Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

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

Phone: 01740 631204 Email: thorpe.grindon@outlook.com

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2020 in the Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllr. Michelle Davies (Chair) Cllr. Paul John
Cllr. Michael Lowson Cllr. Richard Mudd
Cllr. Lynne Williams Cllr. Gareth Rees
District Cllr. John Gardner
Gwynn Dunn – Parish Clerk (Temp)

7 local residents were present.

1. Apologies for Absence
There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda
Cllrs. Richard Mudd and Paul John declared personal, prejudicial interests in the planning application for Durham Road, Thorpe Thewles as they live very close to the proposed development site.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th December 2019
Cllr. Michelle Davies signed the minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2019 as a true and correct record. The minutes were proposed by Cllr. John, seconded by Cllr. Williams and approved by all Councillors present.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting
Cllr. Williams has found a suitable person to carry out the internal audit for the Parish Council later in the year. She has passed their details onto the Clerk, the Clerk will contact the person to provide more information about what will be required. **GD**

5. Public Discussion
One resident expressed their views about the planning application for 2 Durham Road. She felt it would be inappropriate for the village, would result in more traffic which could be problematic and did not feel that some of the facilities provided are needed as similar services are available nearby. She also felt that many residents have similar opinions to her but were not commenting as they felt any comments they had submitted about planning applications in the past had been ignored.

One resident asked if a 20mph speed limit can be requested for Thorpe Thewles. This will be discussed later in the meeting as it is on the agenda.

District Cllr. Gardner reminded Councillors about his community improvement budget which can be considered while discussing the budget and plans for 2020/21. He

explained he is unable to stay for the full meeting but, on the subject of speed limits, he said that he has tried to have speed limits reduced elsewhere in the Ward but without much success.

District Cllr. Gardner left the meeting.

6. Finance

Accounts update

Updated accounts for the Parish Council were circulated along with predicted expenditure until 31st March 2020. The Clerk explained that expenditure will be some way below the income received as the Council was not fully operational until nearly halfway through the financial year.

a. To consider the budget and set the precept for 2020/21

The Clerk provided details about how much the precept at the current level (£9518) and with a small increase would cost each household in the Parish. As the Parish Council have some reserves from the balance provided from the former Grindon Parish Council and have not utilised all of the precept received in 2019/20 it was discussed and agreed by all members that the precept requested should remain at £9518.00. The Clerk will submit this request to Stockton Borough Council. **GD**

b. Parish Council bank account administration

Cllr. Williams is in the process of changing the address for the Parish Council bank account. It was discussed and agreed that the Parish Hall address should be used for correspondence. Cllr. Williams will notify Lloyds Bank. **LW**

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

000018 - £274.25 – G Dunn – Salary and general overhead expenses (£10.00)
000019 - £70.00 – SCP PCC – Parish News Advertising Fee 2020
000020 - £54.00 – CDALC – Councillor Training Fees

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

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

Cllr. John and Cllr. Mudd provided their opinions about this planning application then they both left the meeting.

The Councillors discussed this application in detail. There were both positive and negative aspects that were considered. Following the discussion a vote was taken and

DRAFT

three Councillors voted to object to the development, one Councillor voted in favour of the development.

The Clerk was asked to send the following comments about the application to Stockton Borough Council:-

While the Council are in favour of economic growth this must be sustainable and not detrimental to current and future residents of Thorpe Thewles. The development would result in anti-social noise for neighbours which would be difficult to manage. It would also cause parking and traffic problems as there is not sufficient on-site parking for all potential guests and staff. Also the access to the property is very close to the 60mph speed limit and the entrance to the Hamilton Russell pub which could have added risks for people entering and leaving the site. The Councillors feel there are too many proposals for the development site and thought they may be able to be more positive about the plans if it focussed on either the glamping pods or the other facilities but not both. **GD**

Cllrs John and Mudd returned to the meeting

19/2440/CPL Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the installation of a dormer window to the rear
Ballybrack, Blakeston Lane, Stockton-on-Tees, TS21 3LE
This application had been approved with conditions**.**

19/1752/FUL Erection of one dwelling
Follyfoot Banks, Calf Fallow Lane, Norton
Following refusal of planning permission by SBC, the applicant has appealed to the Secretary of State under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act.

19/2410/REV Revised application for the erection of a bungalow.
(Removal of existing static caravan and metal container)
Blakeston Croft Farm, Blakeston Lane, Stockton-On-Tees
This application has been approved with conditions

Enquiry regarding Iris Gardens
Following a query about development following the potential sale of this site this site the Clerk confirmed that if the site is sold the only area which could be developed as a building is the area marked on the approved plans. The remainder of the land would still be retained as agricultural land. To change the remainder of the site into residential garden would require a planning application to change the use.

8. Progress Reports

a. Village Green Chains – progress report

PJ

The chains have been cut to the correct length and are in the process of being coated. Once complete Cllr. John will arrange installation.

b. Trees, vegetation and footpath management in the Parish – Update

SBC staff are due to undertake the agreed work later in January or during February.

c. Bench Repair – progress report

A new piece of wood has been cut to size and shape for the bench. The 'Thorpe Thewles' sign has been re-painted. Cllr. Williams will obtain the receipts for the materials and will pass them on to the Clerk. **LW**

d. Commemorative Bench – progress report

The Clerk has requested installation costs for the proposed bench from SBC. She will also request a quote for the moving of the wooden posts from the edge of the Village Green that will be required. Cllr. Rees read a draft of the proposed wording for the plaque that will be attached to the bench. Everyone was happy with the wording. The consultation about the design of the proposed bench is underway, Cllr. Rees will advise the Councillors of the outcome of the consultation in a couple of weeks time. **GD/ GR**

e. Road Signs and speed camera A177 – update re request for replacements

SBC will replace the damaged road signs on the A177. Liaison over replacing the speed camera is ongoing between SBC and the Police.

f. Repairs to walkway access points – progress report

The repairs to various access points on the walkway near the A177 and Durham Road have been completed by the SBC Rights of Way team.

g. Christmas Lights and events - feedback

The Clerk was asked to thank SBC staff for installing the Christmas lights in the village. The additional lights ordered had enhanced the display. An invoice for the lights had not been received from SBC yet. **GD**

9. Drainage System Queries – Astral Park - confirmation of meeting date with representative from Mandale Homes

Following a request from residents the Clerk has arranged for a representative from Mandale Homes to attend the next meeting to answer questions about the SUDS pond that is being constructed near to the new housing estate. Cllr. Williams agreed to send the Clerk a list of the main concerns from residents so they can be passed on Mandale Homes prior to the meeting. **GD**

10. Use of Village Green – to consider whether the Village Green can be used by residents or other organisations for organised events or activities

A resident has asked a Councillor if it will be possible to use part of the Village Green for are a private function in the summer. The Clerk circulated a policy used by a nearby Parish for private functions on their village green for consideration. Councillors agreed that they were happy in principle for the Green to be used, a few changes and additions were suggested for a policy that would better suit Thorpe Thewles. The Clerk agreed to draft a policy and bring it to the next meeting. **GD**

DRAFT

11. Speed limits in the Parish – to discuss local speed limits

This issue was discussed and the Clerk was asked to contact SBC and request a 20mph speed limit on the main routes through Thorpe Thewles. **GD**

12. Appointment of new Parish Clerk – to agree content and distribution of an advert for the position of Parish Clerk

The Clerk had drafted an advert for the position of Parish Clerk. It has been sent to the Parish News for publication in the February edition. It was agreed that the advert should also be sent to the CLCA for distribution to other Parish Councils in the area. It was also suggested that the Clerk asks SBC and the neighbouring Borough Councils if the advert can be included with vacancies advertised to their staff. **GD**

13. Policies – to consider the following polices for approval
a. Financial Regulations – Internet Banking

The Councillors agreed that the recommended policies for internet banking should be adopted by the Parish Council. Cllr. Williams will contact Lloyds Bank to try and progress the permission for access to internet banking for her and Cllr. Davies. **LW/ MD**

14. Buckingham Palace Garden Party Nomination.

All Councils who are members of the CLCA had been asked if they would like to nominate a Councillor to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. It was agreed by all present that Cllr. Williams is nominated. The Clerk will submit the nomination to the secretary of the CLCA. The names of two people to attend will be drawn randomly from all the nominations received by the CLCA. **GD**

14. Correspondence – to review the list of incoming correspondence

10/12/2019	HMRC	PAYE submission confirmation
10/12/2019	SBC	Planning Lists
12/12/2019	CDALC	Planning training invoice
16/12/2019	SBC	Planning Lists
18/12/2019	SBC	Precept request 2020/21
19/12/2019	SBC	Confirmation of extension for planning comments
20/12/2019	CLCA/NALC	Funding Bulletin
20/12/2019	CLCA	Request for nominations to Garden Party
23/12/2019	SBC	Planning Lists
02/01/2010	SBC	Response from Planning re Iris Gardens
07/01/2020	SBC	Chargeable dwelling numbers – info for precept setting
08/01/2020	SBC	Response to query re road signs and speed camera
09/01/2020	SBC	Confirmation of tax base for precept
09/01/2020	SBC	Consultation on draft planning document

DRAFT

09/01/2020	Mandale Homes	Confirmation of attendance at future meeting
10/01/2020	SBC	Reminder re Mayors Civic Awards
10/01/2020	SBC	Confirmation of stile repairs on walkway

15. Councillors Reports and items for future agendas

Cllr. Davies explained that requirements for school transport have changed and this could negatively affect some local children from September 2020. It was agreed that this subject will be added to the agenda for the next meeting. **GD**

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 11th February 2020 at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm

Signed Dated

Proposed

Seconded

DRAFT