Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

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

Present: Cllrs. Davies (Chair); Gillson; Hamblett; Moffatt and Rees
In Attendance: C Chapman (Clerk); 2 residents

1. **Public Forum:** A resident advised they had heard many positives about the planters and how they have improved the village. Measures to make watering easier were discussed. **Resolved** for the Clerk to explore potential for a Water Butt to be located at the back of the bus shelter

   The clerk advised a resident had queried ownership at Henley Drive where a resident has earmarked a plot for access and placed No Parking signs. Residents on Henley Drive were responsible as part of their deed for maintenance of that area so were unclear why another resident has assumed ownership. Councillors believed there may have been some agreement with the developer at he time, but this should be set out on individual deeds. **Resolved** for the clerk to point residents towards respective planning deeds.

   It was noted the hedge along MiddleBank towards the bridge needs needing cutting back as it is blocking vehicular sight lines. **Resolved** for the clerk to raise with Stockton Council.

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

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

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

5. **Minutes of** the Parish Council Meeting held on ***Tuesday 9th June 2026*** were proposed by Cllr Gillson and seconded by Cllr Moffatt. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

6. **Matters Arising**:
   I. **New Website.** The clerk advised the new website (https://grindonandthorpethewles-pc.gov.uk) is now live. It was agreed to switch over to the new website and communicate this to residents.
   II. **Priorities for use of expected funding from Solar Farms**. Taking account of the feedback from the AGM, it was resolved to progress the following (subject to funding being received).
      a. **Speed Control Measures**. Costings to be compiled and Cllr Gardner advise sought on those measures that have been assessed as producing results,
      b. **Playpark**. Funding to be earmarked and boosted annually by using some precept funding.

      Additionally, the following to be progressed using Parish Council reserves
      a) **Path down side of the church**. **Resolved** for Cllr Davies to seek quote from her contact; Clerk to seek SBC approval for the Parish Council to undertake works on their land.
      b) **Village Green posts**. Quote accepted and clerk to appoint contractor.
      c) **Seat at bus stop**. Resolved for clerk to seek approval from SBC and seek pricing for a seat, perhaps some commemorative seat or seat with parish council crest.
      d) **Salt bin at Vicars Close**. It was noted this was a SBC salt bin and was damaged and removed after an accident. Clerk to seek a replacement via website link for damaged bins.
      e) **Salt Bin at Mill Terrace.** It was noted this is no longer in place. Clerk to seek a replacement from SBC.
      f) **Small works.** Eg sanding, varnishing, painting seating. Clerk to seek local handyperson via Facebook for such works

III. **Local plan outstanding proposals**. It was noted that rights of way access and other improvements had not as yet taken place. A resident volunteered to take photos next time they walked the route. Clerk to ask SBC for update on proposals.

7. Maintenance Committee Report: Cllr Gillson advised there were no further issues to raise.

8. Personnel Committee Report: Nothing to report.

9. Social Activities Committee report: A full programme of events are scheduled.

- 26th June; Presenters choice wine night was sold out and well received
- 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'
- 6th November: Wine Night. Cruise around the world.
- 14th November: Christmas Fayre.
- NEW: 9th Dec Christmas Choir 7-10pm.
- 19th Dec: Santa Day
- 15th January: Music Bingo and Pie and Peas

10. Financial Reports. The Clerk advised the audit of 2025/26 accounts was complete with no issues raised, and the Notice of Exercise of Public Rights to inspect the accounts had commenced. The AGAR was unchanged from that presented at the April meeting and was approved.
The clerk advised they could update the bank mandate for additional signatories which was approved.
The financial transactions were noted.

Financial Transactions 1 June – 6 July 2026

Receipts:	**£**
Raffle proceeds June wine night	£345.00
Total	**£345.00**

Payments:

Bank Service Charge	£7.00
Brother Print Subscription	£6.27
Reimburse J Gillson – food for June social events	£279.49
Reimburse J Gillson – Wine for June social event	£99.00
Reimburse K Craven – wine for June social event	£134.35
Reimburse N Settle – wine for June social events	£45.00
Reimburse Kate – wine for social events	£60.75
Reimburse J Gillson – compost for new multi-tier planters	£96.40
Reimburse J Armitage – plants and compost	£76.97
Reimburse K Craven – plants for planters	£27.94
Donation to Grindon Parish Hall	£800.00
Reimburse J Gillson – wine /food for AGM	£58.64
Rent – parish hall May & June	£142.50
Clerk Salary Apr-June	£561.00
HMRC PAYE Apr - June	£374.00
Reimburse Clerk – wall mounted hosepipe to fill water butt	£47.99
Reimburse J Gillson – tubs to cool wine for social events	£20.50
TOTAL	**£2,837.80**

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

12. Planning:

- **26/1147/TNOT** Fulthorpe Garage Wynyard Road. Notice under regulation 5 of electronic communication code regulations for the installation of 1 no. 11 metre light wooden pole. No comment
- **26/1211/TNOT** Land South of Howden Lodge. Notice under regulation 5 of electronic communication code regulations for the installation of 1 no. 11 metre light wooden pole. No comment

- **26/0778/FUL** Land between Thorpe Bank Solar Farm and Middlefield Solar Farm, installation of underground cables and associated infrastructure. No comment.

13. **Items of Concern to Councillors:** The issues log was reviewed and noted.
    1. **Astral Park**: Amenity Space; the clerk had asked SBC to liaise with Mandale to remove fencing, mow the field and seed the small fenced off area previously missed.
    2. **Christmas Lights:** quote chased; the clerk advised the SBC officer usually responds quickly so he has tried another contact in case the officer has since left.
    3. **Durham Road Hedgerow @ Henley Drive** – SBC planners have advised they intend to visit in September to see if whips have taken. The fence could then be removed if residents agree.
    4. **A177 / Wynyard Road junction and recent accidents:** Works imminent.
    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 till August 2026 and landowners chased for action
    7. **Path adjacent to church** – quote received, clerk to ask if SBC would approve works

14. **Communications**. – It was agreed for the clerk to communicate the new website to residents.

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 6.30pm Tuesday 8th September 2026 (no August meeting unless urgent planning issues arise).

Meeting closed at 7:45 pm

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