# Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th June 2023 at 6:00pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

**Present:** Cllrs. Davies; Gillson, McGee and Rees
**In Attendance:** C. Chapman, Clerk; Residents

PART 1

1. **Appointment of Councillors.** Cllr Davies outlined the advice received from Stockton Council regarding the process to appoint to the 2 vacant councillor posts. 3 applications were received and therefore a selection process was needed. Candidates were allowed to present for a maximum of 2 minutes (1 candidate was on holiday and had provided a statement for the Clerk to read out on their behalf).
   Councillors withdrew to consider applications & presentations.
   Following a vote by the Councillors Paul Hamblett and Rory Moffat were appointed.
2. Rory Moffat completed and signed the Acceptance of Office and GDPR forms

Part 1 of the meeting closed.

PART 2: Rory Moffat present as duly appointed Councillor
Simon Grundy and Keith Matthews in attendance from Stockton Borough Council

3. **Public Forum:**
   **Astral Park:** Simon Grundy provided an update on the current position and responded to resident and Councillor questions. In summary:
   - To seek to reach conclusion Stockton Council landscape architects were drawing plans to present to the developer for their consideration. These would remove mounding around storm water drainage basin; introduce levelled areas; provide seating and tree planting.
   - If developer does not agree Stockton Council would potentially refuse planning; if developer agrees the proposals it will be included under the 2021 planning application
   - Concern was expressed about resident's input into the plans.
   - Northumbrian Water will adopt the storm water drainage basin pending resolution of issues and a granting of easement from Stockton Council
   - Residents advised some of the land had been sold by the developer to Teesway Investments for £6k with intent to build 3 properties.
   - The gutters were still on issue, which Simon Grundy believed was still due to the surface water drains feeding into Highways drains not being updated.
   - The marked footpath at the entrance to Astral will just be grassed as the footpath would not lead anywhere, the path edging will be removed.
   - The land at entrance of Astral will just be grassed over and left open free from development with no enclosure.
   - Stockton Council Highways will look at proposal to move the chicane and 30-mile signs to the North and before the entrance to Astral Park
   - Residents raised issues with hedge/tree encroachment making exiting Astral Park a hazard and also with grass cutting spoil just being left in the play park.

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- **Simon Grundy agreed to share plans for the amenity land; look into ownership of land; link to Northumbrian Water regarding the adoption of gutters; liaise with Highways regarding moving the chicane and 30mile signs to North and before Astral Park entrance; to raise hedge/tree encroachment and grass cutting spoil with Care 4 Area; and keep the Parish Clerk updated on progress**

**Henley Drive**: A resident raised an issue regarding the footpath between numbers 27 & 28 Henley Drive. The path goes nowhere; anti-social behaviour including smoking, drinking and throwing of stones/items into gardens is occurring. The path is also used by youths on motorbikes. The resident outlined a prior s38 agreement between Stockton Council, Homes by Carlton and residents that was agreed and then not progressed. The resident asked for the path to be removed as there is a path well used near number 32 Henley Drive.
Simon Grundy advised Stockton Council had little influence as it was a Homes by Carlton issue; but did advise the council was looking to install motor bike barriers (but will hold off installing the 3rd after feedback) Keith Matthews advised of the planned works over 3 weeks to clear vegetation, re-surface paths and improve aesthetics to improve access and deter motor cyclists. Simon Grundy advised residents to call 101 or the Copper App for all Civil enforcement issues, as repeated calls would escalate issues.

**Other items:**
**A177 Grass Cutting:** Simon Grundy will liaise with colleagues regarding the grass cutting which has been limited to junctions to date.
**Vane Arms:** there was no update and no new application received to date.
Drug Dealing: a resident raised issue re drug dealing from the public house car parks – the advice was to contact 101 when these instances happen.

Simon Grundy was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

**S106 Funding**: Keith Matthews provided an update on agreed proposals to utilize the £130k s106 funding from Thorpe Beck Farm development.

**a)** Improved access to play area: it was suggested these sums be allocated instead to the play area. Ideas presented including filling the dip around the goalpost and replacing the net and replacing play equipment. Keith advised it would take 3-4 months to design and present back proposals.
**b)** Access Thorpe Beck Farm – as previously discussed.
**c)** Improve access through underpass to Wynyard Woodland Park including for cyclists. Keith advised a drainage solution had been developed and agreed to look into lighting the underpass as suggested by a resident.
**d)** Wynyard Woodland Park, including works to improve accessibility from car park to station; signage and landscaping around toilet block.

**Keith agreed to email proposals to Parish Clerk and provide future updates.**

Keith was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

4. **Apologies:** No apologies received. It was Paul Hamblett was on leave.

5. **Declarations of Interest**: Cllr Davies declared an interest as a 'neighbour' re Thorpe Thewles Stud planning application; The Clerk advised for completeness he had been appointed as Chair

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of the Parish Hall Management Committee – but did not see any conflict as was not a decision maker on the Parish Council.

6. **Minutes of** the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Ordinary Parish Council meetings held on ***Tuesday 9th May 2023***. **11th April 2023** were proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllrs McGee and Rees respectively, it was **resolved** to accept the minutes as a true record.

7. **Matters Arising**: ***(i) Byers Gill Solar Farm.*** Cllrs Rees and Davies summarized findings from consultation sessions. It was noted cabling would be needed to Norton Power Station but route not yet determined. Noise from the converter of solar to energy was a potential issue. It was **agreed** to review issues as they are raised and formal consultation commences.

8. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Gillson advised bus shelter works were completed and updated on works to planters. Elevated planters were to be considered alongside other options with residents highlighting planters in other villages. **Action** – Clerk to draft options for further consideration. The Clerk to also link to the public houses and village hall re defibrillator signage.

9. **Personnel Committee Report:** None outside appointment to Councillors at start of meeting.

10. **Social Activities Committee report:** Cllr McGee provided an update from 16 May SAC and advised focus was on trying to make events fully inclusive:
    - Stockton Sportise Cycle Race 1 July– ideas included placing painted 'scrap; bikes around cycle route and putting up bunting.
    - Summer Fete – 3rd Sept, as date works well with surrounding villages – Stockton Council asked for Road Closure as done for the Coronation.
    - Wine night - potentially 29 Sept =and possibly based on 'round the world'.
    - Halloween – potentially a "scarey scarecrow trail" and disco for children
    - Xmas Fayre
    - Other ideas included bingo, card night; ceilidh; treasure hunt; village crawl; Thorpe Thewles rocks …. Cllr McGee will progress through SAC and keep Council updated

11. **Financial Reports –** the Clerk presented the statement of Financial Transactions and the Actual against Budget Report, which were **approved**.

**Financial Transactions 10 May – 1 June 2023**

| **Receipts:** | **£** |
|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **0.00** |
| **Payments:** | |
| Planters – including for Coronation event | 103.45 |
| Former Clerk Expenses (incl printing April Newsletter) | 77.00 |
| Prizes for Scarecrow competition (J Gillson) | 19.00 |
| Microsoft licence renewal (Clerk) | 59.99 |
| Admin expenses including stamps and printer cable | 19.89 |
| P Lakey Building services; reset posts around village green | 200.00 |
| Compost – posts around village (J Gillson) | 21.00 |
| Admin expenses; replacement printer drum and toner (Clerk) | 47.50 |
| **TOTAL** | **547.83** |

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The clerk advised that allocated budgets for contribution to clerk broadband/ telephone (£240) and clerk expenses incl Travel (£300) were not required / needed. **Action – Cllrs to consider re-allocation of these budgets.**

The Clerk outlined the **Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23** and supporting financial information and advised the return had been reviewed and approved by the Auditor. The clerk also advised of the need to advertise the accounts in line with the Exercise of Public Rights. It was **Resolved** that the AGAR be approved and the exercise of public rights commence – **Clerk to action** as appropriate.

12. **Training Opportunities:** No further training identified.

13. **Ward Councillor's Report:** None received. Action Clerk to contact ward councillors and invite to future meeting to discuss issues including potential contribution of funding.

14. **Correspondence:** Schedule provided - no further significant items to report.

15. **Planning:**

**Bridge End Farm Agricultural Building – Resolved** to respond "No comment"

**23/0695/FUL: Thewles Stud, Thewles Lane**: Cllr Davies declared an interest as a 'neighbour' **Resolved** – to respond "no comment except upon the proposed temporary accommodation / portacabin, where the Parish Council would seek for such to comply with Stockton Councils Local Plan incl good architectural design.

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

The Clerk highlighted the 'issue tracker' which will be maintained to allow Councillors to track progress against issues previously raised.

No other issues identified.

17. **Date of Next Meeting:** 6.30pm Tuesday 11th July 2023 at Grindon Parish Hall.

*Meeting closed at 8.35pm*

**Minutes Authorised By:**
**Minutes Seconded By:**
**Date:**

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