Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th June 2022 at 6.45pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Gillson, Lowson, Moffat, Rees
In Attendance: M. Ireland, Clerk
In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Gillson took the chair.
The Clerk apologized for putting the wrong time for the meeting on the agenda which should have been 6.30pm as normal.

1. **Public Forum**: No members of the public were present.

2. **Apologies:** Cllr M. Davies, Simon Grundy, HBC

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

4. **Simon Grundy, SBC** – the Clerk read out the email received from Mr. Grundy, sent at 4.49 that afternoon, in which he sent his apologies – he was unable to attend due to family responsibilities, but would attend the July meeting. Cllr Rees requested clarification of the issues to be discussed with Simon Grundy in July; he was reminded that these included the proposed development of a caravan park within the 'dark skies' area of Wynyard Woods and the Astral Park development, to this would be added The Vane Arms complaint to which we have received no response. Cllr Moffatt noted that residents of Astral Park had a number of concerns, and the Clerk was requested to invite the Astral Park Residents Association (APRA) to the July meeting as well as requesting the urgent attendance of Ward Cllr John Gardner to support the PC. **Actions:** Clerk to invite APRA and Cllr Gardner as requested.

5. **Minutes of 10th May 2022**: Cllr Gillson proposed, with Cllr Rees seconding, the approval of the minutes of both the Annual Parish Meeting and the Ordinary meeting that followed it. All concurring, it was **resolved** to accept the minutes as a true record.

6. **Matters Arising**: (a) ***Dropped Kerbs* –** Cllr Gardner had forwarded to the Clerk the costings identified by SBC for the installation of dropped kerbs throughout the village; he also noted that the Parish Council would be expected to contribute 50% of the costs of £22,806.64. After a brief discussion it was **agreed** that Councillors would need to have this work done over a number of years and the first action was to identify which kerbs were needed most urgently. Cllrs Moffatt and Rees agreed to undertake this research and bring their findings to the July meeting.
   (b) Footpath – the Clerk read out the response received from Rob Morrow regarding the stiles and state of footpath. He requested the names of the landowners along whose land the footpath went and noted that he would need their permission before replacing stiles with kissing gates. Cllr Rees noted the stiles in situ were simply not sturdy enough; Cllr Lowson provided the names of the two landowners involved, for the Clerk to forward to Rob Morrow.
   Action: Cllrs Moffatt and Rees to research need for dropped kerbs; Clerk to forward landowners' names to Rob Morrow.

7. **Tree by bridge:** The issue of the overgrowth of the tree had been raised before; residents were concerned about the line of sight for vehicles approaching the bridge, believing the tree need to be pruned to improve this. **Action**: Clerk to contact 'Care For Your Area' to request the tree be pruned.

8. **Maintenance & Village Improvement Committee Report:** It was agreed that in future the Committee would be known simply as the maintenance Committee. Cllr Gillson reported that the 2 large planters needed to be placed where intended as soon as possible and agreed to ask Ms Smith to do this. Cllr Lowson offered to help move them using one of his vehicles. Cllr Rees noted the bench near the Christmas Tree needed attention, and noted the Christmas tree itself was being rubbed by branches of the tree behind it, which could leave it lopsided. The Clerk was requested to invite the SBC Arborist to inspect the tree and prune as necessary. Cllr Rees further noted the wood on the top of one of the stone blocks from the former viaduct also needed attention. **Actions:** Cllr Gillson to organize refurbishment of the two benches; Clerk to request SBC Arborist to attend tree behind Christmas Tree.

9. **Social Activities Committee report:** Cllr Gillson reported that the Jubilee events had proved very successful. Councillors commended the SAC members for their efforts and congratulated them for organizing such successful events to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Clerk noted the SAC had made a surplus of around £450 since being formed and had produced a report that gave the receipts and payments for each event/activity undertaken. Cllr Gillson informed that the group was already considering further events for later in the year and that SBC had donated the Beacon to the Parish Council, though not the gas cylinder.

10. **Finance: (i) Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) –** The Clerk reminded Councillors that they had approved the accounts at the May meeting, the Internal Audit had now been completed, and the Auditor had completed the relevant section of the AGAR, having reviewed the new financial systems, cash book, invoices and bank statements and seen the Minutes and Financial Reports on the PC website. She then read out the Annual Governance Statement, asking Councillors to state whether they agreed or not with each statement; once completed, this was signed by Cllr Gillson in his capacity as Vice-Chair and Chair of the meeting.
(ii) Approval of expenses incurred by the Social Activities Committee – all expenses incurred had been listed and their payment was **approved.**
(iii) Monthly Financial Reports – the Clerk presented the statement of Financial Transactions and the Actual against Budget Report, which were **approved**.

11. **Ward Councillor's Report:** None Received.

12. **Correspondence:** (a) ***Lewis Young on behalf of Alex Cunningham MP –*** response regarding the PC's opposition to the Augean application to dump low-level nuclear waste at Port Clarence; the MP strongly opposes this and continues to do so, (b) ***Mayor of Stockton*** – invitation to Mayor's Service on 7th July at Norton – noted.

13. Planning: No applications received.

14. **Items of Concern to Councillors:**
    - Cllr Lowson noted a neighbour had raised concern about a section of Blakeston Lane, near Coppice Farm, where the road narrows, if two vehicles try to pass each other, one is

forced into the ditch which holds water – this needs to be piped and the ditch filled in; he agreed to forward a map to the Clerk identifying the spot. He also noted that a neighbour had expressed interest in joining the Parish Council; this led to a discussion on how best to recruit new Councillors. It was agreed that a cooption be deferred until after the second issue of the Parish Newsletter, due in July, which would advertise the vacancy and Clerk to also ask that Ms. Williams put the vacancy on the village Facebook page.

- Cllr Moffatt noted concerns about speeding through the village and asked if a 20mph speed limit could be placed on the main road through the village. He raised concern that growth on the footpath between The Vane Arms and the churchyard needs cutting back and also noted a kerbstone outside 24 North Close had been damaged and was now a safety issue– Clerk to forward to Care For Your Area. Cllr Moffatt raised concern that three of the posts around the village green had been damaged and needed straightening – Cllr Gillson to investigate.
- Cllr Rees raised concern about the state of the unofficial layby on the verge near the gate to the public footpath on Hellhole Lane and asked if it could be made into a proper layby? The land belongs to SBC and has become a well-used spot for dog walkers to park whilst they walk their dogs.

Actions: Cllr Gilson to investigate damaged posts around village green; Cllr Lowson to forward map of Blakeston Lane to Clerk; Clerk to request Care For Your Area to review the ditch on Blakeston Lane, to attend to the growth on the public footpath near the churchyard and the broken kerbstone at 24 North Close; to request SBC Highways to install a 20mph speed limit on the main road through the village and to make the unofficial layby near Hellhole Lane into a proper one. Clerk to draft next edition of the PC Newsletter, including advert for Parish Councillor and request advert on village Facebook page.

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** 6.30pm Tuesday 12th July2022 at Grindon Parish Hall

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Minutes Authorised By:

Minutes Seconded By:

Date: