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 11th February 2020 in the Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllr. Michelle Davies (Chair) Cllr. Paul John
Cllr. Lynne Williams Cllr. Gareth Rees
Gwynn Dunn – Parish Clerk (Temp)

8 local residents were present.

Prior to the meeting a representative from Mandale Homes provided information about the Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) that is being constructed as part of the Astral Park development. A few residents had queries mainly about the design and long-term management of the system and the land around it. All the questions were answered and plans for the SUDS were shown to everyone present. Copies of the plans were left for residents information and details of the system will be sent to the Parish Clerk for future reference. A resident requested that if possible the final landscaping include a raised area of land between the development site and North Close properties.

1. Apologies for Absence
There were apologies form Cllrs. Michael Lowson and Richard Mudd.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda
There were none.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th January 2020
Cllr. Michelle Davies signed the minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2020 as a true and correct record. The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Williams, seconded by Cllr. John and approved by all Councillors present.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting
There were none.

5. Public Discussion
Two local residents were concerned about the condition of an empty plot of land adjacent to their property. The site has planning permission but no development has started as yet. They provided photos of the overgrown plot, some of the vegetation is hanging over the footpath. The residents had contacted the owner of the plot but nothing had been done to date. The Clerk explained that as the plot is privately owned there is a limit to what the Parish Council and Stockton Borough Council can do but said she would pass the concerns onto SBC to see if anything can be done. **GD**

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6. Finance

a. Accounts update

The monthly accounts update had been circulated to all Members.

b. To confirm the precept set for 2020/21

The Clerk confirmed she had submitted the precept request of £9518.00 to SBC.

c. Parish Council bank account administration

Cllr. Williams has applied to change the address of the account and will progress with obtaining internet access for the account. The bank is proving very slow to provide the secure keys needed for accessing the internet account. **LW**

d. To consider the payment of accounts presented to the meeting

000021 - £221.40 – G Dunn – Salary and general overhead expenses (£10.00)
000022 - £33.11 – Cllr. P John – Reimbursement for bolt croppers (£22.79) and shackles (£10.32)
000023 - £36.00 – Cllr. L Williams – Reimbursement for materials for bench repair

7. Planning – to discuss any new and on-going planning applications

20/0057/FUL Application for the erection of 4no. detached dwelling houses
Land North of Thorpe Thewles Durham Road Thorpe Thewles TS21 3JN
Councillors agreed that as the proposals are within the curtilage of the existing development site they had no comments to make about this application.

20/0174/FPD Erection of single storey rear extension. 3 Buckthorn Crescent TS21 3LD
There were no comments about this application.

20/0272/FUL Ballybrack Blakeston Lane Stockton-on-Tees TS21 3LE
Erection of side and rear extension with room above and dormer windows.
There were no comments on this application.

19/2546/FUL Change of use of the existing self-contained residential annexe to a luxury holiday let. Creation of glamping and holiday leisure site to include the erection of a Hair and Beauty Salon, a Golf Simulator/Private Cinema and 2 no. Luxury Glamping Pods.
2 Durham Road Thorpe Thewles TS21 3JN
This application has been withdrawn
Cllr. John, who had declared a personal prejudicial interest in this application, expressed his dissatisfaction with the comments submitted by the Parish Council to this application following the last meeting. Cllr. Davies explained that the comments had been agreed by all Councillors involved and it was felt they represented the range of views of the wider community.

8. Progress Reports

a. **Village Green Chains – progress report**

The new chains have been coated with white paint and Cllrs. John and Rees are in the **PJ GR**

process of installing them around the Green. Some of the white posts ideally need re-installing to straighten them.

b. **Trees, vegetation and footpath management in the Parish – Update**
Work due to be undertaken by SBC staff has not been carried out as yet but should be completed in the next month or so.

c. **Bench Repair – progress report**
The new wooden backrest has been completed and replaced. The lettering has not been re-painted as yet, this will be done once the weather is better.

GD

d. **Commemorative Bench – progress report**
Around 40 residents have provided feedback to Cllr. Rees about the preferred bench design. The design with the white doves was the preferred choice of the majority. The Clerk will place the order for the bench. A couple of options for the locations are now being considered, the Clerk agreed to ask someone from SBC to come out to the Village and advise on the most appropriate location.

GD

e. **Speed Limits in the Parish**
Following the last meeting the Clerk had contacted SBC about this issue. She had not had a response yet, she will chase it up.

GD

f. Garden Party Nomination
The Clerk had nominated Cllr. Williams as agreed, there had been a number of nominations from the CLCA Councils that were entered into a draw for the two sets of tickets available, Cllr. Williams had not been successful on this occasion.

9. Drainage System Astral Park - to agree if any follow up to the earlier discussion is required.
The Clerk was asked to thank the representative from Mandale Homes for attending the meeting and to ensure that an electronic copy of the SUDS plans were received as promised.

GD

The Clerk was asked to request that litter present around the edges of the development site – polystyrene and plastic wrappings etc. is collected.

GD

10. Use of Village Green – to consider a policy for the use of the Village Green by residents or other organisations for organised events or activities
The Clerk had circulated a draft policy for consideration by the Council. It was proposed by Cllr. John and Seconded by Cllr. Williams that the policy is accepted by the Parish Council. The majority of the Councillors supported this proposal so the policy was adopted. There was one objection. The Clerk will add the policy to the G+TTPC website.

GD

11. Public Transport - outline of the new demand responsive bus service.
A drop in session for people to find out about the Tees Flex service will take place in Stillington Village Hall on 20th February. The service is due to begin on 24th February.

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The service will serve Thorpe Thewles and other villages in the area and will allow access to Billingham, Stockton and Darlington as well as other key points such as North Tees Hospital.

12. School Transport – to discuss changes to the school transport service that could negatively affect some local children from September 2020.
Cllr. Davies outlined the potential problems faced by pupils who are currently paying for their transport (concessionary transport) to secondary school. Changes in public transport regulations will result in SBC no longer offering concessionary fares from September 2020. It is uncertain yet whether the schools will support parents to overcome the problems. The new Tees Flex service may also be able to be used if there is a problem. It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda in case the problem isn't resolved and the Parish Council can do something to assist local residents affected.

13. Appointment of new Parish Clerk – to agree interview and appointment process and dates

Applications for the post of Parish Clerk are coming in, six or seven applications to date. It was agreed that Cllrs. Davies, Williams and Rees will meet with the Clerk on 4th March to shortlist candidates for interview with interviews taking place soon after. The Clerk will collate the applications for the shortlisting meeting. **GD**

14. CLCA – Confirmation of upcoming meeting date
The next meeting will take place on 19th February, it seemed unlikely that anyone would be able to attend so the Clerk will submit apologies. **GD**

15. Rural Crime Forum - Confirmation of upcoming meeting date
This will take place on 24th February. The Clerk will circulate details, Cllrs. John and Rees hope to attend. **GD PJ GR**

16. Policies – to consider the following polices for approval and adoption
a. Media Policy b. Social Media Policy

Subject to correcting a few minor errors all Councillors approved both policies for adoption by the Council.

17. Correspondence – to review the list of incoming correspondence

15/01/2020	HMRC	PAYE submission confirmation
15/01/2020	TVRA	Invitation to Village Hall and Community Venue Conference
15/01/2020	SBC	Confirmation of receipt of comments on planning application
16/01/2020	SBC	Quote for bench installation
16/01/2020	SBC	Mobile Library Dates 2020

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20/01/2020	SBC	Planning Lists
20/01/2020	Cllr. LW	Comments and concerns re SUDS – Astral Park
20/01/2020	SBC	Confirmation of extension for comments on planning app.
20/01/2020	CDALC	CiLCA training information
21/01/2020	Auditor	Liaison with auditor re Parish Council audit
22/01/2020	CLCA	Confirmation of receipt of Clerk vacancy advert
22/01/2020	CLCA	Outcome of draw for ticket to attend garden party
22/01/2020	CLCA	Next meeting date
24/01/2020	Local Resident	Enquiry re next meeting date
28/01/2020	Keep Britain Tidy	Great British Spring Clean
29/01/2020	Rural Crime Officer	Response to query re rural crime forum
30/01/2020	SBC	Liaison re advertising Clerk vacancy advertisement
31/01/2020	SBC	Planning Lists
03/02/2020	SBC	Boundary Commission Consultation Invitation
03/02/2020	Cllr. GR	Invoices for equipment for Village Green project
04/02/2020	CDALC	Play Area training
04/02/2020	SCP PCC	Feedback re churchyard maintenance funding
04/02/2020	SBC	Info re A19 overnight closures

18. Councillors Reports and items for future agendas

The Clerk was asked to find out if SBC have a programme of litter collection along road verges or is work carried out on an ad hoc basis. She was also asked to find out how often litter picks around the Village are scheduled. **GD**

The Clerk was asked to find out if a road sweeper is scheduled to visit the village soon.

The Clerk was asked to add fly tipping to the next agenda. **GD**

Cllr. John had spoken to the developers on the new Durham Road site, they expressed an interest in meeting local residents and the Parish Council. The Clerk suggested he pass on the Parish Council email address so someone could get in touch if they wanted to attend a future meeting. **PJ**

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she will not be available for a meeting on 14th April. It is possible that a new Clerk could be appointed by then, if not an alternative date will be agreed nearer the time.

19. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 10th March 2020 at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm

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Signed Dated

Proposed

Seconded

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