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 10th March 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)

District Cllr. John Gardener
3 local residents were present.

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

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda
Cllr. Lynn Williams declared a prejudicial interest in the planning application for Grindon Parish Hall as she is a member of the Hall Management Committee.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th February 2020
Cllr. Michelle Davies signed the minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2020 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
The Clerk confirmed she had received the copies of the plans for the SUDS system from Mandale Homes as promised at the last meeting. The Clerk has not had any contact yet from the developers at the new building site on Durham Road – Cllr. John will ensure they have the email address for the Parish Council so they can make contact if they want to at any time. **PJ**

5. Public Discussion – Needs updating form here onwards
A resident from Durham Road informed Councillors that he intends on submitting revised plans for his property – plans for a development had been submitted but had later been withdrawn. The resident offered to discuss his proposals with the Councillors but they agreed they will wait to discuss them once a planning application has been submitted – as is the usual practice. Cllr. Rees asked it to be minuted that he did not want to enter into any discussion with the property owner.

District Cllr. Gardener was unable to stay for the full meeting but had the following comments to make about agenda items. He informed members that the rate of obtaining a permit for using the civic amenity site at Haverton Hill is due to increase from £15 to £20 per year for larger vehicles and trailers. This may increase the amount of fly tipping in the Borough. The new procedures for funding highway projects in the Borough was discussed – see item 10 below.

6. Finance
a. Accounts update
The monthly accounts update had been circulated to all Members.

b. Parish Council bank account administration
Cllr. Williams has changed the address of the account and is still trying to progress with obtaining

DRAFT

internet access for the account. The bank is proving very slow to provide the secure keys needed for accessing the internet account. **LW**

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

000024 - £221.40 – G Dunn – Salary and general overhead expenses February – March (£10.00)
000025 - £1271.40 – David Ogilvie Ltd. – Memorial Bench

7. Planning – to discuss any new and on-going planning applications
20/0428/FUL Grindon Parish Hall, Durham Road, Thorpe Thewles
Insertion of a window and door to the north west side elevation. Erection of a ramp and insertion of an additional door to the south east elevation.
Cllr. Williams left the room.
There were no comments on this application
Cllr. Williams returned to the meeting.

20/0406/FUL 36 Astral Drive, Thorpe Thewles, Stockton-on-Tees, TS21 3JF
Erection of a single storey extension to side to include the installation of steps to the rear
There were no comments on this application.

19/1752/FUL Follyfoot Banks, Calf Fallow Lane, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees, TS20 1PF
Erection of 1 dwelling
This application has been approved on appeal.

19/0079/FUL Fir Tree Farm, Blakeston Lane, Stockton-on-Tees
Application for the erection of an agricultural building for the housing of livestock
This application has been refused.

20/0174/FPD 3 Buckthorn Crescent TS21 3LD. Erection of single storey rear extension.
This application has been approved.

8. Progress Reports

a. **Village Green Chains – progress report**
The majority of the new chains have been installed. Cllr. John will wait until a few posts have been straightened before completing the work. The Clerk has asked SBC to provide a quote for straightening the posts that require attention. **PJ GR GD**

b. **Trees, vegetation and footpath management in the Parish – Update**
The work to the trees and hedge on the Village Green has been completed by SBC staff.

While some repairs were made to stiles and access points to footpaths following a request in January there are still some open points adjacent to Durham Road where it is thought stiles should be in place. The Clerk will check the status of the paths concerned and liaise with the SBC Rights of Way Officer about these locations. **GD**

There is a section of path adjacent to the Village Green that is in poor condition. Councillors were unsure as to who the land belongs to. The Clerk said she will have a look at the area and try and find out who is responsible for the path. **GD**

c. **Commemorative Bench – progress report**
The bench has been delivered and is in safe storage. Cllrs. Rees and John and the Clerk had met an

DRAFT

Officer from SBC the previous week and identified a suitable location for the bench. The Clerk is liaising with SBC over the installation work. The History Group are planning an event on Friday 8th May to mark the 75th anniversary of VE day – this will be the official 'unveiling' of the new bench. **GD**

d. **Appointment of new Parish Clerk – update on this process**

There were 16 applicants for this position. Shortlisting has taken place by Cllrs. Davies, Williams, Rees and the Clerk. 4 candidates will be interviewed on 18th March. It was agreed the Cllrs. Williams, Davies and the Clerk will form the interview panel. **GD LW MD**

e. Rural Crime Forum – feedback from this meeting

Cllr. Rees had attended this meeting. He had raised the problems experienced while trying to carry out a speedwatch exercise recently with memebrs of the Thorpe Thewles Residents Association and two local PCSO's. The equipment provided was antiquated and the date selected was in the school holidays so had not been representative of the usual traffic situation. At the foum meeting domestic abuse in rural areas had been raised as an issue of concern that people may not be aware of. Recent studies and reports about this issue had shown that the problem is under-reported particularly in rural areas and victims can often be isolated and not sure where to go to for help and advice. Work is underway to try an improve the situation. Cleveland Police is due to recruit more officers over the next few years. The Clerk was asked to try and find out if there are any police officers or PCSO's specifically allocated to cover the Parish. **GD**

f. **Public Transport – update following the launch of the new demand responsive bus service**.

The Tees Flex service is now operating around the area. Initial feedback from customers has been very positive. The app and phone booking system are not fully functioning yet – return and advance journeys cannot be booked at the moment – but it is anticipated that these features will be added in due course.

g. **School Transport – to discuss changes to the school transport service that could negatively affect some local children from September 2020**.

There were no updates about this issue – once pupil numbers have been confirmed by the schools later in in March/April for September 2020 the schools will be able to decide whether they can provide any assistance to pupils.

h. Road sweeping and litter collection request – update on work undertaken and general information.

Road sweeping had been carried out around the village as requested. The Clerk had recently submitted a question to SBC Care for Your Area as requested about the regularity of litter collection on the road verges in the Borough. She had not had a response to her query yet. **GD**

9. Funding Request – to consider a request for financial support from Stockton Country Parish towards the cost of managing St James Churchyard

The Clerk had received a letter from the PCC of the Stockton Country Parish. It thanked the Parish Council for their support during the current financial year and asked if similar support could be provided for the following year. Details of the allocation of the funding given to SCP in 2019 was provided. It was discussed and proposed by Cllr. Rees and seconded by Cllr. Davies that £750.00 should be given to the SCP in April 2020 with similar conditions regarding spending and feedback as the previous year.

The Clerk was asked to try and find out how many burial plots remain in the churchyard at St. James. **GD**

10. Request for lower speed limits in the Parish – details of new SBC procedure to allocate funding to highways projects

Following the request at the January meeting to look into the procedure to reduce the speed limits in the Parish the Clerk had been informed by SBC that instead of the Area Transport Strategy meetings that had taken place in the past to allocate funding to highways projects, from April 2020 the budget for projects of this nature will be divided between wards with the amount of funding allocated linked to the population of the ward. Ward Councillors will decide what projects will be funded. The amount of funding available for each ward has not been agreed yet. The Clerk will try and find out more about this process and the funding available in due course. **GD**

11. Vacant Land – Buckthorn Crescent – feedback following query at previous meeting

The Clerk had contacted SBC about this problem and the Highways Officer had cut back the vegetation from the footpath on this occasion. The Clerk had been informed by the Highways Officer that as the area is private land this is the extent of work that can be carried out by SBC. SBC staff will try to contact the landowner to let them know of neighbours concerns and ask them to maintain the area themselves in the future.

12. Fly tipping – to discuss this issue

Cllr. Davies is regularly reporting incidents of fly tipping that are occurring in a layby close to her property to SBC. She asked the Clerk to request a 'no fly tipping here sign' is installed at the location – there is a sign like this in another layby in the area. The Clerk agreed to do this. **GD**

13. Correspondence – to review the list of incoming correspondence

07/02/2020	Stagecoach	Tees Flex drop in sessions
10/02/2020	NALC	Chief Exec Bulletin
10/02/2020	SBC	Developments limits map
11/02/2020	CDALC	External Audit Mazars Course
12/02/2020	SBC	Planning Lists
12/02/2020	NALC	Newsletter
14/02/2020	CLCA	Lobby Day
15/02/2020	Cllr RM	Revised development plans - draft
17/02/2020	TVNP	Small grants scheme information
19/02/2020	SBC	Liaison re bench location
20/02/2020	D Ogilvie	Plaque Proof – Memorial bench
24/02/2020	NALC	Chief Exec Bulletin
24/02/2020	TVRA	Village Hall News
24/02/2020	SBC	Planning Lists
25/02/2020	SBC	Liaison re road sweeper visits to Thorpe Thewles
28/02/2020	D Ogilvie	Invoice – Memorial bench
28/02/2020	CLCA	Hire of Equipment Register
02/03/2020	CLCA	Funding Bulletin
02/02/2020	NALC	Chief Exec Bulletin
02/03/2020	SBC	Invitation to Stockton on Tees Annual Meeting

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02/03/2020	SBC	Local Government Boundary Review
05/03/2020	SBC	Planning Lists
05/03/2020	TV Mayor	Tees Flex Leaflet
06/03/2020	SBC	Liaison re plot of vacant land
06/03/2020	SBC	Appeal Decision – Follyfoot Banks

14. Councillors Reports and items for future agendas

The Clerk will obtain prices for an anti-virus package for the Parish Council laptop as the current system will expire in a couple of months. **GD**

15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 14th April 2020 at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles. G.Dunn is not available to Clerk this meeting. It was agreed that Cllr. Williams will take minutes – unless a new Clerk has been appointed and is available to attend. G. Dunn will confirm arrangements and prepare the papers for the meeting as usual in advance.

The meeting ended at 8.00pm

Signed Dated

Proposed

Seconded

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