Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 6.30 pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Davies, Gillson, Lowson, Teasdale and Williams

In Attendance: Simon Grundy, SBC (from 6.50pm), M. Ireland, Clerk

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

2. **Apologies for Absence**: Cllr Rees and Ward Cllr J. Gardner

3. **Declarations of Interest**: Cllr Teasdale, Item 5(i).

4. **Minutes of 9th November 2021**: Cllr Gillson proposed, with Cllr Davies seconding, the approval of the minutes. All concurring, it was **resolved** to accept the minutes as a true record.

5. **Matters Arising**: (a) ***Footpath issue*** – Cllr Teasdale updated on discussions around the footpath issue at the Thorpe Beck Farm estate; she reported that an application had been made by the developer for a revised route, which was on the agenda for discussion later; the proposed new route would resolve the issues if approved.
   (b) ***Purchase of shed*** – Cllr Gillson reported that the shed had been purchased as agreed and was now installed by the Parish Hall; he had also purchased a padlock for the shed and several bags of compost.

   Cllr Williams noted that the planters had now been delivered and were currently all in her front garden. They were very heavy and would be transported to the agreed positions around the village, using a sack cart, where they would be planted up with bulbs by volunteers. The Maintenance/Village Improvement Group were commended for their endeavors in this matter.

6. **Social Activities Sub-Committee**: The Clerk read out a letter received from the former Vice-Chairman and the Treasurer of the now dissolved Thorpe Thewles Residents' Association, in which they outlined the parameters for transferring their funds to the Parish Council – essentially, these funds, some £1,702.88, were to be used solely for the benefit of residents of Thorpe Thewles. Councillors **resolved** to accept the donation in the spirit with which it was being made, giving assurance that the monies would be used as requested. The Clerk then presented draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for a proposed new Social Activities Social Activities sub-committee, which would organize events throughout the year for the benefit of all residents. Councillors **resolved** to adopt the Terms of Reference without amendment. The ToR required the group to have a minimum of five members, two of whom had to be Parish Councillors, one of whom should act as Chairman. Cllr Teasdale accepted the Chair with Cllr Lowson agreeing to join her on the committee. Other members to be recruited from the various village organisations and volunteers. **Action:** Clerk to write to Mrs. Webster accepting the conditions and providing bank details for the transfer of assets and to discuss with Cllr Teasdale the procedures for her new Committee.

7. **Maintenance &Village Improvement Committee Report:** Cllr Gillson reported that there had been very little activity in December, other than that already identified earlier. Volunteers would be recruited via Facebook to plant the bulbs in the new planters once they were in position. Cllr Williams noted that the Parish Council would be receiving a refund on the planters as they had not cost as much as had originally been quoted.

8. **Finance:** The Clerk presented the Financial Report for the period 9 October 2021 to 10 January 2022. These were **approved**. It was noted that a payment was still outstanding to Cllr Davies for the refreshments purchased for the Parish Meeting; Cllr Davies reported that she had lost the receipt, but that she had spent in excess of the £60 originally agreed. As most Councillors had been present at the event and agreed the refreshments were excellent, it was **resolved** to reimburse Cllr Davies the full amount, providing she supplied a written receipt herself. **Action:** Cllr Davies to provide self-certified receipt.

   At this point (6.50pm) Mr. Simon Grundy, Senior Planning Officer, Stockton Borough Council, joined the meeting. The Chairman suspended the agenda to allow discussion with Mr. Grundy on several developments in and around the village that were of concern to residents and Councillors alike. Simon concurred with the many issues then put forward and explained the processes the Borough Council was required to follow, which often meant that decisions and enforcement of conditions could take a great deal of time. He agreed to take back for discussion with other Officers, some of the specific concerns identified, including those relating to the land owned by Mandale Homes, the proposed caravan park at Wynyard Woods – in a 'dark skies' area, a retrospective application for planning permission that did not tally with what was actually happening on the ground. He asked that the Parish Council maintain a dialogue with him, keeping him aware of any further issues arising. He was warmly thanked for his attendance and contribution and left the meeting at 7.30pm.

   Cllr Davies left the meeting at 7.30pm.

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

10. **Annual Budget 2022-23:** The Clerk presented and talked through a number of options for spending in the next financial year, first identifying the core costs of running the council and receiving agreement on her figures. She asked that Councillors consider, before agreeing any specific items, the current economic climate, and whether it would be appropriate to seek a large increase in the Precept, and proposed any increase be limited to 2% if at all possible. This was **agreed** by all present, who then looked in turn at every activity proposed, identifying its cost and the impact this would have on the Precept. Following a brief discussion, it was resolved to limit activities to maintenance, the purchase of a tree to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and quarterly parish newsletter. The purchase of Digital Mapping technology was to be approved only if a substantial part of its cost could be met from external sources (i.e. grants). At the conclusion of the discussion, it was **resolved** to demand a precept of £9,700. It was further **agreed** the proposal for new village boundary signs be taken to the next Annual Parish Meeting. **Action:** Clerk to submit the precept demand.

11. **Correspondence:** Letter from Thorpe Thewles Residents Association – covered earlier in the meeting.
12. **Planning:** Application No: **21/2876/FUL** – installation of a storage lagoon. Following a site visit organized by the Clerk to Stillington PC, Cllr Gillson reported that he had no concerns about the

application; there was likely to be no smell, the Environment Officer present at the visit had no concerns either – all agreed to **SUPPORT**.

21/3025/VARY – Thorpe Beck Farm revision of siting of footpath reported earlier by Cllr Teasdale – all agreed to **STRONGLY SUPPORT**.

21/2772/FUL – laying of underground cabling connecting solar farms to substation – all agreed, **NO OBJECTION.**

13. **Items of Concern to Councillors:** Cllr Williams noted that she had received a request from the Chairman of the History Group for the Parish Council to take the group under its umbrella. It was **agreed** to invite her to the next meeting to discuss the proposal in detail.
Cllr Williams had purchased sweets for Father Christmas to give to village children before Christmas, she had the receipt, but not with her, and though it was approximately £38.00. It was **resolved** to meet this expense from SAC funds. She also noted that new pads were needed for the defibrillator; she would forward details of the machine to the Clerk so that she could order these. **Actions**: Cllr Williams to forward details of defibrillator to the Clerk and to provide a receipt for the sweets.

14. Date of Next Meeting: 6.30pm Tuesday 8th February 2022.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Minutes Authorised By:

Minutes Seconded By:

Date: