# Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th February 2022 at 6.30 pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Davies, Gillson, Teasdale and Williams
In Attendance: Mrs. Sarah Hillier, Chairman, Thorpe Thewles History Group, (to 7.00pm); M. Ireland, Clerk

**NB:** Item 6 was taken at the start of the meeting so as not to cause inconvenience to Mrs. Hillier.

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

2. **Apologies:** Parish Cllrs Lowson and Rees, Ward Cllr Gardener – apologies accepted.

3. **Declarations of Interest**: Cllrs Williams & Teasdale, Item 6.

4. **Minutes of 11th January 2022**: Cllr Williams proposed, with Cllr Teasdale seconding, the approval of the minutes. All concurring, it was **resolved** to accept the minutes as a true record.

5. **Matters Arising**: (a) ***Transfer of funds from Thorpe Thewles Residents Association –*** The Clerk informed that, though the transfer had been authorised at the bank by Mrs. Webster, the former Treasurer of TTRA, some two weeks earlier, the monies had not yet appeared in the PC account. Cllr Williams agreed to check with the bank later in the week to see if the monies had arrived and, if not, would advise Mrs. Webster of this. Mrs. Webster would then go into the bank with her written evidence of the transfer to require as to the reason.
   (b) ***Footpath issue*** – Cllr Teasdale gave an update as follows: the decision on the proposed new footpath had been postponed for three weeks due to further consultations being required; it was now expected around 18th February.
   **Actions:** Cllr Williams to check with the bank and, if necessary, inform Mrs. Webster of the need for action on her part.

6. **The Future of Thorpe Thewles History Group:** Cllr Williams declared an Interest being a member of the History Group, Cllr Teasdale declared an interest as her partner was a member.
   Mrs. Hillier gave a short presentation to the Parish Council, explaining both some of the work undertaken by the group and the issues currently being faced. Members had, over the years, contributed excellent research which had led to several publications, including the History of Thorpe Thewles and, increasingly interactive, exhibitions based on this local history at History Fairs around the region. A series of quarterly annual talks had been provided, attracting an average audience of around 30-35. However, with an ageing demographic amongst members and also the impact of the pandemic, the group were finding it difficult to continue as they had – with income dropping and costs increasing. The Group wished to continue, and even expand their activities, therefore she asked, would the Parish Council consider taking the History Group under the umbrella of the new Social Activities Committee?
   Following a discussion which included matters such as public liability insurance cover, the loss of autonomy for the group, and transfer of financial assets, it was **resolved** that, in principle, the Parish Council had no objection to the Group becoming a sub-committee of the Social Activities

Committee, provided only that: a minimum of one Parish Councillor was on the new History Group Sub-Committee, the group remained self-financing over each year, with the finances handled by the Clerk/RFO. The Clerk requested that Mrs. Hillier check the constitution of the group to ensure it allowed for such changes, and to implement the actions required, to which she **agreed**. The Parish Council **agreed** to forward a copy of the PC insurance policy to Mrs. Hillier and also a copy of the draft Minutes of the meeting.
**Actions:** Clerk to forward copy of insurance policy and draft Minutes to the Chairman of the History Group; Mrs. Hillier to check TTHG constitution and implement any actions required to transfer the group and its assets to the Parish Council.

7. **Maintenance &Village Improvement Committee Report:** Cllr Gillson reported that, of the 10 planters purchased, six were now in situ, two were awaiting permission from SBC for locating at each side of the bus shelter, another is to be placed at the Russell Hamilton and the fourth at Hamilton Court. He expressed concern as to the size of the planters which were not as large as he had expected, which explained the reduced cost, however, they were itemized on the receipt as large planters. Others agreed that, though attractive, they were not sufficiently substantial for public sites. Cllr Williams **agreed** to approach the supplier to see if they would exchange the four, as yet unplanted ones, for larger ones.
   The Clerk asked the Committee to consider refurbishing the Parish Notice Board, situated at the Parish Hall; the frame needed sanding and re-staining and the internal pin boards replacing to make it fir for purpose. She noted that the Notice Board owned by the former Residents Association, and situated on the side of the bus shelter, had now passed into the ownership of the Parish Council and asked that this too be examined and refurbished if necessary. This was **agreed**.
   Cllr Teasdale noted that an overflowing dog waste bin, first reported some 2 weeks earlier to Care for your Community, had still not been emptied, despite a follow up call.
   **Actions:** Cllr Williams to request exchange of planters for a larger size and pay any price difference; the Maintenance Committee to ensure the two Notice Boards were refurbished as soon as weather permitted.

8. **Finance:** The Clerk presented the Actual against Budget Report as at 6 February 2022, noting there had been no financial transactions since the previous meeting; this was **approved**. Cheques were approved and issued at the meeting to: Grindon Parish Hall for the cost of the room hired for the interviews of potential Parish Councillors in November (£20); to Cllr Davies for Parish Meeting expenses (£60) and Cllr Williams for spring plants for the new planters (£28).

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

10. **Correspondence:** *(a) Email from Cloudy IT*: Advising cost of Microsoft Office 365 to increase substantially later in 2022, though the actual cost not yet known, thought to be in the region of 20%. The Clerk noted the impact of this on the budget. *(b) SBC:* Fruit trees available for planting on Parish Land – noted; *(c) CDALC:* information of future training events; Councillors encouraged to attend:
    22 February – an overview of AGAR Returns 2021/22 and Transparency Requirements
    6 April – Mazars on Annual Returns and External Audit
    14 June – Village Greens
    12 July - Common Land
    9 August – Rights of Way.
    **Actions:** Councillors to notify Clerk which training sessions they wish to attend.

11. **Planning:** Application No: **21/3104/FUL** – Bottle Hill Farm, Thorpe Thewles – Erection of single- storey dwelling and demolition of existing building - **NO OBJECTION subject to Tees Archaeology requirements being met.**

12. **Items of Concern to Councillors:** Concern that activities for the Platinum Jubilee had yet to be agreed and organized. Cllr Teasdale to call a meeting of the Social Activities Committee for 10.30am on Friday 18th February and invite interested residents to attend. Meeting to take place at 5, St. James Close, Thorpe Thewles.

13. **Date of Next Meeting:** 6.30pm Tuesday 8th March 2022.

*Meeting closed at 8.05pm*

**Minutes Authorised By:**

**Minutes Seconded By:**

**Date:**