Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 6:30pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. McGee (Chair); Hamblett; Hogg; Moffatt and Rees
In Attendance: Vicky Mathie (Practice Manager Park Lane Surgery) C Chapman (Clerk); 3 residents

1. **Public Forum:** The Chair welcomed Vicky Mathie (Park Lane Surgery).
   A resident raised issues regarding getting an appointment over phone and by travelling by car to be there at 8:30 when opened, to get an appointment. Vicky was surprised that there were no bookings at 8:30, unless some major issue eg GP called in sick. Sometimes a particular GP may not be available, but others should be.
   Vicky outlined practice issues and appointment system, including pre-bookable and same day appointments. Also outlined how much busier they have become with the new housing developments, as they cover a large area (including Wynyard, Thorpe Thewles, Stillington, Redmarshall, Carlton, part Billingham, Sedgefield, Hartburn; new housing at Yarm Back Lane & Harrowgate Lane also falls on them). Patient list is over 5800 and they dispense to 75% of that. They are managing as best as possible with the space and resources
   The new system-connect on-line system was outlined; as was the callback option. Vicky offered to call the resident direct. The resident did note the impact additional housing would have and thanked Vicky.
   Cllr Hogg advised she was told to try at 2pm; as often there was availability. Vicky advised the process of holding some appointments back to the afternoon has since ceased.
   Cllr Rees outlined some recent engagement he had with the doctors where he was advised to use the Out of Hours service and was bounced around many locations which was not a good experience; and once was advised to call 111 when an ambulance was going to be sent for a minor issue. Vicky advised she would look at the nurses appointment schedules to see if more appointments could be made available.
   All outlined they thought the staff did an excellent job, which the patient survey echoed.
   Cllr Rees asked if the doctor could visit locally eg use the Parish Hall. Vicky will ask the question internally.
   The clerk advised he had noted posts from the practice on the Carlton Facebook and asked if they could be posted to our village Facebook – Vicky responded positively and asked for details.
   Home visits are still offered for those needing. The GP registrars tend to do these.
   Visits to those over 75 years old were scrapped by NHSE; but the surgery will still offer, current NHSE focus is cholesterol and obesity.
   Vicky outlined the Patient Participation Group, meets quarterly, next meeting 20th May 5pm; also a group on Thursday mornings, which are good to develop an understanding of what is offered. All welcome to attend.
   Also advised the website has lots of information for those with access.
   Councillors, and residents, thanked Vicky for her attendance and engagement.

2. **Ward Councillors report / items:** Cllr Gardner not in attendance

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

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

5. **Minutes of** the Parish Council meeting held on ***Tuesday 14th April 2026*** were proposed by Cllr McGee and seconded by Cllr Hogg. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

6. **Matters Arising**:
   I. Multi-tier Planters, it was noted they would be located and filled on Cllr Gillson return. The bird boxes need locating and installing.

II. Funding expected from solar farms: it was agreed to defer to future meeting when more Councillors in attendance. Cllr Rees asked if installing an accessible entrance to the Parish Hall side door could be added to the list of investments.

III. Local plan: it was noted Stockton Council are starting work on the next local plan. The gaps in delivery against current plan were noted. It was agreed to defer discussion to a future meeting.

7. **Maintenance Committee Report:** The clerk advised a quote of £220 was received from a resident to cut back the verges from the village green to the church. It was agreed to proceed with this and thank the resident.

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

9. **Social Activities Committee report:** The next wine night is scheduled for 26 June and is sold out (with a waiting list). The excellent full programme was noted.
   - 26th June; Presenters choice wine night
   - 19th July: Pop Choir and Afternoon Tea / Prosecco; Raffle
   - 25th September: ThorpeFest; Beer Festival
   - 16th October: Music & Quiz Night.
   - Halloween: no specific event but will encourage villagers to make the village the 'spookiest'
   - 14th November: Christmas Fayre.
   - 20th November: Wine Night. Cruise around the world.
   - 19th Dec: Santa Day
   - 15th January: Music Bingo and Pie and Peas

10. **Financial Reports.** The financial reports were noted. The clerk advised he was unable to set up the new website template but had a quote of £750 to do the base coding following which he could load content and maintain. Cllr McGee noted this fee was extremely low to set up a website, it was agreed to proceed.

Financial Transactions 1 April – 4 May 2026

Receipts:	**£**
Precept	£11,231.00
VAT Recovery	£423.39
June wine night tickets sales	£990.00
Easter Egg hunt ticket sales & donation	£80.00
Total	**£12,724.39**

Payments:

Hall Hire – April	£43.75
Bank Service Charge – April	£7.00
Brother Print Subscription	£18.73
Reimburse N Settle – Easter Egg hunt prizes	£170.19
Reimburse P Hedges – Wine for June social event	£112.50
Reimburse Clerk – Paper and stamp	£6.30
Reimburse Clerk – Bird Boxes	£73.95
Reimburse Clerk - 2 new bookcases – bus shelter library	£145.00
Reimburse clerk – new noticeboard for bus shelter	£14.99
2 new multi-tier planters	£1,128.00
TOTAL	**£1,720.41**

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

12. **Planning:**
    - **Land Between Thorpe Bank Solar Farm And Middlefield Solar Farm A177 Durham Road Thorpe Thewles TS21 3LF:** it was noted this would involve further work alongside the A177. Councillors noted need and agreed not to submit any comment.

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; it was noted no response had been received from Stockton Council
2. **Speed Watch;** Cllr McGee advised a survey had been done one Wednesday afternoon in Easter Holidays; 5 cars were seen. A further speed watch has been requested at peak traffic times.
3. **Christmas Lights:** quote chased
4. **Durham Road Hedgerow @ Henley Drive** – it was noted no response had been received from Stockton Council
5. **A177 / Wynyard Road junction and recent accidents:** SBC highways confirm work imminent
6. **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; however further speed monitoring will take place
7. **Closed path to Whitton –** SBC advise path closure extended till August 2026 and landowners chased for action
8. **Planter Maintenance –** a local resident has offered to maintain in part; The Shaw Trust have been asked if they wish to provide a quote
9. **Wynyard Park pots and pans sculpture**. Cit was noted the path has been installed.
10. **Path adjacent to church** – SBC highways assessing use of road plainings for the path

Cllr Rees advised trees were blocking the signs at the new chicane. The clerk will raise with Stockton Council.

Cllr Moffat advised the pillar box at Wynyard walkway was being filled with dog bags again. The clerk will raise with Stockton Council.

14. Communications. – no specific items to communicate to residents, noting future comms would be regarding any AGM and inviting suggestions on how to spend funds to be received.

15. Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 6.30pm Tuesday 9th June 2026.

16. AGM: it was noted the Parish Council should hold an AGM. The options were to hold at the next meeting or to merge with the Parish Hall AGM. A key item could be options for spending funds to be received. The clerk to check preference with Chair.

Meeting closed at 7:54 pm

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