Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 6:30pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Davies (Chair); Gillson; Hogg; McGee; Moffatt and Rees
In Attendance: C Chapman (Clerk); Cllr Gardner (SBC); 3 residents

1. **Public Forum:**
   A resident raised the walkway from Durham Road to Harrogate Lane which needed improvement. It was noted there were 2 large developments in the area and s106 funding may be available. The resident advised it seems open to vandalism as barrier is broken enabling access by motorbikes/ quads; the path is also hindered by fallen trees. Chair recalled a prior plan for improvements to the path (perhaps in local plan). **Resolved** for clerk to look at local plan prior to contacting right of way officer.

   A resident asked for update on A177 / Wynyard Road junction. Cllr Gardner has chased periodically; improvement work is planned for early part of this financial year, which will include changing speed limit.

   A resident asked for any update from the doctor's surgery issue; Clerk advised a letter was sent to the Practice Manager but no response is forthcoming. **Resolved** for clerk to contact practice manager (email)

2. **Ward Councillors report / items:**
   Cllr Davies reviewed items needing Cllr Gardner input.
   - Astral Park; area been riddled ready for planting; but still lots of stones/rubble which are safety issue and causes maintenance issues for mowing. **Resolved** for clerk to update the proposed draft letter, send and copy Cllr Gardner
   - Chicane – Cllr Gardner offered to raise need to tidy area of rubble and wires etc left around the site; and also improve visibility of the chicane
   - Cllr Gardner advised he has tried many times to get an up-to-date contact list, without luck, it was resolved to close this action.
   - Cllr Gardner also advised the Wolviston speed cushions were not very effective as cars can straddle easily. **Resolved** for clerk to contact SBC and ask for installation of cushions that are wide enough

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

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

5. **Minutes of** the Parish Council meeting held on ***Tuesday 10th March 2026*** were proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr McGee. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

6. **Matters Arising**:
   I. Solar Farm funding. Clerk advised SBC have responded to advise there is no s106 or CIL funding in relation to the Parish Council. The clerk has written to the solar farm company regarding our signed deed to ask for update on amount of funding expected and when

7. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Two new multi-tier planters will be ordered; Cllr McGee advised the middle tiers of some seem unstable, which needs to be checked.

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

9. **Social Activities Committee report:** Race night had to be cancelled as insufficient demand. The next wine night is scheduled for 26 June and is sold out. There is a full programme for the rest of the year.

10. **Financial Reports.** The financial reports were noted. The clerk advised 2025/26 accounts were complete; the Annual Governance and Accountability Return had been drafted; a meeting was scheduled with Mazars for a briefing on year-end processes; and a local resident had again offered to review/audit the accounts.
It was agreed to procure bird boxes; to install new shelving at the bus shelter; a new noticeboard; to have wooden seat sanded and revarnished and memorial seat touched up. Clerk to progress

Financial Transactions 3 March – 31 March 2026

Receipts:

	£
	£NIL

Payments:

Hall Hire – March	£35.00
Bank Service Charge – March	£7.00
Brother Print Subscription	£4.49
Clerk Salary Jan – March	£632.80
HMRC PAYE payment Jan – March	£422.00
New .gov.uk website hosting and fee	£229.20
TOTAL	**£1,330.49**

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

12. **Planning:**
    - Durham Council: consultation on interim Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) policy; resolved no comment as expected little/no impact within the parish
    - SBC: proposal to require planning consent for change from 'dwelling house' to HMO; resolved no comment as expected little/no impact within the parish
    - **26/0632/VARY** Section 73 application to vary condition No.2 (approved plans) of planning approval 23/1945/FUL - Siting of a battery storage facility, underground cable connection, ancillary equipment, fencing and associated landscaping and upgrade to existing access point. Battery Energy Storage System, Letch Lane, Carlton; resolved no comment as not within our parish
    - **26/0635/VARY** Section 73 application to vary conditions no2 (Approved Plans), no12 (Flood Risk Assessment), no13 (Construction, Decommissioning and Manage) and no18 (Cessation of Use) of planning approval 20/2692/FUL - Installation of a ground mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar energy generation system (Solar Farm), co located battery storage, 132kV substation, associated equipment and infrastructure Land North West Of High Middlefield Farm, Durham Road, Thorpe ThewlesDurham Road – battery storage. **Resolved**. Clerk to respond to object to variation on basis prior commitments not honored, eg wheel washing not undertaken; mud on road not cleaned; site vehicles speeding through village; existing drainage at underpass is an issue; not done anything for the village; contact details of construction manager never been provided; hell hole parking space churned up and unusable; HGVs also contributing to road deterioration / potholes; negative impact upon the near bridleway
    - **26/0646/TNOT.** Land Adjacent To 9 Wynyard Court Notice under regulation 5 of electronic communications code regulations for the installation of 1no 11 metre medium wooden pole. Resolved no comment noticing nearest neighbour has no issue with proposal
    - Lighthouse Green Fuels Development – resolved no 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; resolved for clerk to amend letter and issue to SBC planners and Head of Legal Services; copy in Cllr Gardner
2. **Chicane to address speeding cars**: Astral Park; work complete – CLOSED note site tidying needed
3. **Speed Watch;** speed monitoring along Durham Road being scheduled; Cllr McGee still seeking speedwatch from police
4. **Christmas Lights:** quote chased
5. **Durham Road Hedgerow @ Henley Drive** – to include in letter to SBC planners/ Head of Legal
6. **A177 / Wynyard Road junction and recent accidents:** SBC highways confirm work imminent
7. **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
8. **Closed path to Whitton –** SBC advise path closure extended till August 2026 and landowners chased for action
9. **Stillington Doctors –** clerk to chase response to letter sent to Practice Manager
10. **Planter Maintenance –** no quotes received; Clerk to contact local resident
11. **Revised SBC contact list –** to close noting Cllr Gardner has chased several times
12. **Mud on Road @ Solar Farm** – Close – to include issue in response to planning variation
13. **Wynyard Park pots and pans sculpture**. Cllr Gardner seeking repairs and improved access
14. **St James Church** – noted Annual Parochial meeting is 12 April at St James Church; CLOSED
15. **Path adjacent to church** – SBC highways assessing use of road plainings for the path
16. **Road cleaning at north end of village** – Close – to include issue in response to planning variation
17. **S106 / CIL funding**: SBC advise no further outstanding funding; CLOSED
18. **Signed deed with Solar Farm**: Solar Farm been contacted direct regarding signed deed

14. **Communications**. – no specific items to communicate to residents.

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 6.30pm Tuesday 12th May 2026 and include the Annual Meeting (Governance Meeting) and Ordinary Meeting.

Meeting closed at 7:40 pm

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