Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 6:30pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Davies (Chair), Gillson, Hamblett, McGee and Rees
In Attendance: Cllrs Gardner and Sewell (Stockton Council), C. Chapman, Clerk; 15 Residents

1. **Public Forum:** Cllrs Gardner and Sewell from Stockton Council attended to provide updates and respond to resident issues.
   Entrance to Astral: residents raised issues about this being poorly lit and sight line issues, exacerbated by speeding. Cllr Gardner advised he will take up sightline issues with Simon Grundy and that Rob Morrow will do site assessment on 2 October to look at 30mph signage.
   Traffic Calming Cllr Gardner advised he will raise the traffic calming/chicane issues but advised these would normally be funded by Ward Transport budget and the Parish Council. Councillors advised that Simon Grundy had previously advised traffic calming had been an omission in planning considerations and should be funded by Stockton Council.
   Amenity space Astral Park. Cllr Gardner advised Mandale had submitted alternative layout on 6 September that Stockton Council are considering. Residents expressed severe concerns about continued delays and requested early sight of proposals.
   Drainage / Storm Water. Cllr Gardner understood Northumbrian Water had reviewed and committed to chasing them for a response and action. Due to safety risks for children Cllr Gardner agreed to request the Council to temporarily fence off the storm water drain and prioritise maintenance.
   Footpath at side of Church. No response has been received by Simon Grundy – Clerk to advise Cllr Gardner of issues so he can seek response. This also applies to land at front of Astral House / entrance to Astral Park that needs landscaping.
   Non Attendance. A resident voiced concern that Simon Grundy had advised he would attend and despite an invitation had not attended or offered apologies. The resident had specifically attended to hear updates. The Chair and Clerk to each contact Simon Grundy and invite to next meeting.
   ASB – Thirteen Group tenant. A resident advised of behaviours of a tenant. Councillors advised the resident should continue ensuring everything was logged formally and suggested they should write to Thirteen Group advising they were unhappy with response to date and wished to escalate to stage 2 and potentially to Housing Ombudsmen Service.
   Henley Drive. A resident asked why the footpath was closed off. The current stance of Stockton Council and Homes by Carlton was outlined and expectation that a variation to planning would be issued in due course.
   Vane Arms planning application. Cllr Gardner had advised no application had been received yet and he would chase again.
   Upgraded cycle path near the underpass – the Clerk to seek clarity re the Cycle Route – was this to go down the path at side of church?

   Cllr Gardner committed to keeping the Parish Council updated. The Chair thanked him for his attendance and Cllr Gardner left the meeting.

   The Parish Council welcomed a resident from The Elms. The resident advised that many in the Elms did not feel part of the Parish and were unhappy paying the precept on Council Tax. The

resident advised that The Elms did not have any particular issues and agreed that some targeted communication may be useful. The resident was thanked for her engagement and attendance,

2. **Apologies:** Cllr Moffatt was unwell and not in attendance, the Committee accepted the apology.

3. **Declarations of Interest**: Cllr Davies advised of a declaration if interest in relation to the horse walker building planning application and would not vote on this item.

4. **Minutes of** the Parish Council meeting held on ***Tuesday 12th July* 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) None***

6. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Gillson updated on the movement of bark chippings by a few volunteers to Hell Hole and to the path at the side of the church. Cllr Gillson also advised of intent to locate and plant up the multi-tier planters, using volunteers, and will let Councillors know when this will take place.

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

8. **Social Activities Committee report:** Cllr McGee provided an update on the Summer Fete which was not as well attended as hoped. The Social Activities Committee will look at future marketing and event take up. Cllr McGee advised the large outdoor activity games funded through Badminton group had been well received and are available for other events. Tickets for the wine event are selling well with 50 sold, leaving 14 available. The Committee will start planning for the Halloween event.

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 reserves. It was agreed the Digital Mapping Project and purchase of picnic tables would not proceed. The clerk advised he would present 2024/25 budget options for the next committee. The financial statements were **approved**.

Financial Transactions 6 July – 31 August 2023

Receipts:	**£**
Compensation from Lloyds Bank	60.00
TOTAL	**60.00**
Payments:	
Portable Water Container	405.60
4 x Mult Tier Planters	2,063.40
Helen Smith – plants	140.86
Admin expenses – Norton upgrade; Raffle Tickets; Newsletter Printing; leaflet holders for bus shelter	85.88
Cllr Training – A McGee	10.00
Wine for Spanish Night £249; Compost for Planters £32 – reimburse J Gillson	281.00
Grindon Parish Hall: History Group £20 / Council £40	60.00
Clerk PAYE	209.00
HMRC PAYE tax deducted at source	269.00
Norton AntiVirus (1 year negotiated down from £64.99)	19.99
TOTAL	**3,544.73**

10. **Training Opportunities:** Opportunities had been emailed to Councillors. The clerk advised of outcomes of exploring First Aid training and it was agreed to consider this as part of budget considerations.

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

12. **Planning:**

    23/1452/FUL: Erection of 1 dwelling house, land at rear Astral House. The Chair advised residents wishing to raise issues that they needed to respond direct. The Council resolved to object on grounds previous plans for 2 houses were rejected; parking; lack of garden/outside space; not in keeping with other houses; not in original plan for Astral House; and visual amenity impact.

    23/065/FUL: Horse Walker building amended plans. Resolved to refer to prior objections which amendments do not address.

    23/1365/VARY & 23/1366/Vary 1&2 Henley Drive Tree Works. Resolved to respond no comment on basis that arboriculturists would be best placed to advise correct treatment. The clerk to seek a schedule of all trees with TPO in the Parish.

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

    Cllr Rees advised the local history group were seeking funding from Heritage Lottery and that some of outcomes would be to communicate the heritage of the local area and Social Inclusion. Having partners support the application would be good. It was agreed to add the item to next months agenda for fuller discussion.

    The Clerk highlighted the 'issue log' noting closure of a few items and others added at bottom. It was noted updates from Cllr Gardner impacted several issues. The clerk advised the main issue not progressing is the uneven area outside the sub-station and will chase yet again.

    Dropped Kerbs. It was resolved to progress with the 15 dropped kerbs which would be funded jointly by the Parish Council and Stockton Council. The footpath would be deferred pending identification of funding.

    Play Park. It was resolved to agree the plans for 2 sets of swings using identified s106 funding. It was further resolved to seek the painting of the gate and goal posts; the replacement of the goal net and the levelling of the area around the goal to also proceed from any s106 funds left over.

    The Clerk advised Stockton Council had offered to put up the Christmas lights again. It was resolved to accept and request a turn on date of 1 December.

14. **Draft Newsletter.** Initial draft circulated for comment. It was agreed for any further comments to be passed to Clerk as soon as possible to enable final editing and printing to enable the newsletter to be issued early October.

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** 6.30pm Tuesday 10th October 2023 at Grindon Parish Hall.

    Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Minutes Authorised By:
Minutes Seconded By:
Date: