# Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th December 2025 at 6:30pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

**Present:** Cllrs. Davies (Chair); Gillson; Hamblett; Hogg; Moffat and Rees
**In Attendance:** Neil Mitchell & Stephen Bowerbank (SBC); C. Chapman, Clerk; 3 residents

1. **Public Forum:**
   Chair welcomed Neil & Stephen from Stockton Council (SBC) who were in attendance to discuss play park options. Neil outlined SBC play park policy, current location of parks and rationalization in terms of funding available. Intent would be to retain a strategic asset base regarding play parks linked to play needs; other local play options; number of households and maintenance costs. Developer contributions are intended for new play sites, often maintained as part of the development management fee; not to maintain existing sites.

   The plan for Thorpe Thewles Park would be to remove any failed equipment if no other funding exists to replace the item. Some local councils have taken on their play parks, with support from SBC.
   A resident asked why there was no resident or parish council involvement in determining the strategy. SBC officers advised the review was evidenced based.
   Concern was expressed that the Castle Eden park was extremely busy and across the busy A177. It was additionally noted the underpass was not accessible for pushchairs following SBC installing a new gate.
   It was noted the Committee report stated estimated costs of £23,360 to replace equipment in 5 to 10 years and an additional £16,750 in years 5 to 10.
   The play park would need annual inspection; SBC officers advised they could do regular ROSPA assessments at cost of £1200 per annum.
   Residents and Councillors challenged large spend on the urban play park and Preston Park, at same time our park is being put into a managed decline, due to lack of funds
   The Parish Council could consider options including 1.Stay as is' and decide whether to swap out failed equipment as and when needed or 2. Undertake a full Asset Transfer
   **Resolved**: Parish Councillors to consider preferred stance and discuss at future meeting.
   Neil and Stephen offered to come back to further meeting and/or meet at the play park and emphasized they were there to support proposals.

   A resident queried the A177 junction and the recent further accident. The clerk advised they had updated SBC highways officer after the accident who restated intent to share proposals with the parish council.

   A resident asked if there was any update on the Arriva bus plans. A resident advised that there was lots of response to the consultation which was one of the reasons it was closed early.

2. **Ward Councillors report:** no updates provided, Cllr Gardner absent.

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

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

5. **Minutes of** the Parish Council meeting held on ***Tuesday 11th November 2025*** were proposed by Cllr Gillson and seconded by Cllr Hamblett. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

6. **Matters Arising**: Cllr Rees asked about proposal for drone footage. Clerk advised he had not progressed as expected the play park discussion to dominate the meeting. Cllr Davies advised as an alternative Google Maps could provide the data.

7. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Gillson advised multi-tier planters had been replanted. New planters had been looked at for Henley Drive entrance; round planters at £80 a pair or rectangular £70 per pair. It was agreed to purchase in line with strategy for them to be located to be seen from main roads; to be standardised in terms of appearance and to be located near to the volunteer wishing to maintain. **Agreed**: to buy new round planters; **Resolved** for Clerk to reflect strategy in Maintenance Committee Terms of Ref.

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

9. **Social Activities Committee report:** Cllr Gillson advised November wine night well received. Next wine night 30 January – 65 tickets sold. Santa Day 20th December. 14 attendees.

10. **Financial Reports.** The financial reports were noted. Agreed to provide a Christmas gift of £25 to the children in the home. Resolved for Chair to progress. The deed in relation to the solar farms was briefly noted, we will need to consider how this could be spent. Draft budget to be presented at January meeting. Chair asked Cllrs to consider budget needs for next year.

**Financial Transactions 4 November – 2 December**

**Receipts:**

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Christmas Fayre proceeds | £316.50 |
| Christmas Fayre – sale of stalls | £180.00 |
| November wine night – raffle | £215.12 |
| November wine night – sale of wine on night | £20.00 |
| **TOTAL** | **£731.62** |

**Payments:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Bank Charges November | £6.00 |
| ICO Data Protection Fees | £47.00 |
| Reimburse clerk – print subscription | £4.49 |
| Reimburse J Gillson – Food for wine night | £215.12 |
| Reimburse clerk – Tree planted sign | £18.60 |
| Replacement tree, planting, delivery and purchase | £341.60 |
| **TOTAL** | **£632.81** |

11. **Training Opportunities:** No new opportunities had been identified.

12. **Planning:**
    - **25/2366/TNOT.** Vodaphone Cells at Hell Hole Lane – noted
    - **Lighthouse Green Fuels** – a new sustainable aviation fuel facility for Teesside – no comments

13. **Items of Concern to Councillors:** The issues log was reviewed and noted.
    - **Chicane at Astral Park Resolved** for Clerk to contact SBC Highways for update
    - **Christmas Tree Lights –** Sam will install on Thursday without charge but asked if we would give something to children / families. **Agreed** Cllr Hogg to advise Sam we were providing Christmas gifts to the home and selection boxes at Santa Day.
    - **Play Park. Agreed** to pick up after the budget discussions. Clerk to put together a discussion paper.
    - Closed footpath to Whitton, **Agreed** for Clerk to ask Neil if he is aware
    - Cllr Gillson asked if there was any update on the land that was for sale on Durham Road near the Hamilton Russell. Councillors/Clerk were not aware of any update.

14. **Communications** None.

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 6.30pm Tuesday 13th January 2025 at Grindon Parish Hall.

*Meeting closed at 8:03 pm*

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