Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 6:30pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Davies (Chair), Gillson, Hamblett, McGee and Moffatt
In Attendance: Cllr Gardner (Stockton Council), C. Chapman, Clerk; 3 Residents

1. **Public Forum:**
   Cllr Gardner offered apologies from Cllr Sewell and provided an update on issues raised.

   Drainage / Storm Water. Cllr Gardner referred to email from Simon Grundy noting still awaiting response from developer. This was also the position re the Amenity space at Astral Park.
   Traffic Calming Cllr Gardner advised a site visit had taken place on 2 October and officers were assessing. Cllr Gardner suggested as this would need to come from a limited ward budget the Parish Council may wish to make a formal request for funding.
   Entrance to Astral: Cllr Gardner advised officers were checking land ownership for sight lines to be improved. This also applied to the land at the entrance which was overgrown and not maintained / landscaped.
   Vane Arms planning application. Cllr Gardner advised nothing had progressed.
   Footpath at side of Church. It was understood this was owned by Mandale. Cllr Gardner asked if the Clerk could send pictures and information to enable him to seek resolution to ongoing maintenance.

   Cllr Gillson asked whether response was appropriate. The Astral Park issues had been going on for several years and it seemed there was no haste from the Council or developer to resolve. Cllr Gardner advised unfortunately this was often the case with developer issues.

   Cllr Gillson asked whether the ward budget could potentially fund the pathway that was initially assessed to link two of the new proposed dropped kerbs. Cllr Gardner reminded of scarce budget but suggested the Parish Council may wish to submit formal request. Clerk to follow up timescales with Rob Morrow for the dropped kerbs.

   Cllr Gardner committed to keeping the Parish Council updated. The Chair thanked him for his attendance. Cllr Gardner advised he had to leave at 7:15 to attend another Parish Council but would remain until that time.

   Henley Drive: residents provided an update on footpath issue. Residents had an amicable conversation and it was identified the objection was due to residents believing in the right to roam. Residents advised that since the fencing was installed they had not experienced any anti-social behaviour or safety issues. It was **resolved** that we would wait for Stockton Council to guide us on this issue.

   Freedom of Information request: the Chair advised residents submitting the request that most documents are in public domain, and the Parish Council was established in 2019/20 and guided residents on documentation before this date.

   Thorpe Paddocks: a resident raised issues re the poor state of ground maintenance on the public areas around Thorpe Paddocks. It was noted the land had not been adopted by Stockton Council

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and it was believed the developer had not appointed a maintenance contractor. The Chair advised residents to raise directly with the developer but agreed the Parish Council would write in support. Clerk to action.

2. **Apologies:** Cllr Rees submitted an apology due to holiday. The Committee accepted the apology.

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

4. **Minutes of** the Parish Council meeting held on ***Tuesday 12th September*** were proposed by Cllr Davies seconded by Cllr Gillson. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

5. **Matters Arising**: ***(i) None***

6. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Gillson updated on the planters seeking volunteers to move. Clerk to seek to find prior map of planters from Stockton Council. Clerk offered to adopt a few planters if required.
   Crocus bulbs need procuring – Clerk to link to Cllr Gillson
   Dropped kerbs and playground are awaiting action by Stockton Council.
   Cllr Gillson suggested we may wish to put in place a contract for an Arborist – 3 quotes would be needed.

7. **Personnel Committee Report:** No issues to report.

8. **Social Activities Committee report:** Cllr McGee provided an update on the wine night and planning for Halloween Party (tickets selling well); Halloween trail and Christmas Fayre. As the Fete and Wine Night had generated a surplus it was **Resolved** to provide £100 budget to decorate the Hall and support the Halloween party.

9. **Financial Reports –** the Clerk presented the statement of Financial Transactions and the Actual against Budget Report and advised all transactions were as expected.
   The clerk drew attention to the initial budget papers for 2024/25 and it was **Resolved** Councillors would review in detail for further discussion at next meeting.

Financial Transactions 1 September – 2 October 2023

Receipts:	**£**
Fete: Tombola proceeds	146.00
Fete: Sweets in Jar competition	9.30
TOTAL	**155.30**

Payments:	
Chess ICT – website hosting fee	11.99
J Gillson – wine – Spanish Wine night	143.84
A McGee- Fete, hotdogs and skittles	13.90
C Chapman – clerk admin expenses, paper (£27.99); 2 leaflet holders For Bus Shelter (£13.98)	41.97
TOTAL	**211.70**

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10. **Training Opportunities:** No new opportunities identified,

11. **Ward Councillor's Report:** It was noted Councillor Gardner had provided updates as part of the Public Forum session.

12. **Planning:**

    23/1691/VARY - Land West Of Bottle Hill Farm, Wynyard Road Thorpe Thewles.
    It was resolved not to comment

    23/1003/FUL – Amended planning application - Stable Block South West Of North Meadows, Calf Fallow Lane, Norton
    It was resolved to re-submit prior comments on this application.

    23/0261/OUT – Application to build another 700+ houses on Wynyard.
    It was resolved to support Wynyard Parish in raising objections to this application.

13. **Items of Concern to Councillors:**
    Cllr Moffat raised issues re inconsiderate parking and impact to those especially needing access to dropped kerbs. Cllr Davies will post on Facebook advising residents of how to raise with Stockton Council enforcement team.

    Leaves Cllr Moffat raised an issue regarding leaves and consequential impact on drains. It was upto residents to tidy up their properties, green waste bags will be collected until 31 October. For particular issues Care For Area Team would need to be contacted.

    Parking North Close. Cllr Moffat advised residents want additional parking spaces. It was resolved for Cllr Moffat to advise residents they needed to contact Stockton Council as it is their land.

    Councillors heard how some residents had undertaken drain clearing and litter picking. The Parish Council wished to thank residents for proactive activity in improving Our Villages and hoped residents were doing so carefully and safely. Ther Parish Council would welcome volunteers identifying themselves so works can be undertaken cohesively and safely.

14. **Review of Policies.** It was **resolved** to approve the amendments to policies previously circulated. Standing Orders; Code of Conduct and the Terms of Reference for the Personnel Committee, Social Activities Committee and Maintenance Committee

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** 6.30pm Tuesday 14th November 2023 at Grindon Parish Hall.
    It was agreed to potentially step down the December meeting, pending any urgent items.

Meeting closed at 8.02pm

Minutes Authorised By:
Minutes Seconded By:
Date:

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