Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th April 2023 at 6.30pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Gillson (in the Chair), Lowson, McGee; Rees and Moffatt
In Attendance: M. Ireland, outgoing Clerk; C Chapman, Clerk; 3 residents

1. **Public Forum:** A resident attended to provide an update to concerns raised at the last meeting about the apparent closure of the public footpath/Right of Way from Thorpe Thewles to Whitton, by a local landowner, Mr. Linley. Stockton Borough Council had investigated and were satisfied with access. The landowner had confirmed right of access and raised concerns regarding users going off the path and causing damage. It was **resolved** that the issue may best be resolved by the resident talking directly to the landowner. Parish Council reps will also walk the footpath. *The resident left the meeting*.

   A young resident attended to present the case for the opening of a village shop. The case included a number of signatories supporting the need for a local shop. The Parish Council noted the level of research undertaken and the initiative in putting together a case. The young resident was advised that the Parish Council could not act directly but would be supportive of the proposal and applauded the efforts undertaken. Parish Council reps proposed actions the young resident may wish to consider including links to the village pubs.
   The resident left the meeting.
   Action: Clerk to write to the young resident applauding effort to date.

2. **Apologies:** No apologies received.

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

4. **Minutes of 21st March 2023**: Cllr McGee proposed, with Cllr Lowson seconding, the approval of the draft minutes of 21st March. All concurring, it was **resolved** to accept the minutes as a true record.

5. **Matters Arising**: ***(i) Planning Application 23/0086/FUL, The Barns, The Granary, Blakeston Lane.*** – it was noted no response from Stockton Borough Council had been received. (ii) Cllr Rees asked if any further information had been received from the Borough Council regarding the damaged area in front of the sub-station. The outgoing Clerk noted that Care for Your Area had been notified and given detailed information as to the site of the sub-station with photographic evidence of the damage. **Action** Clerk to follow up both issues.

6. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Gillson proposed the two crocus patches approved at the last meeting would be approximately 12 ft x 3 ft and Mrs Smith would plant these with the support of volunteers. **Agreed** Clerk to purchase crocus bulbs from a Commercial supplier.

   Cllr Gillson advised the bus stop had been assessed and the mould seemed to emanate from the deterioration of the ridge tile pointing, and to the roof frame membrane, which had led to support beams rotting. **Action:** Maintenance Committee to send photos to Clerk in order for

Stockton Borough Council to be asked to remedy, ensuring any resolution maintained the bus stop in keeping with the overall appearance of the village.

Cllr Moffat advised of an offer from a villager to straighten and re-embed the 9 posts correctly around the green. It was noted the proposal, at £200, was far less than other quotes received. It was therefore **agreed** for Cllr Moffat to seek written quote and for work to then commence.

Cllr Moffatt reported he had re-sited a section of the chain around the corner of the green to facilitate safe access around it for pedestrians, as otherwise they were forced to walk in the road and were in danger from passing vehicular traffic. Councillors supported this action.

Several previously reported items were discussed. It was **agreed** the Clerk should follow these up with Stockton Borough Council. **Action:** Clerk to contact SBC Officers to seek to have the issues addressed.

7. **Personnel Committee Report:** Cllr McGee informed of the successful appointment to the Clerk position. The Parish Council congratulated Chris Chapman on his appointment and welcomed him to the meeting. The Parish Council thanked Minna for her support and wished her a happy retirement.
   The outgoing Clerk informed that 6 nominations had been received by SBC for the Thorpe Thewles Ward, for which there were only 4 places and therefore an election was required. No nominations had been received for the Whitehouse and Plantation Ward which had 2 places. Once the 4 new Councillors had been elected, they would then be responsible for co-opting to fill the 2 vacancies, unless a further election was requested.

8. **Social Activities Committee report:** Cllr McGee reported that:
   - The Easter Egg Hunt, which had taken place on the previous day, had been very successful with 42 children taking part. SAC had identified some lessons learnt to improve future events and advised that more support would have been helpful.
   - A meeting was scheduled for the following week to continue detailed planning of the Coronation celebrations.

   The outgoing Clerk had printed 250 copies of the April Newsletter, which included information about the Coronation, the elections, and the new Clerk. This had been produced collaboratively by the two Clerks. Cllr McGee agreed to organize the delivery of these to residents. **Action:** Cllr McGee to organize delivery of the Newsletter.

9. **Financial Reports –** the Clerk presented the statement of Financial Transactions and the Actual against Budget Report, for both financial years, which were **approved**.

Receipts	**£**	**Payments**	**£**
	0.00	Wynyard Tree Services (tree works)	845.00
		Grindon Parish Hall (room hire replacement cheque)	55,00
		NEREO (Clerk advert)	45.00
		D.M. Ireland (SAC Coronation expenses)	247.48
TOTAL	**0.00**	**TOTAL**	**1,192.48**

The Clerk reported that the bank statement had not yet been received this month. Mazars have confirmed the Parish Council does not need an external audit this year; Mrs Dobson will be contacted to arrange a date for her to undertake the Internal Audit as soon as the AGAR has been drafted by the Clerks.

10. **Training Opportunities:** No additional training opportunities were identified.

11. **Ward Councillor's Report:** None received.

12. **Correspondence:** Nothing additional to note – the main correspondence being Election related.

13. **Planning:**
    23/0519/X – St. James Church – crown reduction of a Sycamore Tree – **No objections**

14. **Items of Concern to Councillors:**
    - Cllr Rees reported the path near St James was in poor repair and uneven due partly to tree that re-roots and suggested this was a tripping hazard and H&S issue. After a brief discussion it was **agreed** the Clerk should report this to Care for Your Area and suggest that re- routing the path along the road rather than existing 'dogleg' may be a solution.
      Agreed: Clerk to contact Care for Your Area as agreed.

    - Cllr McGee noted the new footpath at Thorpe Paddock had finally been completed. The need for a metal safety barrier at the end of the path to prevent cyclists going directly into the road was discussed and agreed. **Action** – Clerk to raise with Stockton Borough Council

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** 6.30pm Tuesday 9th May 2023 at Grindon Parish Hall; this will be after the election and will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. **Action**: Clerk to confirm Simon Grundy's attendance regarding Astral Park

    Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Minutes Authorised By:
Minutes Seconded By:
Date: