Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th July 2023 at 6:30pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Gillson (in Chair), Hamblett, McGee. Moffat and Rees
In Attendance: C. Chapman, Clerk; Residents

1. **Public Forum:**

   Henley Drive: A resident reiterated concerns regarding the footpath between numbers 27 & 28 Henley Drive and the proposed solution of a 3rd motorcycle gate not being the desired outcome. The resident did comment positively on other works but felt the 3rd gate would not improve safety or address the anti-social behaviour.
   It was agreed for the clerk to respond to the Council regarding the 3rd motorcycle gate and request fencing be installed and the path closed.
   It was further suggested that Henley Drive residents be asked to write letter of support as Stockton Council state the path is in part to improve access to the existing pathways for those residents. Cllr McGee offered to support the residents with this.

2. **Apologies:** Cllr Davies submitted apologies due to being on holiday, which was accepted by the Committee.

3. **Declarations of Interest**: None received.
   Cllr Hamblett completed the Acceptance of Office and GDPR forms and was formally welcomed to the Parish Council.

4. **Minutes of** the Parish Council meeting held on ***Tuesday 13th June* 2023** were proposed by Cllr McGee and seconded by Cllr Gillson. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

5. **Matters Arising**: ***(i) Budget Re-allocation.*** It was resolved to re-allocate the clerk broadband/telephone budget (£240) and clerk travel expenses budget (£300) into the Miscellaneous budget pending future allocation.

6. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Gillson updated on plans to replant planters incl. use of more hardy plants and to relocate into clusters to aid maintenance. Crocus bulbs would be planted in the October half term. Cllr Gillson advised of difficulties watering the planters and suggested prior conversations regarding investing in a portable water butt be progressed. It was agreed the Clerk and Cllr Gillson source a suitable device.
   Post meeting note: a suitable device has been identified which will be acquired. Gllr Gillson and Clerk (as RFO) propose funding from reserves as funds were identified for this purpose.

   It was further suggested that rain water butts should be assessed – potentially to locate at Church and Bus Shelter (noting no gutter at rear); and maybe the Parish Hall – noting these assets are owned by others. **Agreed** for the Clerk to progress options and discussions with asset owners.

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7. **Personnel Committee Report:** Cllr Hamblett was warmly welcomed following his recent appointment.

8. **Social Activities Committee report:** Cllr McGee provided an update;
   - Cycle Race 1 July– was cancelled by Stockton Council
   - Summer Fete – 3rd Sept, planning is ongoing; Clerk advised road closure request has been submitted but no response as yet.
   - Wine night - 29 Sept
   - Halloween – potentially a "scarey scarecrow trail" and disco for children
   - Xmas Fayre

   The Social Activities Committee is meeting 18th July 2023

   Cllr McGee advised of an approach re a Youth Club. The Parish Council would support but noted it would need to cover costs and be appropriately 'managed'. **Cllr McGee to suggest Youth Club proposers attend next Parish Council to present ideas.**

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 payments to the former clerk as part of approved handover. The financial statements were **approved**.

Financial Transactions 2 June – 5 July 2023

Receipts:	**£**
VAT reimbursement for 2022/23	312.29
Parish Hall room Hire - £5 refund of overpayment in 2022/23	5.00
TOTAL	**317.29**
Payments:	
Stockton Council – refill of 2 Salt bins	180.34
Annual Parish Council wine & cheese (M Davies)	71.58
Parish Hall rents – Parish Council and Social Committee	120.00
Clerk salary costs April – June 2023	807.00
Chess ICT Website Hosting costs	89.95
Final payment to former Clerk; for April/May 2023	269.00
Parish Hall rent – History Group	18.75
Parish Hal rents – June	50.00
TOTAL	**1,606.62**

The clerk suggested the statements should be extended to show reserves/bank balances, including any planned utilisation. This was agreed and the clerk will action.

10. **Training Opportunities:** No further training identified. Cllr McGee advised she had attended the new councillor training and Cllr Hamblett advised he would also complete.

11. **Ward Councillor's Report:** None received. Ward Councillors submitted their apologies. Residents voiced concern about the repeated lack of attendance of Ward Councillors and suggested the Parish Council escalate to Stockton Council Chief Executive / Senior Members. Cllr Rees queried whether Ward Councillors attended other Northern Parish meetings. **Action – Clerk to request attendance at September meeting before escalating and check if Ward Councillors attend other Northern Parish meetings.**

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12. **Correspondence:** Schedule provided – Clerk highlighted ongoing issues with Bank Mandate approval and £60 compensation received from the bank.

13. **Planning:**

23/1003/FUL: Land West of New Close Farm Fallow Lane Norton. Proposed conversion of barn to dwellinghouse. **Resolved** to respond "Objection – prevalence of barn conversions; this may have been recent barn build; not aligned to local plan and build not aesthetic."

23/1020/PABFLE: Proposed erection of an open sided agricultural building. **Resolved** – Support conversion for agricultural purposes.

14. **Items of Concern to Councillors:**

The Clerk highlighted the 'issue log' noting closure of a few items.
It was noted Rob Morrow (SBC) had suggested a site visit to discuss dropped kerbs which Councillors were agreeable. **Action Clerk to identify potential date/time and list current issues in Rob's remit such as parking restrictions; white line painting needed and number of near misses at junction opposite Vane Arms.**

Cllr Rees advised the History Group were doing work on crosses and Church graffiti and also looking to resurrect a website and securing funding from heritage lottery around bringing communities together (Astral Park; Henley Drive and the Whitehouse Plantation development). Discussion followed regarding how to help bring these developments together especially Whitehouse Plantation and it was suggested Stockton Council be asked to assist with this – **Clerk to follow up.**

Cllr Gillson asked for retrospective planning permission for Vane Arms to be added to issue log as Simon Grundy has not responded regarding this issue.

Cllr Moffat advised the maintenance company for the Churchyard was no longer working on site. Cllrs appreciate this was not a Parish Council issue but expressed concern regarding untidy Churchyard and also voiced support to helping Rev, Claire secure a maintenance provider.
Action- Clerk to liaise with Rev Claire

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** 6.30pm Tuesday 12th September 2023 at Grindon Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Minutes Authorised By:
Minutes Seconded By:
Date:

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