Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th July 2025 at 6:30pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Gillson (Chair); Hamblett; Moffatt and Rees
In Attendance: John Gardner (SBC Councillor); C. Chapman, Clerk; 3 residents

1. **Public Forum:**
   A resident queried action about the tree at North Close that was reported. SBC officer advised the trees were out of control, but no action was taken, can resident cut them back. **Resolved**: clerk to follow up with SBC.

   A resident asked if an officer from Waste and Recycling was attending a future meeting. The clerk advised they would be at the September meeting.

   A resident advised he had been contacting SBC re Council Tax, but phone message constantly advises "busy try again". Cllr Gardner will get someone senior to contact the resident direct.

   A resident asked about A177 issues. It was advised SBC Highways were aware and looking at options for this stretch of road. **Resolved** for the clerk to ask for public engagement as part of the assessment of options. Cllr Gardner asked to be copied in so he can also chase periodically.

   A resident asked about action regarding speed on Durham Road (opposite Henley Drive). **Resolved** for Cllr McGee to advise on any progress (had last contact re Speedwatch). It was suggested the road markings could be reinstated along this route**. Resolved** for Clerk to request.

   A resident raised litter alongside Durham Road. They do pick litter regularly. Cllr Gillson advised we could do a village litter pick. **Resolved** to request Cllr Gardner to jointly fund a litter bin for the site, clerk to progress.

2. **Ward Councillors report: Cl**lr Gardner provided he had checked on planned dates for the Chicane, work is in the programme but not scheduled yet. Cllr Gardner was also aware of proposals to revisit the gate under the A177 underpass to ensure a suitable gate allowing pushchair access was installed.

   After checking there were no other issues for his attention Cllr Gardner left the meeting.

3. **Apologies:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Davies and McGee.

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

5. **Minutes of** the Parish Council meeting held on ***Tuesday 10th June 2025*** were proposed by Cllr Hamblett and seconded by Cllr Gillson. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

6. **Matters Arising**: It was resolved to invite Matt Storey, Police Commissioner to the October meeting.

7. **Maintenance Committee Report:** A resident advised they would still maintain 2 planters. Cllr Gillson and the Clerk will help relocate. It was noted how attractive the multi-tier planters were, with thanks to the resident. The Clerk volunteered to water those planters next week in the resident's absence.

8. **Personnel Committee Report:** Cllr Gillson provided an update on co-option; 2 individuals have expressed interest. Julie Hogg has subsequently volunteered and been accepted. ANOther resident is considering volunteering.

9. **Social Activities Committee report:** Cllr Gillson advised the race night only has 32 attendees. 46 are needed to break even. Cllr Gillson asked for further interest to enable a decision on whether to continue with the event. Final post after next Social Committee with a deadline to request tickets to be issued.

10. **Financial Reports.** The financial reports were noted. The clerk advised some assets (coffee machine, wine glasses and donation box) were purchased by the Parish Council to donate to the Parish Hall (as part of the approved £800 donation). As VAT can be reclaimed this could increase the value of the donation to £960.

Financial Transactions 3 June - 30 June 2025

Receipts:

	£
English Wine night – income from speakers purchase of wine	59.50
English Wine night – raffle proceeds	290.00
TOTAL	**349.50**

Payments:

Bank Service charge (June)	6.00
Reimburse JG - plants for planters	35.89
Reimburse JG – purchase of mystery wine for English Wine night	93.79
Reimburse JG – food for English Wine Night	168.31
SBC – installation of village signs	876.00
Parish Hall – rent for May	43.75
Reimburse clerk – paper guillotine	10.99
Chess ICT Website	114.24
Clerk – Salary Apr – June	561.20
HMRC PAYE Apr - June	373.60
TOTAL	**2,283.77**

11. **Training Opportunities:** There was no additional training available.

12. **Planning:**
    - **Port Clarence consultation to accept low level radioactive waste**. Noted, residents encouraged to comment on proposals if they have views.
    - **Durham County Council call for building sites**. Agreed not to comment or propose sites.
    - **25/0245 Hell Hole Farm variation to plans for solar farm**. Noted, proposals were minor and would improve access to lorries from A177 which means lorries can avoid going through the village.

13. **Items of Concern to Councillors:** The issues log was reviewed and noted.
    - Cllr Rees advised he had raised with Thirteen Group the height of grass on opposite side of road from Hall. The Clerk advised he had also contacted SBC to request the grass be cut.
    - Councillors noted the Fallen Tree Branch on Village Green and noted the tree is split all the way. **Resolved** for the Clerk to ask 3rd party to assess and advise.

14. **Communications** It was **agreed** to post about the Race Night following next weeks Social Committee.

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 6.30pm Tuesday 9th September 2025 at Grindon Parish Hall. A meeting will be convened on 12th August if there are urgent issues to resolve.

Meeting closed at 7:37pm

Minutes Authorised By:
Minutes Seconded By:

Date