Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Coral Dean, The Granary, Durham Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS21 3LS

Email: thorpe.grindon@outlook.com

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th July 2019 in the Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Attendees – Michael Lowson / Michelle Davies / Gareth Rees / Richard Mudd / Lynne Williams /Paul John / Coral Dean / Gwynn Dunn / + 5 Residents /

Apologies – John Gardner

Interests

There was no conflict of interest given from any Council member

Minutes

agreed by all

Public voice

A representative from St James' church mentioned she had sent an email request for the consideration of £1,100 for maintenance of the church yard. The Church Yard is unkempt and needing maintenance, the maintenance needed is not straightforward as it is bushes and overgrown plants requiring trimming and not just lawn cutting meaning this is more time consuming and cost incurring.

Banking

MD it was previously agreed for her to be a signatory.

PJ We need the bank to push through as we have funds locked that we need to pay debts and we have to pay in cheques.

CD All the information is in the banks hands and I'm sure we will be sorted soon with account and sort code that is required to start possessing the payments and cheques.

Insurance

CD The insurance is running and to be paid at the nearest possible time. Zurich is happy for us to notify them once the bank account is up and running to make this payment.

PJ What happens if we don't have the bank set up in time.

CD we keep in communication with Zurich as to what is happening and when we expect to be able to make the payment.

Wynyard Road 40 MPH signs

RM feels there would be no significant change to the speed at which people drive by installing 40 mile an hour signs.

MD As there is no representative to discuss this with and we haven't been sent any further information for this we will raise again at the next meeting if we receive additional information.

Additional parking on Wynyard Road

PJ The Resident is now looking at alternative ways to access parking at the back of the property so is happy for us to leave this point until contacted further

Outdoor improvements

MD asks for a little background

LW / GR explain that the previous Council offered £500 before.

RM asks why if churches get so many different forms of funds, why are they unable to fund it themselves.

St James' Rep They look after and maintain 5 churches and they need to continue St. James' are responsible but are asking for donations, the average age of regular attendees at St James' Church is 70 + so their current members cannot do this on a voluntary basis for health and safety reasons.

The Church of England also own a house in the village but no funds come from this house to the church. The church is part of the village and they would like it to be more visually pleasing for the village and people visiting.

The church is exempt from council tax so Richard just wondered why the council tax should fund such activities at the church.

GR says it's good to have a healthy discussion of why we are using their money but it seems that the precept is there for the community and as people visiting the village see the church and attend even if just twice a year or on the odd occasion it should be maintained and kept looking pleasing to the eye. Suggests we give the £500 this year and then once we have re-evaluated and have a better view of what funds we have available we would like to amend these funds to be greater.

CD In the Email application it was highlighted that the funds are to be ring-fenced and only designated to be used within the churchyard maintenance.

Gareth - Propose that we care for the church with £500 and then check after a year that we'd have a good guide of available funds and Paul said yes, we can.

£500 to be the amount awarded as agreed by all

LW asks who we would be paying would it be the service provider or the church directly.

After direction from Gwynn and how she would proceed it is decided to pay the church the £500 for them to be responsible for the maintenance and providing the service of clearing then follow up with proof by receipts.

Overgrown and lack of visibility over the bridge at Thorpe Thewles.

Residents have in the past cut back the growth for visibility to be told by the landowner not to touch any of their bushes or trees. There is a point where highways will be able to enforce the maintenance of the bushes as they are obstructing the road to view oncoming traffic. When contacting highways, it may also be good to have photos grid reference as this may help and images from Google Maps.

Follow up from grass verge

GR received a confirmation back that the reason the current underground part of the road in this is a historic some curved was added as developments made and others are left as they were.

The concern was the parking in this area.

LW has no problem with cars being parked and the erosion is more likely to be villages walking over the grass as this is evident throughout the village and not just this one place.

PJ The parked cars are on a public road and there's not much that can be done to prevent it as they are within their rights to park there.

Policies and procedures

LW we do need to have policies and procedures in place and will need NALC SLCC will have up-to-date copies of policies and procedures that we can just amend with names and dates.

Future Agenda Points

- Chains and posts
- access to the play area
- sub planning committee
- website

date of the next meeting for August 13th at 6:30 p.m.

Agreed By

Date: