Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 6:30pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Gillson (Chair); Hamblett; McGee; Moffatt; and Rees
In Attendance: 2 residents

1. **Public Forum:**
   Resident asked for any update from the doctor's surgery re prescriptions & possible visiting doctor? The clerk has approached the surgery to open the dialogue. **Resolved** for clerk to send a follow up letter to the Practice Manger.

2. **Ward Councillors report:** Apologies were received from Cllr Gardner.

3. **Apologies:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Davies and C.Chapman (clerk). Absence was also noted for Cllr Hogg.

4. **Declarations of Interest**: None.

5. **Minutes of** the Parish Council meeting held on ***Tuesday 13th January 2026*** were proposed by Cllr Gillson and seconded by Cllr Rees. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

6. **Matters Arising**:
   I. Cllr Gillson has spoken to Alan McPhail re the use of drones to demonstrate the extent of local solar farms. Alan offers to take photographs if/ when future developments are proposed to show the "before" images. This could support any objections to the development.
   Resident S.McCready offered to prepare a map showing existing solar farms and also superimpose the Byers Gill development.
   II. The village church is in need of routine maintenance. Cllr Rees has requested advice from local church representative, with little news forthcoming. Rumor is the church could be closed in 2 years? Can the PC contact the relevant church organization to seek clarification re future plans for the church. Villagers are concerned about the building fabric deteriorating, the churchyard needs regular maintenance and the huge trees in the churchyard need regular inspection?
   III. The path local to the church was covered with wood chippings several years ago. This has rotted and the path is very muddy again. Can we request SBC to provide wood chippings or consider buying gravel to improve the situation?

7. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Have contacted local contractors re planter planting maintenance.

8. **Personnel Committee Report:** Nothing to report.

9. **Social Activities Committee report:** Cllr Gillson advised the latest wine night on 30 January went well. Race night is scheduled for 16 April. The next wine night is scheduled for 26 June.

10. **Financial Reports.** The financial reports were noted.

Receipts:

	£
Wine night sales – additional sales	£15.00
Wine night raffle proceeds	£275.00
TOTAL	**£290.00**

Payments:

Hall Hire - December	£93.75
Bank Service Charge – January	£6.00
CDALC New Councillor Training – J Hogg	£35.00
Brother Print Subscription	£4.49
Reimburse B Gillson – Food for January wine night	£247.72
Reimburse J Hogg – Hamper items and chocolate as prizes for wine night	£25.90
Parish Hall hire charges - January	£105.00
TOTAL	**£517.86**

11. **Training Opportunities:** No new training opportunities have been received.

12. **Planning:** No comments/ objections to the latest applications:

    26/0070/PDE – Single storey extension to 23 Astral Drive.

    25/2128/FUL – Extension to Middlefield Farm.

13. **Items of Concern to Councillors:** The issues log was reviewed and noted.

    Issue Log Item
    The Issues Log captures items received in prior meetings until their conclusion. Current issues are:

1. **Astral Park Amenity space** – Mandale contractors have been removing excess spoil for several weeks. Have requested SBC that when the work is declared complete, we accompany their inspectors. Also will the field be grassed? We have also requested clarification re current/ future maintenance of the storm water system.
2. **Chicane at Astral Park Resolved** installation planned 23 February 2026.
3. **Speedwatch** – no update provided. Cllr McGee to follow up. The results could support the installation of speed humps, as installed in Wolviston & Norton Glebe? Request Wolviston PC for advice re the approval procedure & costs?
4. **Christmas Tree Lights –** quote has been requested for new electric point for tree on North end of village.
5. **Durham Road Hedgerow @ Henley Park.** SBC chasing Homes by Carlton for action.
6. **A177 / Wynyard road junction –** Update requested from SBC Highways following recent accidents.
7. **Request to reinstate painted speed signs on road -** Durham Road (Henley Drive end). SBC confirm this request will be added to their future plans.
8. **Closed path to Whitton –** SBC asked to provide timeline for opening.
9. **Stillington doctors –** approach made, will follow up with letter to Practice Manager.
10. **Planter Maintenance –** options to be assessed for planting/maintenance of planters.
11. **Revised SBC contact list** - requested Cllr Gardner to provide an updated contact list.
12. **Mud on road at solar farm** - Cllr Davies has raised with SBC to seek regular cleaning. We need to also consider the state of the road local to the Hell Hole solar farm. This has been made worse by lorries taking the Astral Park field spoil off site.
13. **Wynyard Park pots and pans** sculpture – requested Cllr Gardner to support repairs & improve access.

14. **Hell Hole Layby** – Resident has asked if this could be closed off as it is attracting unsocial behaviour (lampers, etc). It was suggested the lampers meet near to the Hamilton Russell & head to the nearby fields? An alternative option is to improve the Hell Hole area for legitimate parking as it is used by walkers, etc?
15. **Field opposite Henley Drive** – any update re future development? The field is part owned by the church? Could money raised by the sale of the field be used to maintain the church?

14. **Communications**.
Clerk to post information regarding Doctors once info received.
Clerk to approach Church re their plans for the village church.
Clerk to approach SBC re wood chippings to reinstate the path adjacent to the church.
Clerk to raise issue of road cleaning local to north end of village.

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 6.30pm Tuesday 10th March 2026 at Grindon Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 7:35 pm

Minutes Authorised By: **Minutes Seconded By:**