summer bulbs are to be planted and/or moved in the next couple of weeks.

- **Social Activities Committee report:** Ms. Williams reported that:

    - the Easter Egg Hunt had 51 children participating; the 9 spare eggs were donated to a home for people with learning disabilities, whose residents were delighted to receive them. The event was expected to make a small loss after costs were deducted, but this had been planned for.

    - The Race Night had raised a net £546 after costs and another fundraiser was to be held on Saturday 14th May – a Gin Tasting evening with a talk on the History of Gin and a raffle; tickets were already sold out! The three Blind Cards sold to date had already raised £60.

    - Plans for the Jubilee weekend were well advanced – a Pie & Pea supper in the Parish Hall, would be followed by a procession to the Play Park, led by a piper playing Amazing Grace,

where the Jubilee Beacon would be lit. A Garden Party was to be held on the Sunday afternoon at the Play Park - a bring your own picnic, with Jubilee cake provided. Residents were being asked to decorate their houses, and bunting would be put up. Sketches of the proposed layout of the park together with Risk Assessments for both events had been submitted to SBC (no response as yet) with requests as to the height of the Beacon, and whether sandbags were needed and should the road be closed. Fire extinguishers and First Aid kit would be lent by the Parish Hall. As Blackwells had now decided to close on 2nd June, the Pie & Peas will be delivered on the Wednesday and heated on Thursday at the Hall; the price of the Pie & Peas had therefore been reduced to £365.

All present congratulated the sub-committee on the endeavours.

9. **Finance:** The Clerk informed that no transactions had taken place since 31st March and Councillors had received the accounts to that date at the Annual PC Meeting held earlier. She further informed that the SLCC Regional Training event was to be held at Hardwick Hall, Sedgefield in July and asked if the PC would pay her attendance fee of £102. This was **unanimously agreed**.

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

11. **Correspondence:** None received.

12. **Planning: 22/0833/FUL - No Objection** as it appears the amendment moves the caravan to the far side of the field where there are no neighbours.

13. **Items of Concern to Councillors:**
    - Cllr Rees informed he had been alerted by a resident to the state of the stiles on the public footpath between Thorpe Thewles and Whitton, the stiles, path and railway crossing are all in a poor condition. Cllr Rees requested the stiles be replaced with kissing gates.
    - Cllr Gillson raised concern about the noise being generated by users of 'Beer Garden' at The Vane Arms, which is at an intolerable level for neighbouring households; 8 benches have been installed beyond the Beer Garden and children are are also playing football here. Cars are being parked across the neighbour's gate preventing access; the householder recently had pneumonia and required a doctor but could not get out. The gate at the rear is kept locked, preventing the vulnerable neighbour from being able to leave her property. Whilst Councillors wished to support a local business, this could not be at the expense of residents, and the increased number of vehicles now generated by the pub is causing real problems, with cars parked all over the place.

    Actions: Clerk to contact SBC Countryside & Access Officer regarding the footpath issues, and Simon Grundy regarding the Vane Arms issue.

14. **Annual Parish Meeting:** The Clerk informed that she had met with Mick O'Reilly, an Officer at SBC with responsibility for raising awareness with local business on carbon reduction issues; he was willing to attend a PC meeting to explain his role. The Clerk felt that Climate Change and/or the Net Zero carbon target would be an excellent topic for the next Parish Meeting, which she proposed should be postponed until March 2023. Councillors agreed and extended an invitation to Mr. O'Reilly to attend the July meeting.
    Action: Clerk to invite Mr. O'Reilly to July meeting.

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** 6.30pm Tuesday 14th June 2022 at Grindon Parish Hall

Meeting closed at 8.05pm

Minutes Authorised By:

Minutes Seconded By:

Date: