Grindon & Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Working for the benefit of all our residents

Newsletter July 2023

The Parish Council

The Parish Council is at full strength following a recent recruitment exercise, Your Parish Councillors are:

- **Michelle Davies**: Chair of the Parish Council
- **Jeff Gilson**: Vice Chair of the Parish Council and Chair of the Village Maintenance & Improvement Committee and the Personnel Committee
- **Alison McGee**: Chair of Social Activities Committee
- **Gareth Rees**: the longest serving Member of the Council
- **Paul Hamblett**: appointed in June.
- **Rory Moffatt**: appointed in June, Rory was previously co-opted onto the Council.

Your Councillors are volunteers and work hard to improve the village for the benefit of residents.
The Councillors are supported by the Parish Clerk, Chris Chapman

Your Parish Council Needs You

The Parish Council supports a range of activities including Village Maintenance and Social Activities. They are appreciative of the support received from residents.
If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Parish Councillors or the Clerk – we would be delighted to discuss the workings of the Parish Council and help identify support activities to suit volunteer's interests, skills, and level of commitment.

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in Grindon Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend, and each meeting starts with a Public Forum where resident issues can be discussed. If you have any issues you wish to raise, please contact the Councillors or Clerk who can assist and include on future meeting agendas as relevant.

The Social Activities Committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in Grindon Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend to help plan future village social activities.

The Village Maintenance and Improvement Committee leads on progressing issues raised and overall village improvement activities.

The Parish Council welcome all residents to our meetings, please come along and meet the Councillors and your fellow residents.

Sources of Information

There are several ways you can find out about activities in the Parish / Village, these include:

- **Parish meetings**: details of these are included in this newsletter.
- **Noticeboards:** The Parish Council has 2 noticeboards; 1 is located at the front of Grindon Parish Hall and the other on the side of the Bus Shelter outside the Vane Arms
- **Newsletter:** a quarterly newsletter is distributed to all residents; placed in noticeboards and included on our web site
- **Website**: The Parish Council has a website – the address is included at the end of this newsletter
- **Village events / meetings**: a good way to keep up to date is through discussions with fellow residents, perhaps by attending the coffee mornings or meet the neighbour events or joining the Red-Hot Chilli Steppers walking group or other events – details are included in this newsletter.

Recent Improvements to the Village

You may have noticed some recent improvements to the village.
The Parish Council has straightened the posts in the village green and have arranged for these to be cleaned.

We have liaised with Stockton Council and secured funding which has enabled the bus shelter roof to be repaired, the mould removed and the shelter re-painted; the footpath near St James has been repaired and filled to remove tripping hazards and the bulging path to the North of St James has been repaired.

Negotiation with Stockton Council has secured agreement for improvements to the play area with the Council agreeing to draft plans for the Parish Council to review – due to existing workloads this is likely to be in the Autumn.

The Parish Council is also delighted that agreement has been reached for works to Improve access through the underpass to Wynyard Woodland Park including for cyclists and to improve accessibility from the car park to the station, signage and landscaping around toilet block are all due to commence imminently.

Further Work Planned

The Parish Council is continuing to further secure Stockton Council support to address issues in Astral Park and Henley Drive; to implement measures to reduce speeding in the village; and to provide further dropped kerbs to assist those with mobility issues and those with prams and pushchairs.

The Parish Council is also looking at further planting in the village and potential to provide some additional large planters within the village.

Any Issues of Concern?

The Parish Council are aware of several issues raised by residents and are dealing with these where possible or liaising with other agencies such as Stockton Borough Council where appropriate.

Residents should contact the relevant agency directly e.g. Stockton Council for parking; highways; planning; grass cutting and speeding. You can contact the Council by phone or via their website www.stockton.gov.uk

Or contact the Police via the Copper App or phoning 101 for Anti-Social Behaviour or Criminal activity.
If in doubt, please let the Parish Council know and we will provide guidance and follow up where necessary.

It is important issues are raised as this increases the profile and records the volume and extent of issues within the Village.

Dates for your Diary

The Parish Council's Social Activities Committee are looking to provide village events that enable inclusion for all. Events currently being planned include: -

- **Summer Fete**: provisionally scheduled for 3rd Sept, as the date works well with surrounding villages. We have asked Stockton Council if we can close the road outside Grindon Parish Hall so the event can be held there.
- **Wine night**: 29th September; a Spanish themed event, with Wine and Tapas. Tickets are £15 and will be on sale soon.
- **Halloween**: initial planning is for a "scary scarecrow trail' and disco for children.
- **Xmas Fayre**: and a visit from Father Christmas

Other ideas include bingo, card night; a ceilidh; treasure hunt; village crawl; Thorpe Thewles rocks. Further Information to follow.

Volunteers are urgently needed, please contact Alison McGee if you can help plan and deliver village events.

What's On at Grindon Parish Hall

Regular activities include:

- **Circuit Training** – Mondays at 6.30. Contact: dannyzap@hotmail.com for information.
- **Art Group** – Tuesdays 1.30 – 3.30pm - £4.00 per session. Contact 07517 504467 for information.
- **Badminton** – currently on summer break, to restart in the Autumn subject to demand. Contact: nickysettle@msn.com for information.
- **Meet Your Neighbours** – usually held once a month on Thursday at 7,30 pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Nicky Settle for further information nickysettle@msm.com
- **Coffee Morning** – every Friday 10.00 – 12.00, £2.00 covers coffee/tea, home-made cake & scones, and great conversation – just turn up!
- **Thorpe Thewles History Group** – normally 1st Friday of the month; for further details contact Sarah Hillier on 07826063058.
- **Thorpe Thewles Ladies Pop Choir** – held on Wednesdays 19:00-20:30. Please contact Pauline Plenderleith 07816 208335 before coming along.

Other regular village activities:

- **Thorpe Thewles Cycle Group** – meets at the bus shelter every Saturday at 10.00am. Everyone is welcome to join.
- **Red Hot Chilli Steppers** (walking group) - meets at the bus shelter every Sunday at 10.00am Everyone is welcome to join.

The Parish Hall is available to hire, either for a one-off event or regular events. If anyone wishes to hire the hall for an event, then please contact Sophie Lord sophie_lord89@hotmail.com for further information.

G & TT Parish Council:

Current Councillors:

Michelle Davies	*07715 899113*
Jeff Gillson	*07824 625990*
Paul Hamblett	*07827 964198*
Alison McGee	*07958 431051*
Rory Moffatt	*07730 871496*
Gareth Rees	*07709 013640*

Clerk:

Chris Chapman *07734 288912*
email: thorpe.grindon@outlook.com

Parish Council Website:
https://grindonandthorpethewlespc.chessck.co.uk

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