Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th October 2026 at 6:30pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Davies (Chair); Gillson; Hogg; McGee; Moffatt and Rees
In Attendance: Cllr Gardner (SBC); Simon Grundy (SBC planning); C Chapman (Clerk); 10 residents

1. **Public Forum:** The Chair welcomed attendees and introductions were made to Simon Grundy SBC planning

Local Plan: Simon outlined the purpose of local plan to set out policies and proposals for housing, industry and commerce. A period of consultation is about to commence, which has various 'gateways' including external independent review, taking upto c Feb 2029 before the final local plan is released.
Simon advised residents the best way to keep involved and contribute to the consultation is to register for updates on the Stockton Council website (search for local plan), and encouraged residents to register so their views are considered.
Local Plan Registration Form - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council - Citizen Space
Simon also advised SBC planners can return to a future meeting to provide updates throughout the process.

A resident asked if there was a current local plan. Simon advised "YES", there is a requirement to do a 5-yearly plan which is why a new one is being developed. The resident advised they were aware several items from the prior plan were still not implemented. Simon advised the timescale for the prior plan objectives is still ongoing and plans are in place, but encouraged the resident to submit issues as part of the coming consultation.
In responding to a query, the Chair advised the parish council would also make a submission including a collation of resident views.

A resident raised issues regarding Billingham Town Centre which Simon could not comment upon.

Cllr Rees asked if the Urban Park was in the last local plan, Simon advised it was not as it materialized after the plan had been completed. But there were aspirations to support the viability of town centres in the local plan.

Cllr Rees asked if the local plan would cover plans for solar farms which were prevalent in the area; Simon advised it was important for such issues to feed into the consultation.

Simon advised landscape studies look at areas across the borough such as rural, rural fringes, towns and their characteristics, and the sensitivity to change alongside the capacity for additional developments to inform the local plan.

A resident asked SBC opinion on using agricultural land for solar farms. SBC advised good agricultural land has more protection than less fertile agricultural land.

A resident asked how a small village can ensure their issues are included in the plan. Simon advised all views are taken into consideration when developing the local plan.

A resident asked when the recent developments in the village are going to be finished as the developers just walked off-site leaving it in poor repair.
Simon advised SBC can use planning enforcement to try and enforce developers to take action. SBC adoption will not take place until issues are resolved.

Resident raised the developments at Harrogate Lane, the walkways are encouraging anti-social behaviour eg motorbikes etc was in the current local plan but nothing has been done. Simon advised he would look into these issues.

Cllr Gillson asked about Astral Park; Simon advised planners are seeking developers to come and finalise and set out the maintenance plan. Similarly SBC planners are liaising with Homes by Carlton to reinstate the planting at Henley Drive along Durham Road also needs replanting.

The Chair thanked Simon for his attendance and Simon left the meeting.

Other issues
A resident raised the sight lines on the road heading across the bridge being difficult to navigate. It was **resolved** for the clerk to contact Care for Your Area to have hedging cut back.

2. **Ward Councillors report / items:** Cllr Gardner advised SBC highways had advised the chicane meets current requirements so no work is scheduled. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact Care for your area; to ask for trees to be cut back so you can see the chicane signage and to suggest the parish council could put planters on the chicane with reflective strips if SBC would approve. **Cllr Gardner** will also ask about works on the chicane to improve visibility.

   Cllr Gardner advised the A177 works are planned 21 November; it will remain partly dual carriageway to enable overtaking of slow vehicles. Cllr Gardner will send copies of plans if he receives them.

   A resident asked about the parking on Wynyard Road and was advised to contact Stockton Council enforcement team, photos are useful to clearly show the issue.

3. **Apologies:** Apologies from Cllr Hamblett were noted and accepted.

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

5. **Minutes of** the Parish Council Meeting held on ***Tuesday 8th September 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**: There were no matters arising outside the Issues Log.

7. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Gillson advised the white posts around the village green have been reset where needed. Six multi-tier planters are ready for replanting; and a resident has again volunteered to maintain them. Councillors approved a gift to the resident as a thankyou.
   Cllr Rees asked if the benches could be looked at and repainted / touched up as needed.
   It was agreed to source a handyman in the spring for ad-hoc works such as these.
   It was further resolved for the clerk to raise fallen branch at Middlebank and request its removal.

   Cllr Gillson advised SBC will remove equipment from the play park following their inspection finding the timber had deteriorated & some equipment was deemed dangerous. Replacement options to be discussed along with funding?

8. **Personnel Committee Report:** The Parish Clerk advised they were stepping down due to a change in personal circumstances but would help handover to a new clerk. It was agreed to seek replacement.

   - **Social Activities Committee report:** The ThorpeFest; Beer Festival was well attended and received positive feedback. A full programme of events are scheduled.
     - 16th October: Music & Quiz Night: 51 tickets sold.

- Halloween: no specific event but will encourage villagers to make the village the 'spookiest'
- 6th November: Wine Night. Cruise around the world. 69 tickets sold
- 14th November: Christmas Fayre.
- 9th Dec Christmas Choir 7-10pm.
- 19th Dec: Santa Day
- 15th January: Music Bingo and Pie and Peas

9. Financial Reports. The financial reports were noted. The Clerk advised the initial draft 2027/28 budget proposals had been included for information and requested Councillors consider these for discussion at the next meeting. It was **resolved** for the clerk to ask about likely timescale for solar farm funding to help inform budget discussions

Financial Transactions 8 September – 5 October 2026

Receipts:

	£
Beer Festival ticket sales	£180.00
Music & Quiz Night Tickets	£490.00
November wine night tickets	£990.00
Total	**£1660.00**

Payments:

Bank Service Charge – September	£7.00
Brother Print Subscription – August	£4.49
Brother Print Subscription - September	£4.49
Parish Hall Rental – August	£10.00
Reimburse P Walker – Beer Festival	£625.58
Reimburse Clerk – Wine – Nov wine night	£72.00
Reimburse Clerk – Postage fee	£2.50
Clerk – Salary July - Sept	£597.20
HMRC PAYE July – Sept	£397.20
Reset Village Green posts	£400.00
TOTAL	**£2,120.46**

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

11. Planning:

- **26/1547/FUL** Low Middlefield Cottage Blakeston Lane; Erection of two storey rear extension (demolition of existing out buildings). **No comment**

12. 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.
2. **Christmas Lights:** quote chased again; post meeting note: SBC highways are re-assessing and will provide a quote and timescales.
3. **Durham Road Hedgerow @ Henley Drive** – SBC planners will follow replacement whip planting and maintenance with Homes by Carlton.
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 –** SBC advise path closure extended further, and landowners chased for action
7. **Path adjacent to church** – SBC are contacting contractors to lay road plainings.
8. **Salt bin at Vicars Close / Mill Terrace.** It was noted SBC bins are on Bank Terrace, Manor Cottages (top), School Close, Durhan Road (between nos 11 and 15). CLOSED
9. **Water Butt at bus shelter:** costs not prohibitive. However, would need to install gutter at back of shelter, and need to consider how much water would be captured. CLOSED

10. **Proposed Investments; using expected funding from Solar Farms**.
    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

Cllr Rees asked for an update regarding the children's home, and was advised a further video call had been held in which recent events were discussed with the home. The home suggested a further meeting in November be held in case further issues needed discussing. Cllr McGee suggested a continuation of positive discussions was the best course of action.

13. Communications. – It was **agreed** for the clerk to post on Facebook the church will be open for Remembrance Day and will do the service of lights at Christmas; and consultation meeting is 27th October 7-9pm at the Parish Hall.

14. Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 6.30pm Tuesday 10th November 2026.

Meeting closed at 8:00 pm

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