Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th June 2024 at 6:30pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Davies (Chair); Gillson; Hamblett, Moffatt and Rees
In Attendance: C. Chapman, Clerk; 4 residents

1. **Public Forum:**
   A resident asked for an update on sightlines outside Astral Park. Residents expressed concern about potential future accidents as visibility was very poor, and the issue was also made worse by speeding cars. Councillors advised this was being taken up by Cllr John Gardner on our behalf and may be tied up with plans for moving the chicane, which is allocated in the budget.

   A resident asked if the house building on the land behind Astral House is proceeding, it was advised the planning portal does not presently show a decision.

   Cllr Rees suggested residents also write to Cllr John Gardner from Stockton Council to also express their concerns over Astral Park issues.

   Residents requested if the Parish Council could write to the Council to ask for the procedure for seeing a planning officer face to face. **Agreed** for the Clerk to write to Stockton Council.

   A resident asked for an update on the Astral amenity land. The Chair provided an update and advised the Parish Council will communicate to residents if they see any future planning proposal regarding the site so residents can have a say. Concern was expressed by residents about the loss of a valuable community area.

2. **Ward Councillors report:** No update.

3. **Apologies:** Apologies from Cllr McGee; Gardner (SBC) and Cllr Sewell were noted and accepted.

4. **Declarations of Interest**: There were no declarations of interest received.

5. **Minutes of** the Parish Council meeting and the Annual Parish meeting held on ***Tuesday 14th May 2024*** were proposed by Cllr Hamblett seconded by Cllr Gillson. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

6. **Matters Arising**:

   (i) ***Bank Contract:*** it was noted that Councillors need to complete the Barclays Bank form if already a Barclays customer or the online verification process to proceed with opening the account. Councillors to complete as soon as possible so we can transfer banks.

7. **Maintenance Committee Report:**
   Cllr Gillson provided an update on the village signs and shared an Image of proposed design. It was noted costs were higher than budgeted but could be funded from unallocated funds and redesignating some of the funds allocated as potential contribution to move the chicane. **Resolved** for clerk to amend the budget accordingly. It was additionally **resolved** for the clerk to communicate that decision on final design will be part of the public forum at the next meeting.

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Cllr Rees advised a Brass plaque referring to a stone being part of the former viaduct had been found within archives. It was **agreed** to place this in a suitable place within the village.

Cllr Gillson advised a decision was needed on locating two multi-tier planters. It was **agreed** available Councillors would meet the next day to decide a location. It was noted approval would be needed from Stockton Council if the proposed siting was on their land.

A resident raised the lack of grass cutting between the chicane and Astral Drive. The clerk advised this had been raised with Stockton Council who confirmed it was their land and would be included in cutting schedules.

A resident raised an issue regarding weeds growing in road gutters on Astral Drive. Councillors advise the road had not been adopted yet by Stockton Council and therefore clearing the gutters was the responsibility of the developers.

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

9. **Social Activities Committee report:**
It was noted the NZ Wine, Food and Social Event was well attended and raised circa £400 which would be reinvested in the village / future activities. Thanks were given to those who donated raffle prizes. The next event is a South African Wine, Food and Social event to be held on 20 Sept.

10. **Financial Reports**
The Clerk presented the statement of Financial Transactions and the Actual against Budget Report. The clerk highlighted payments for annual NALC subscription and Insurance were being made and were budgeted.

The clerk advised they were meeting the Internal Auditor on 12 June following which the accounts would be advertised.

Financial Transactions 7 May – 3 June 2024

Receipts:

	£
Pie and Pea Bingo Receipts	430.00
NZ Wine Night – speakers purchase of wine	30.00
TOTAL	**460.00**

Payments:

NZ wine night – reimburse J Gillson	67.50
Parish Hall Hire – April 2024	100.00
Purchase of Pie and Pea	210.00
NALC Membership Fees	213.67
Insurance	300.00
Admin expenses – first class stamps – reimburse clerk	10.80
TOTAL	**901.97**

11. **Training Opportunities:**
The previously circulated training opportunities was discussed. There was no specific training relevant to our needs identified.

12. **Planning:**
There were no relevant planning applications to review.

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It was noted planning application 23/1988/OHL regarding how solar panels get linked to the grid was no longer on the portal. It was **resolved** for the clerk to query why this was the case.

13. **Items of Concern to Councillors:**
Cllr Rees asked if there was any community funding from Solar Farms. It was noted this normally commences once the farms are operating. The clerk is keeping this under review.

It was noted that there appears to be ducting work around the village.

Cllr Rees asked about the bikes at the bike rack which appear to be a permanent addition. Noting prior comments, there was no further update from Cllr Gardner. It was resolved for the clerk to place on Facebook a complaint from resident / near miss, with a request for users to respect others as the bike lock is for children using the play park.

It was agreed to assess 'Speed watch' after the chicane has been moved.

Cllr Moffat raised a few issues at North close regarding unsafe footpath; exposed wires, a large pothole and the light still not being repaired. **Resolved** for clerk to raise with relevant bodies.

Cllr Rees advised he understood a FOI request regarding Potholes in Thorpe Thewles had been made by a resident to Stockton Council.

The clerk advised he had contacted the Environment Agency regarding Thorpe Beck flooding and had an incident number logged. Cllr Davies mentioned prior surface water run off / flooding at the A177 underpass. It was **resolved** for the clerk to raise to seek preventative action.

The schedule of prior items was reviewed and noted.

14. **Communications**
It was agreed the key matters to communicate were the village signs to be discussed at the next meeting and Facebook communication regarding the bike rack.

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 6.30pm Tuesday 9th July 2024 at Grindon Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm

Minutes Authorised By:
Minutes Seconded By:
Date:

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