Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 6.30pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Davies (in the Chair), Gillson, McGee and Rees
In Attendance: M. Ireland, Clerk; 9 residents

1. **Public Forum:** Several residents of Astral Park wished to update the Parish Council on matters relating to Mandale Homes. Having received legal advice, they know they do not have to accept the land into the Management Company. They will be giving notice to Hunters, as they feel there is a clear conflict of interest, Hunters having been appointed by Mandale, and residents have now opened discussions with an alternative management company. The plan is to investigate the cost of fencing off the 'hole/SUDS' in the field, as this is an insurance requirement – there is great concern about the insurance cover currently provided by the Management Company. residents are very concerned and disgusted at the silence from SBC, and will be taking up several issues with SBC, including this 'hole' (storm water flood basin); e.g. they noted that one of the conditions of planning had been the provision of a play are in the centre of the estate, but this had not been done. Questions are being asked regarding who has been regulating the development, as the 'hole' is clearly not a SUDS, is not in line with the plans submitted and Northumbrian Water has refused to accept it. There are still concerns about the land 'purchased' by one of the Mandale personnel, for which the intention is to gain planning permission for 3 more houses, (probably self-build), to which access could only be obtained via Astral Park. Those present at the meeting expressed concern that Mr. Grundy was not present, as several had postponed other appointments to attend. The Chairman informed that she had spoken that day to Mr. Grundy, who had apologised that he was unable to attend the meeting but committed to attending the February meeting. She noted that Mr. Grundy had informed her that SBC had reached an agreement with Mandale, though she was not clear whether this agreement related to the land or just the 'hole'.
   Cllr Rees noted that any contamination of the land was entirely due to the developer, as until they developed the land, it had been a meadow used to graze horses and sheep.
   All but one resident left the meeting at 6.57 pm

2. Apologies: Cllrs Lowson and Moffatt – accepted. Mr. Simon Grundy, SBC.

3. **Declarations of Interest**: None declared.

4. **Minutes of13th December 2022**: Cllr Rees proposed, with Cllr Davies seconding, the approval of the draft minutes of 13th December. All concurring, it was **resolved** to accept the minutes as a true record.

5. **Matters Arising**: ***(i) Dropped kerbs*** – the Clerk read out the response from SBC to the request for installation of the seven dropped kerbs agreed at the December meeting, which indicated that some of them would not be suitable for visually impaired persons. After a brief discussion, it was **agreed** the Clerk should request a quote for all 14 identified, but without the sensory paving. **Action**: Clerk to request quote as agreed. ***(ii) Grit Bins***- The Clerk informed she had as yet not received the requested information from Cllr Moffatt as to the actual placement of the two grit

bins owner by the Parish Council, without which she could not issue an order for grit to be delivered. Cllr Gillson agreed to elicit the information and pass this to the Clerk. **Action:** Cllr Gillson to identify the placement of the grit bins and inform the Clerk.

6. **Policies Review:** The following revised and new policies were presented for approval: ***Data protection & Records Management Policy, Complaints Procedure, Persistent & Vexatious Complaints & Correspondence Procedure, Email Policy, Media & Recording of Meetings Policy, Social Media Policy and Website Policy.*** All present having agreed that they had read and understood the drafts and had no questions or concerns, the Chairman proposed that all be approved, this was **unanimously agreed**. **Action:** Clerk to date all agreed policies and procedures.

7. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Gillson reported that the wall in front of Hamilton Court had been repaired by SBC, however, the wall which was the responsibility of the Thirteen Group as it was around their properties, had not yet been addressed, despite several requests from the Clerk. The trees would be pruned once planning permission was granted. It was noted that recently a 6-year-old child had been killed by a falling tree at a school in Newcastle, and the Local Authority, whose land this was on, had been fined £220,000 for lack of proper maintenance. It was agreed that the SBC Arborist be requested to provide a costing for an annual inspection and written report on all trees on Parish Council land. Cllr Gillson also noted the Clerk had undertaken further research into appropriate replacement noticeboards. As a result he wished to recommend the purchase of 2 x aluminium boards with side opening doors. Councillors agreed unanimously, and requested these be painted a dark green, with a Parish Council heading. **Actions**: Clerk to request Thirteen Group again to repair the wall by their properties, to request a quote from the SBC Arborist for a tree inspection and to purchase two x green-painted, aluminium notice boards.

8. **Social Activities Committee report:** Cllr McGee reported that a leaflet drop had recently taken place around the village, regarding the next event to be held on 3rd February 'Fizz Friday' a wine-tasting event. Tickets were £10pp and included a talk on how 'fizz' was made, tastings of 6 different 'fizzy' wines, including champagne, cava, prosecco, MCC, Rob Armitage's Apple wine and a mystery bottle. Numbers would be limited to 64. The next events would be History Group talks on Wednesdays January 18th and February 15th, from 1.30-2.30pm, and the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Monday, 10th April. On 3rd March, the Parish Hall Committee were running a Jazz Night, in aid of Parish Hall funds, which several Social Activity Committee members were helping with. Cllr McGee finally requested suggestions to add to those already made, as to how we should celebrate the Coronation in May. Ideas so far included: a street party, make your own crown, dress as King or Queen competition, Tea Dance and/or a screening of the Coronation live at the Parish Hall. There had been concern that a street closure would not be permitted, but ideally, if Durham Road could be closed, from the chicane at the west end of the village to Manor Cottages, this would provide ample space for a village street party. **Action:** Clerk to request street closure as identified.

9. **Financial Reports –** the Clerk presented the statement of Financial Transactions and the Actual against Budget Report, which were **approved**. The Chairman noted the Children's Home had been very appreciative of the vouchers given as Christmas presents to the resident children.

Receipts		**Payments**	
		Amazon Vouchers for children	£125.00
TOTAL	**0.00**	**TOTAL**	**£125.00**

10. **Ward Councillor's Report:** None received.

11. **Correspondence:** (a) **Neighbourhood Watch (NW) -** Emailed Newsletter; relevant information to be placed on village Facebook page**. (b) SLCC** – a request that local councils ask their local MP to support the Early Day Motion (EDM) currently before Parliament, requesting the Government reviews its response to the Standards Committee, which opposed the Committee's proposal to bring back sanctions against Councillors who did not uphold the Code of Conduct – unanimously agreed. **Actions:** Clerk to request Alex Cunningham MP to support EDM, pass NW Newsletter to Facebook Administrator.

12. **Planning:** **California Farm** - proposed Solar Farm amended application – reiterate earlier objection.

13. **Items of Concern to Councillors:** Cllr Davies noted the Clerk had advised she would wish to retire at the end of March 2023 and asked the Personnel Committee to start the recruitment process. The Clerk suggested that, as there were several parishes in the nearby area also looking for a Clerk, it might be worthwhile consulting these parishes as to whether a joint advert might be appropriate – 4 parishes could provide the equivalent hours of an almost f/t job.
    Cllr Rees raised concern about a number of massive potholes that had appeared on the A177 between the village and TESCO; other Councillors added their concerns about these potholes.
    Cllr Rees requested the Clerk thank SBC for the erection of the Christmas Tree lights and ask how much extra white lights would cost to purchase.
    Cllr Davies requested that 'Thorpe Paddock' be added as an agenda item to the February agenda, as there was an issue around the lack of a footpath between the development and the pavement near the hideaway.
    Actions: Cllrs Gillson and Rees to start the recruitment process taking under consideration the Clerk's suggestion; Clerk to advise SBC of potholes, to thank them for switching on Christmas tree lights, obtain costings for extra lights and put Thorpe Paddock on February agenda.

14. **Date of Next Meeting:** 6.30pm Tuesday 14th February 2023 at Grindon Parish Hall

Meeting closed at 7.48pm

Minutes Authorised By:
Minutes Seconded By:
Date: