Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th March, 2021 at 6.30 p.m. Due to the measures in place to restrict the spread of Covid-19 the meeting was conducted remotely using "Zoom".

Councillor Lynne Williams took note of Minutes of the Meeting due to the absence of the Parish Clerk.

In Attendance: Cllrs: Michelle Davies (Chair), Lynne Williams, Gareth Rees, Paul John, and Jeff Gillson.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from the Parish Clerk, and Councillor Gareth Rees. No apologies were received from Councillor Michael Lowson.

2. Declaration of Interest.

No declaration of interest declared.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th February were approved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Paul John, no signatures available on the Minutes due to COVID-19 restrictions.

4. Public Discussion.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

5. BP Solar Farm Update.

Discussion took place via Zoom between Richard Turner (Light Source BP) and Cllrs. Williams, John, Rees and Gillson on Thursday 24th February.

The discussion focused on Community Benefit Funding available from Light Source BP once the installation of solar panels had been approved and were functional.

Richard Turner informed us that BP provided the local community with funding as a degree of compensation for the for the use of land for solar panels, land use is 40 years.

The funding is given to the most appropriate body in the local community to manage, it does not go to the local authority. Richard asked if the Parish Council would be the most appropriate body to manage the funding and would we be willing to do so.

The funding is based on the amount of megawatt capacity generated by the panels, the funding being £1000 per megawatt. Tentatively this would mean that Middlefield Field with an anticipated 32 megawatt capacity would yield, £32,000. Hell Hole Lane, has a potential 10 to 13 megawatt capacity yielding between £10,000 - £13,000. Between £42,000 - £45,000 community benefit is possible. There are no restrictions on the money can be spent but the projects must benefit the local community.

The expectation is that the sites will be generating power towards the end of 2022, once generation has commenced the community benefit fund is released.

Once confirmation is received that the Parish Council will manage the community benefit funding Richard will set the ball rolling in terms of paperwork.

Currently Hell Hole land has received planning permission , Middlefield in with planning department and amended plans are to be submitted April, with anticipated approved in May or June.

6. Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeteing

Item 5: Durham Road, Councillor John reported that he had been in communication with Stockton Councils Highway engineers, and had received notification that the residents had indeed been notified that the road would be dug up. Councillor Williams received a similar response. This is disputable, a notice was put up that the road would be closed by no fortification was received by residents that they would need to move their cars as specific times of the day.

Regarding the road resurfacing the current situation is being monitored and resurfacing should it be required will take place in due course.

Item 6. Naming of Road at Middlefield Stud.

No outcome from this as the moment.

7. Finance.

Councillor Davies will pay the Parish News account of £70 via bank transfer and the Parish Council will refund the money. Councillor Williams will ask the Parish News Secretary not to put our advert into the magazine until we have sorted out our Clerk and Contact details.

The Precept submission has been made and we are to expect funds into our account in March 2021.

8. To Consider and Authorise Payment of Accounts.

Not applicable

9. Break N/A

10. Councillor's Report.

The bridge has now been repaired, the other items remain outstanding and are with the highways team. Councillor Williams will follow up should there be no response by end of March.

It was raised that the gate /stile to the filed on the right hand side past vicars bridge was broken. Discussion took place around who actually had responsibility for the gate/stile, it was thought that this was Mr. John Hargreaves, owner of The Mill. No decision was made to contact Mr. Hargreaves.

13. Clerk's Report N/A

14. Planning

Only one planning application concerning Grindon and Thorpe Thewles, this was for improvements to an agricultural building. No Objections were raised.

15. Items of information for next meeting.

Nothing was raised for the next meeting, but should anything arise then request to have the issue on the agenda will be sent to the Clerk.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 6.30 p.m. The location and format of the meeting will be agreed nearer the time, depending on Covid-19 restrictions in place.

Minutes Authorised By: Michelle Davies via Zoom (Chairperson)

Minutes Seconded By: Paul John via Zoom (Councillor)