Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 6:30pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Gillson (Chair); Hamblett, McGee, Moffatt and Rees
In Attendance: C. Chapman, Clerk; 3 residents; Cllr Gardner (SBC); Karel Simpson (Volunteer Rural Crime Coordinator)

1. **Public Forum:**
   A Vicars Close resident raised an issue over the river. With weather eroding the banks which are moving towards the road (which is the responsibility of Vicars Close residents), wondered who to approach. Cllr Gardner will ask SBC officer to inspect and advise which agency to approach.

   Karel Simpson introduced himself as rural coordinator and outlined he is frequently out and recording issues to help reduce crime. Karel has a strong background in his role. Outlined issues with Durham Hunt but no other issues impacting ourselves directly.

   In responding to a query from Cllr Rees, Karel advised the Rural Crime Forum meets quarterly at Redcar. **Resolved** for Clerk to contact Lee Mapplebeck re future dates.

   A resident asked about e-bikes, it was advised they weren't allowed on roads or footpaths unless licensed and wearing a helmet, and in an approved area (eg Govt scheme area).

2. **Ward Councillors report:**
   Cllr Gardner had previously updated regarding the crack in Bridge, which is fine but will be checked periodically.
   Cllr Rees asked about the bikes permanently locked to the rack at the top of steps to the playpark. Cllr Gardner advised environmental enforcement team cant take action, but agreed to raise the issue again.
   Cllr Gardner is still chasing the extension of speeding signs and had sought to chase the other issues with the planning team on our behalf.
   It was **resolved** for the clerk to seek attendance from the planning team at the next meeting.

3. **Apologies:** Apologies from Cllr Davies (Covid) were noted and accepted. Cllr Sewell (SBC)

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

5. **Minutes of** the Parish Council meeting held on ***Tuesday 9th April 2024*** were proposed by Cllr Hamblett seconded by Cllr McGee. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

6. **Matters Arising**:

   (i) ***Bank Contract:*** the clerk advised he expected this to be complete next month
   (ii) ***Letter of Support:*** the letter of support for Grindon Parish Hall grant application that was approved off-line was formally noted and approved.

7. **Maintenance Committee Report:**
   Cllr Gillson provided an update. It was noted we had received 1 quote for the proposed village sign and were awaiting two others. Stockton Council are assessing suitable locations and will advise on this and price for installation. Cllr Gillson is also seeking to locate the other two multi-

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tier planters. Cllr Gardner reminded that this needed to be on Parish Council land or with express approval from Stockton Council.
Cllr McGee asked about grass cutting and some areas that don't seem to be cut. It was **resolved** for the clerk to take pictures of grass cutting areas near top of village and ask for clarity on which areas are maintained and cut by Stockton Council.
It was also noted the path at side of the church needed cutting, it was **resolved** for the Clerk to raise with Stockton Council.

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

9. **Social Activities Committee report:** Cllr McGee advised the Pie and Pea Bingo was a successful night. Other events include wine night in June and September, Halloween events, race night in November and usual December events. The Social Committee also maintains a list of potential future events. Cllr Gillson advised Lost Robot would be interested in an 'OctoberFest themed Beer night.

10. **Financial Reports**
The Clerk presented the statement of Financial Transactions and the Actual against Budget Report. The clerk highlighted defibrillator maintenance costs were higher than budgeted and this would impact future years budgets.

Financial Transactions 1 April – 6 May 2024

Receipts:	**£**
Precept	10,807.61
VAT claim for Oct-Mar 2024	134.76
Easter Egg Hunt recipts	42.00
TOTAL	**10,984.37**

Payments:

NZ wine night – reimburse J Gillson	439.41
NZ wine night – reimburse N Settle	158.25
Parish Hall Hire – March 2024	68.50
Bingo prizes – reimburse N Settle	19.20
Defibrillator replacement pads / starter kit	175.02
HMRC – PAYE Sep & Oct 2023 – replacement of cheque 162 which is unpresented	107.60
TOTAL	**967.98**

Residents suggested more publicity may be needed regarding the defibrillator, where it is, how to use etc. It was **resolved** for the clerk to post on Facebook.
Cllr Hamblett advised as a Trustee of Grindon Parish Hall that trustees were looking to run emergency first aid and fire safety courses that residents could attend. Cllr Gillson suggested food hygiene may also be a useful course.

Cllr Rees asked if progress had been made on sourcing a defibrillator for Grindon. The clerk advised we had earmarked some reserves as a contribution, but currently there was no other funding identified. It was noted this was also the case for ongoing maintenance costs.

The request from the Church for a £750 donation to grass cutting / grounds maintenance was noted. The clerk advised he had provided the Church treasurer with a copy of our policy and application form for completion. Councillors wished to see well maintained church grounds but wished to have some assurance regarding actual works. It was resolved for the clerk to invite the Church Treasurer to the next meeting to discuss the application.

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11. **Training Opportunities:**
    The clerk attended the AGAR training by Mazars. No additional raining has been notified.

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

13. **Items of Concern to Councillors:**
    Concern was expressed about damage to play park, and it was queried whether CCTV could be provided, and signage introduced to reduce potential damage. It was **resolved** for the Clerk to check with Stockton Council and with the Hamilton Russell.

    The schedule of prior items was reviewed and noted.

14. **Communications**
    It was agreed the key matter to communicate was regarding the Defibrillator.

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 6.30pm Tuesday 11th June 2024 at Grindon Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm

Minutes Authorised By:
Minutes Seconded By:
Date:

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