Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th November 2023 at 6:30pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Davies (Chair), Gillson, Hamblett, McGee, Moffatt and Rees
In Attendance: Cllrs Gardner & Sewell (Stockton Council), C. Chapman, Clerk; 5 Residents

1. **Public Forum:**

A resident queried whether Simon Grundy had provided a response regarding the Caravan Site at Thorpe Garage and the proposed glamping pods. It was advised no response had been provided but will be chased.

A resident asked about the bike racks that had been provided for children visiting the play park which seemed to be now used on a permanent basis by some residents. The Clerk will send a notice via Facebook asking for these racks to be available for public use.

Henley Drive footpath. A resident provided an update advising this was now with respective solicitors. The resident advised that the footpath has been installed in the wrong place and is on their land as the boundary has been marked incorrectly.

It was noted traffic monitoring equipment had been placed opposite Henley Drive. A resident also advised of speeding / traffic issues at Bank Terrace / Mill Terrace and over the bridge.
Cllr Gardner advised speed surveys cost £150 – **Agreed** Parish Clerk to request speed survey at this site.

Cllr Gardner provided an update.
Footpath at side of Church. Cllr Gardner asked if the path had been cleared, on finding it had not he advised he will chase again.

Traffic Calming Cllr Gardner advised he would fund works to move the speed limits at Astral Drive (£2000 for legal order and £600 for signage) from his Ward Transport budget pending Simon Grundy confirming he had agreed this should have been part of planning and Stockton Council would fund, this would enable works to progress.

Vane Arms planning application. Cllr Gardner advised the council to look at enforcement.

Cllr Gardner advised he was still chasing responses to the following issues

Drainage / Storm Water. Cllr Gardner referred to email from Simon Grundy noting still awaiting response from developer. This was also the position re the Amenity space at Astral Park.

Entrance to Astral: Cllr Gardner advised officers were checking land ownership for sight lines to be improved. This also applied to the land at the entrance which was overgrown and not maintained / landscaped.

Cllr Davies asked about s73 variation orders in respect of a recent planning application. Cllr Garnder understood these would allow “minor amendments” and use was increasing especially linked to govt policy re Housing Development. Cllr Gardner offered to follow up specifics if we wished to send information.

2. **Apologies:** None

3. **Declarations of Interest**: Cllr Davies advised planning application 23/1988/OHL was next to her property and would not vote on the issue.

4. **Minutes of** the Parish Council meeting held on ***Tuesday 10th October*** were proposed by Cllr Davies seconded by Cllr Gillson. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

5. **Matters Arising**: ***(i) 2024/25 Budget***
   It was resolved to earmark £6000 reserves for Chicanes and look to fund village signs over the next few years. **Agreed-** Clerk to update the budget and identify options for precept increases. Budget 2024/25 to be discussed at next meeting.

   Cllrs Gardner and Sewell left the meeting to attend other Parish Councils.

6. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Gillson updated on the planting of Crocus bulbs by volunteers and plan to plant more at a subsequent weekend. Helen was making her way around the planters and it was **Agreed** to install 2 large planters at the bus shelter. It was noted work on the playground should commence next week.

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

8. **Social Activities Committee report:** Cllr McGee provided an update on the Halloween trail and the very successful Halloween party which was well received by children. Lessons learnt would be used for future events. Nicky Settle advised that the event may have been cost neutral and is chasing receipts.

   The Pop Choir may be 13th December and will be finalized at next weeks Social Committee.

   A social event will be held every 2 months with current plans being Italian wine and food night; Pie and Pea Bingo; another wine & food event; race night; another wine & food event.

   Cllr Hamblett left the meeting as had a prior engagement.

9. **Financial Reports –** the Clerk presented the statement of Financial Transactions and the Actual against Budget Report and advised all transactions were as expected. It was agreed to cancel the contact for dark web monitoring.

Financial Transactions 2 October – 6 November 2023

Receipts:	**£**
TOTAL	**0.00**
Payments:	
Parish Hall – rent for village fete	60.00
J Gillson – reimbursement for bulbs and dibbers for Crocus Patch approved in budget	149.75
Clerk – Salary Sept & October	430.40
HMRC – PAYE for September and October pay	107.60
Clerk – reimbursement for purchase of Noticeboard, Pins and Command Strips to put in Bus Shelter	20.88
TOTAL	**768.63**

10. **Training Opportunities:** No new opportunities identified,

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

12. **Planning:**

    Section 73 application to vary condition no2 (approved plans) of planning approval **20/0057/FUL** - Application for the erection of 1no dwellinghouse.
    It was **Resolved** to resubmit prior comments on this application. A resident asked if neighbours had commented, and The Chair agreed to post on Facebook to draw attention to the planning application.

    23/1945/FUL; Siting of a battery storage facility, underground cable connection, ancillary equipment, fencing and associated landscaping and upgrade to existing access point. Land To The West Of Norton Substation, Letch Lane
    It was **Resolved** to respond regarding potential noise impacts of the accumulation of transformers in the area – noting the application states "don't think a noise survey is needed,"

    23/1878/FUL: Erection of general-purpose agricultural building and single stable building. Fir Tree Farm, Blakeston Lane, Stockton-on-Tees.
    It was **Resolved** to respond on assumption the reasons for prior applications being declined have been addressed and wanting assurance the farm building will not subsequently be converted to a dwelling.

    23/1988/OHL: Hell Hole Farm Hell Hole Lane Thorpe Thewles, Exemption notice to 132kv grid connection from proposed solar farm to Norther Powergrid substation.
    It was **Resolved** to respond regarding potential noise impacts of the accumulation of transformers in the area; that an assessment against neighbouring properties is made and that H pole2 could be moved 10metres West to avoid routing through Trees and potential damage to those trees.

    A resident advised that the works aligned to recent highways stopping up order near Middle Bank had been completed.

13. **Items of Concern to Councillors:**
    Cllr Moffat raised a resident concern about children walking along the road between Carlton and Thorpe Thewles to access the school bus; specifically, as fields were flooded after recent rains. It was suggested residents with children may wish to take up with the schools to see if additional bus pickups could be introduced.

    It was noted the issue log was predominantly those issues Cllr Gardner is helping resolve.

14. **Review of Policies.** It was **resolved** to approve the amendments to policies previously circulated. Councillors attention was drawn to changes in the Financial Regs. **Resolved** to accept changes and clerk to re-issue new policies and update the website.

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

    Meeting closed at 8.30pm

    Minutes Authorised By:
    Minutes Seconded By:
    Date: