Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Gwynn Dunn, 60 West Street, Stillington, Stockton-on-Tees, TS21 1JY

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th August in the Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllr. Michelle Davies (Chair)
Cllr. Paul John
Cllr. Richard Mudd
Cllr. Gareth Rees
Cllr. Lynne Williams
6 Members of the Public
Gwynn Dunn – Parish Clerk (Temp)

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Cllr. Michael Lowson and District Cllr. John Gardener

Coral Dean had contacted the Parish Councillors following the last meeting and had resigned from the position of Parish Clerk. Mrs G Dunn, Clerk for two other local Parish Councils, had offered to cover the Parish Clerks position on a temporary basis. All Councillors agreed that they are happy with this arrangement.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

There were none.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th July 2019

Cllr. Michelle Davies signed the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2019 as a true and correct record. Agreed by all present.

4. Public Discussion

It was confirmed that the Thorpe Thewles Residents Association had given a cheque for £83.00 to Cllr. John. These were funds held by the Residents Assoc. on behalf of the Parish Council.

A member the Residents Association had been in touch with on SBC Officer about the arrangements for the Christmas lights this year. Ideally additional lights will be required for the Parish – the estimated cost for the lights is £400. SBC can order lights compatible with those already held for the Parish but new lights will need to be ordered a.s.a.p. to guarantee delivery in time for Christmas. An estimated charge of £200 for erection of the lights by SBC staff had also been provided. The Residents

Association asked if the Parish Council can support these costs. Due to the timescale this was discussed and all Councillors were in favour of buying new lights and paying for any additional costs. The Clerk agreed to contact SBC to get accurate prices and order additional lights.

5. Parish Council Bank Account – Update

The Parish Council bank account is now open. Cllrs. John and Rees are signatories, Cllrs. Williams and Davies will be signatories once they have taken the required documentation to a branch of Lloyds Bank. Cllr. Davies has a cheque for the G+TTPC share of the funds (£4917.00) from the former Grindon PC to bank, Cllr. John will deposit this soon along with the cheque form the Residents Assoc. The precept from SBC has been deposited in the account also. A chequebook has not arrived yet but is expected imminently – it was agreed that any outstanding invoices for approved payments should be paid as soon as the cheque book arrives. The address for the account is currently that of the former Clerk. It was agreed that this should be changed after the cheque book has arrived and Ms. Dean will be removed as a signatory form the account.

MD
LW
PJ

6. Parish Council Insurance Policy – Update

The insurance premium has been paid to Zurich by Cllr. Williams to ensure that the policy is operational. It was agreed by all present that the cost should be re-imbursed as soon as possible.

7. Wynyard Road – to consider an issue raised at the June Parish Council meeting

No further information had been received form the member of the public who brought this matter to the Parish Council meeting in June, as such it was agreed to remove it from future agendas.

8. Outdoor Improvements in the Parish

The overgrown hedges along Thorpe Road detailed on the at the previous meeting have been cut back.

Cllr. John informed Members that there is some damage to the white posts and chains around sections of the Village Green. He explained that while repairs are possible the plastic chains are requiring repairs on a regular basis. It was agreed that Cllr. John should obtain quotes to replace the plastic chains with a metal equivalent.

PJ

There is concern that the play area in Thorpe Thewles is difficult to access by people with prams, push chairs and wheelchairs. The Clerk agreed to contact SBC and find out if a more user-friendly access could be incorporated and if future section106 funding or the District Councillor's Community Improvement Fund could be used to pay for improvements to the access for the park.

GD

A letter had been received from a local resident complaining about overgrown trees and hedges in Thorpe Thewles. It was agreed to ascertain who is responsible for the vegetation before deciding how to proceed. **GD**

9. Planning Applications – to consider how the Parish Council will deal with planning applications in the Parish

Mr. Mullen, who had been taken up on his offer at a previous meeting to provide advice to the Councillors about dealing with any planning applications for the Parish, asked the Council to consider how they would like to deal with future planning applications. Plans could be discussed at a regular meeting by all Members, or a planning sub committee could be appointed to consider and evaluate any applications and bring their recommendations to a full meeting where any comments about the application would be agreed. Mr Mullen agreed to send details about both options to the Clerk for distribution to Members so that they can consider them and decide at the next meeting how to proceed. **BM** **GD**

10. Councillors Reports and items for future agendas

The Clerk will ensure that details of the next meeting are sent to the District Councillor with a specific invitation for him to attend. **GD**

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 10th September 2019 at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Signed Dated

Proposed

Seconded