Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

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

Present: Cllrs. Davies (Chair); Gillson; Hamblett; Hogg; Moffatt and Rees
In Attendance: C Chapman (Clerk); 1 resident

1. **Public Forum:**
   A resident advised they had raised concerns about decline of Billingham Town Centre at the last meeting with the SBC planners and noted that plans had been released for some investment back into the centre.

2. **Ward Councillors report / items:** Cllr Gardner not in attendance and no update provided (see Issues Log for update on other changes)

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

4. **Declarations of Interest**: There were no reported conflicts of interest.

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

6. **Matters Arising**: Cllr Rees provided an update on the church closure consultation. The site would be sold, but there was no information on the artifacts in the church or on the graves and what would happen to them. It was noted the lights festival was not proceeding Cllr Rees felt the parish council would want to ask questions about the future of the site. It was suggested contact could be made with the Durham Diocese to raise these issues

7. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Gillson advised he had made contact with a handyperson (Ian Priestman) regarding cleaning the white posts around the village green which are currently moss /algae covered. £250 plus materials; and to rub down, stain/paint and cover with preservative 4 wooden benches and 2 metal benches. £550. Works were **Approved**.
   Cllr Rees also suggested some street signs could do with cleaning, which was also agreed

   Cllr Hogg asked if SBC also cleaned footpaths, as the gully sweepers had just been in the village, but some roads / paths not covered. **Resolved** for the Clerk to ask for schedule of road /gulley cleaning from SBC.

   Cllr Davies raised issue about the Wynyard Walkway warden who is being made redundant. Councillors expressed concerns about lack of knowledge of what the warden did and resultant negative impact to visitors, litter and general deterioration of the walkway as a result. **Resolved** for clerk to approach friends of the walkway to offer support.

8. **Personnel Committee Report:** The Parish Clerk advised there were no applicants to date. Agencies and councillors to reach out to potential candidates

9. **Social Activities Committee Report.**
   - 6th November: Wine Night. Cruise around the world went very well. It was resolved to make a £250 donation to the British Legion from funds raised
   - 14th November: Christmas Fayre; all tables sold
   - 9th Dec Christmas Choir 7-10pm; 30 choir members. Tickets currently on sale
   - 19th Dec: Santa Day; with Grotto
   - 15th January: Music Bingo and Pie and Peas

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- 19th March TBC next wine night

10. Financial Reports. The financial reports were noted. The Clerk advised the initial draft 2027/28 budget proposals had been included for information and advised he was attending a meeting the following week with Stockton Council where he suspected charges for running the elections would be outlined. The clerk advised he intended to push back and ask for options.

Financial Transactions 6 October – 2 November 2026

Receipts:	**£**
VAT claim – April – Sept 2026	£637.21
November wine night tickets – additional ticket	£15.00
Total	**£652.21**

Payments:	
Bank Service Charge – September	£7.00
Brother Print Subscription – October	£4.49
Parish Hall Rental – September	£105.00
Reimburse A McGee – beer festival	£85.10
Reimburse Clerk – cash for band fee – Music Night	£350.00
Reimburse Ian K– wine for wine night	£130.50
Reimburse j Gillson – Social Events	£560.35
Reimburse P Rycroft – wine for wine night	£107.91
Banners to advertise events	£60.00
Reimburse Jane A for plants to maintain planters	£143.53
NALC subscription	£139.46
Reimburse N Settle – wine for social events	£178.80
TOTAL	**£1,872.14**

11. Training Opportunities: Opportunities had been circulated previously, no new training opportunities have been received.

12. Planning:

- **East Coast Hydrogen** the potential route close to the village was noted along with a meeting on 2nd December to outline proposals. Cllrs Hamblett and Rees offered to attend the meeting.

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

1. **Astral Park**: SBC are to ask Mandale to reseed, and consider issue closed. Clerk to follow up with Simon Grundy who offered to chase actions.
2. **Christmas Lights:** quote received from SBC t install new electric point for tree lights of £3319.85 + VAT. Agreed to hold pending understanding of playground costs.
3. **Durham Road Hedgerow @ Henley Drive** – SBC planners will follow replacement whip planting and maintenance with Homes by Carlton. Clerk to follow up with Simon Grundy who offered to chase actions.
4. **A177 / Wynyard Road junction and recent accidents:** Works planned 21 November.
5. **Request to reinstate speed signs on road on Durham Road (Henley Drive end);** SBC confirm road painting on forward plan when funding allows. SBC confirm no funding for traffic calming, as not an identified accident spot.
6. **Closed path to Whitton –** Post meeting note – Path now re-opened – CLOSE ISSUE
7. **Path adjacent to church** – SBC are contacting contractors to lay road plainings, noting with weather this is likely to be spring at earliest.
8. **Proposed Investments; using expected funding from Solar Farms**. The revised operational start date of the solar farms is during November, funding then expected 2-months later
    a. **Speed Control Measures**. To be progressed pending funding and approval by SBC highways.
    b. **Playpark**. Funding to be earmarked and boosted annually by using some precept funding. Play park upgrade project to commence when new clerk appointed

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14. **Communications**. – No specific communications noted, other than re-posting the Parish Clerk Vacancy

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 6.30pm Tuesday 8th December 2026.

Meeting closed at 7:30 pm

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

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