

Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 6:30pm in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles.

Present: Cllrs. Davies (Chair); Hamblett, McGee, Moffatt and Rees

In Attendance: Cllr Gardner (SBC); David Askey (SBC); C. Chapman, Clerk; 2 residents

1. **Public Forum:** A resident raised an issue regarding the exit from the village onto the A177 with oncoming traffic hard to see due to the grass in central reservation not being cut back. **Resolved** for clerk to raise with Care For Your Area.
2. **Ward Councillors report:** Cllr Gardner advised he had chased the speed limit signs which are still awaiting legal response. The Chair asked about parking at the top of Middle Bank which was a potential accident risk. Cllr Gardner restated need to contact enforcement when it occurs. Cllr Rees asked about the planning application for an agricultural building in Carlton, with concern it may subsequently become a house. Cllr Gardner advised this would be subject to future planning application if it was the case.
3. **Wynyard Woodland Park:** The Chair welcomed David Askey, Countryside Programmes Officer, Stockton Council. David advised he was interested in opportunities to work together on Wynyard Woodland Park. The Station House is retained by SBC but is not in use as much as could be. Opportunity perhaps for community groups to use.
David advised there had been some improvement to accessibility, there are no stiles and some flat areas, but due to the landscape there are steps.
Cllrs advised there was some anti-social behaviour and littering at site of former Larches bridge and perhaps need for a dog bin near the concrete bunker (**Resolved** for clerk to raise request for a bin from the community budget with Cllr Gardner).
It was noted the Giant Utensils set was missing the Fork.
Councillors suggested reinstating the dog friendly café may be an idea as the area is used by dog walkers and proposed the Parish Hall could suggest the use of the Station House if the Hall was unable to take bookings.
A Country fair was also accepted as a potential good idea and would be supported by Councillors..
Cllr Hamblett asked about the stones off the former bridge, which David advised were planned for use in 'stony field' as seating.
Resolved for the clerk to request a register of bridges in the parish and a copy of the archaeological report which could be of use to local History Group.
The Chair thanked David for his attendance.
4. **Apologies:** Apologies from Cllr Gillson were accepted.
5. **Declarations of Interest:** The Clerk declared a declaration of interest on the donation request within the Financial Reports agenda item.
6. **Minutes of** the Parish Council meeting held on **Tuesday 9th July 2024** were proposed by Cllr McGee and seconded by Cllr Hamblett.
Minutes of the Special Parish Council meeting to discuss planning issues with planning officer held on **Tuesday 31st July 2024** were proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr McGee. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

7. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising other than the issues log.
8. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Deferred to next meeting.
9. **Personnel Committee Report:** No issues to report.
10. **Social Activities Committee report:** Cllr McGee advised the NZ wine and social event a success. The next event is the South Africa Wine and Social event on 20th September. There are currently 7 tickets still available.
Cllr McGee advised we had a full programme of events to the end of the year, including Halloween events, Santa Day, Christmas Fayre and a race night.
11. **Financial Reports.** The financial reports were noted and transactions as expected and budgeted.
Financial Transactions 2 July 2024 – 2 Sept 2024

Receipts:	£
NZ Wine Night – ticket sales	550.00
TOTAL	550.00

Payments:	
Race Night deposit – reimburse N Settle	50.00
Compost & Flowers for planters– reimburse J Gillson	137.19
Admin costs, paper, reimburse clerk C Chapman	10.00
Chess ICT Website hosting fees	98.14
Parish Hall Rental costs	100.00
SA wine and social night, purchase of wine – reimburse J Gillson	476.80
Norton antivirus plus – reimburse clerk C Chapman	39.99
Table place name holders for social events – reimburse clerk C Chapman	12.99
SA wine night reimburse N Settle	60.18
Admin expenses = card, reimburse clerk C Chapman	6.00
TOTAL	991.29

An update on the donation request from the Parish Hall CIO was received outlining success in securing other grants and proposed use of such. It was **agreed** for the Parish Council to now donate the £1000 previously approved to help support the maintenance of the Hall and planned investment in the community.

The clerk advised Barclays have withdrawn the account we were looking to transfer to, other than for Charities, Clubs and Societies. The clerk proposed we instead move to Unity Trust Bank, which was **approved**.

12. **Training Opportunities:**
The previously circulated training schedule was noted, there were no training requested by Councillors.
13. **Planning:**
The Chair introduced Ben from the Vane Arms who asked to outline the planning applications they had submitted and seek support from the Parish Council as a local business.
Ben advised the applications were retrospective and apologised for the delays, partly caused by SBC planning and delays in responses and change in officers, and solicitor delays.
Ben advised they had approval for 28 days of events
The 1st planning application was for decking and change of use outside – to have the decking
The 2nd application was for the conservatory and private dining room
Ben outlined some resident concerns and action he had taken, including removal of football nets/ball games and stopping the playing of loud music; and had also met residents in general and over specific

issues. Ben advised the Pub been there for 150 years and asked for some leeway and understanding of general pub related noise (eg people using and talking at outside seating areas). Ben emphasised he would work proactively to address appropriate concerns.

Parking was raised and Ben advised he could do little, but was seeking to rent some spaces at Hamilton Russel for staff, which would free up some additional spaces.

Ben understood parking was an issue, but advised he really had no jurisdiction, noting that parking outside the church was also a problem.

The Chair asked Councillors for their views.

Councillors noted comments made and also the support and joint working to social events eg vouchers as raffle prizes. Councillors thanked Ben for the positive action he was taking and wished to see this continue. It was unanimously **resolved** for the clerk to send letter of support the application as a valued local business.

The Chair outlined planning proposals for Port Clarence and storage of radioactive waste which she had expressed an interest in being kept upto date. It was agreed to keep an eye out for planning application and ensure we responded.

14. Items of Concern to Councillors:

The schedule of prior items was reviewed and noted.

It was **resolved** for the clerk to:

- request speedwatch on the stretch outside Thorpe Paddocks development, rush hour traffic is a particular issue.
- Follow up the cutting back of verges on middlebank and sight lines across the bridge
- Follow up the pothole at Wynyard Road / A177 junction, which has been marked for repair for some time
- Request Stockton Council to install Christmas lights as usual

Councillor Rees outlined a bid the History Group has submitted to the Heritage Lottery for £59k which was viewed as a positive for the parish.

15. Communications

It was agreed the key matters to communicate were the South Africa wine and social night on 20th September.

16. Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 6.30pm Tuesday 8th October 2024 at Grindon Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm

Minutes Authorised By:

Minutes Seconded By:

Date: