Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 6:30pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Davies (Chair); Gillson; Hamblett; Hogg; McGee; and Rees
In Attendance: Cllr Gardner (SBC); 2 Enforcement Officers; C Chapman (Clerk); 11 residents

1. **Public Forum:** The Chair welcomed attendees and introductions were made.
Recent Anti-Social Behaviour. The Chair summarized recent issues regarding the anti-social behaviour that has been occurring in the village; and outlined an on-line meeting had been held between parish council representatives and a senior director and manager from Spark of Genius, the home operators.
The Chair outlined the intent was to have productive relationships with the home and seek to resolve current issues constructively. Spark of Genius were provided with a schedule of recent issues.
In responding Spark of Genius advised they were aware of some issues and did maintain a log of when children were out of the home. They advised that activities were not solely due to children from the home and asked for consideration as often they were subject to coercive influence from others. Spark of Genius would not go into specifics due to duty of care, safeguarding and data protection, and highlighted that the children were vulnerable with mixed backgrounds, but advised they did have to take specific actions, including reporting to other bodies, regarding reported incidents. Without going into details Spark of Genius did advise a child had been moved elsewhere due to several concerning issues being raised.

In moving forward Spark of Genius advised the course of action should be for residents to
a) Call the police regarding Criminal activity
b) Message Spark of Genius OR the parish council regarding 'nuisance' behaviour
Residents were asked to provide details of date/time, description of youths involved and incident details to enable them to take action.
The clerk asked if the parish council could be copied into any correspondence so they could compile issues to raise in subsequent meetings with Spark of Genius.

The Chair advised Parish Council reps were meeting with Spark of Genius next month and would meet with the Home Manager.

Enforcement Officers also advised residents could report issues to them (01642 528439) and they would act, they asked residents to provide as much detail as possible when reporting issues. It was noted any photos taken of children committing crimes are solely to share with the police / enforcement officers not to upload onto Facebook or share generally

Residents raised and discussed several issues – all of which had previously been captured and notified to Spark of Genius.
The Chair thanked residents and advised we will put an update on Facebook regarding the actions to take for any incidents and relevant contact information.
The Parish Council will provide feedback at the next parish council meeting

<u>Other issues</u>
A resident raised concern about the A177 junction, having raised the issue with Highways Agency over a year ago. The Chair advised the issue had been discussed frequently at the parish council. Cllr Gardner advised that detailed assessments have been undertaken and work is planned to seek to address

The Reverend Lindsay Southern introduced herself having recently been licensed as Priest in Charge of Stockton Country Parish for the next 18 months with a remit to support the churches bring about changes

they have identified as important. She outlined the commencement of closure plan for possibly 3 out of the 4 churches, with St Johns at Stillington likely to be the remaining church. Consultation meetings were scheduled (Tues 27 October at Grindon Parish Hall) with the church looking at how to continue supporting faith needs when churches are closed. The Reverend invited all to the planned consultation meetings.

Cllr Rees asked about the ownership of land at Hamilton Russell, The Reverend advised it was expected to be under Church Commissioner ownership.

In responding to questions, the Reverend advised the Church would potentially be sold; the Churchyard would be closed formally and go under care of Stockton Council

A Resident asked about the overgrown grass at rear of North Close. The Chair outlined the recent history of the site and advised the residents to contact Mandale Homes direct.

2. **Ward Councillors report / items:** Cllr Gardner advised he had no specific updates but will chase the A177 junction; and find a SBC Social Services number regarding the home.
   Speed control measures: Cllr Gardner advised govt laws also dictate location and number of speed control measures.
   A resident queried the visibility at the Henley Drive junction and whether this met Highways standards design. It was **resolved** for the Clerk to query this.
   Cllr Rees raised the poor visibility of the poles and the chicane - Cllr Gardner advised he has already reported these.

3. **Apologies:** The absence of Cllr Moffatt was noted.

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

5. **Minutes of** the Parish Council Meeting held on ***Tuesday 14h July 2026*** were proposed by Cllr Hambeltt and seconded by Cllr Gillson. 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 are awaiting fixing; 2 new planters had been bought and are located near the bus stop; Planters will be replanted in the autumn. Several residents thanked those maintaining the planters as they are a welcome addition to the village.

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

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

   The clerk outlined costs for 2 Banners to advertise events at the Hall and it was **agreed** to procure these.

10. **Financial Reports.** The financial reports were noted. The Clerk advised the open access period for residents to review the accounts had now closed.

Financial Transactions 7 July – 7 September 2026

Receipts:	**£**
Beer Festival ticket sales	£630.00
Total	**£630.00**

Payments:

Bank Service Charge - July	£7.00
Brother Print Subscription	£6.27
Parish Hall Rental – July	£35.00
Reimburse J Hogg – Wine Night	£25.54
Reimburse A McGee – Wine Night	£110.54
Reimburse Clerk – Microsoft Licences	£84.99
Reimburse N Settle – Beer for beer festival	£28.00
Reimburse Clerk – Defibrillator Pads	£79.20
Bank Service Charge - August	£7.00
TOTAL	**£383.54**

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

12. **Planning:**
    - **26/1326/PDA** – Land West of Grindon Villa, Grindon Lane, prior notification of erection of 1 NO agricultural storage building**. It was noted SBC planners had advised prior approval was not needed**.
    - **26/1101/TNOT** Land Adjacent to Fulthorpe Garage, Wynyard Road, proposal notice under regulation 5 of electronic communication code regulations for the installation of 1no 11 metre medium wooden pole. **It was noted this was approved with Conditions**

13. **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; having found the former council contact officer has left the council.
    3. **Durham Road Hedgerow @ Henley Drive** – SBC planners have advised they intend to visit in September to see if whips have taken.
    4. **A177 / Wynyard Road junction and recent accidents:** Works imminent noting a further collision.
    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 have requested we do not tarmac or undertake works; they are revisiting use of road plainings.
    8. **Quotes Received**. Quotes received for resetting 6 x posts on village green and installing pathway at side of St James Church (SBC have since asked us not to do works on the path as they will revisit use of road plainings.
    9. **Seat at bus stop**. SBC confirm approval subject to confirmation from resident. Installation is £990 (plus cost of bench). **Agreed** to install similar themed bench to that near bus shelter.
    10. **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)
    11. **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.
    12. **Local plan:** update provided on last local plan – SBC planners attending October meeting
    13. **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. SBC have been contacted as some of wooden posts in playpark are rotten.

Cllr Rees advised he had been contacted by the local history group who were seeking support from the Parish Council for the retention of tank traps at the Castle Eden walkway when unsafe bridges are dismantled. It was **resolved** for the clerk to submit a letter of support.

14. **Communications**. – It was **agreed** for the clerk to post on Facebook the constructive procedure to use regarding working with Spark of Genius to resolve issues at the childrens home.

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 6.30pm Tuesday 13th October 2026.
It was noted SBC Planners would be in attendance to discuss the Local Plan. It was **resolved** for the clerk to advise other issues may be raised and suggest the planners look at Durham Road, Astral Park and the visibility of the local solar farms as these issues may be raised by residents.

Meeting closed at 7:48 pm

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