



GRINDON
PARISH COUNCIL

Grindon Parish Council, Minutes Created as PDF by VillageNotes.com

1117 Minutes – 9th January 2008

1. PRESENT

Mr W Allison, Mr W Atkinson, Mr D Godfrey, Mr D Jones, Ms S Robertson
In attendance: Mr R Cooper (Clerk), Mr D Bond (Director of Law and Democracy, Stockton BC), Cllr J Gardner, PC J Ollett

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr G Rees

3. TO RECEIVE RESIGNATION OF MR J HUNT AND ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR

3.1 In the absence of Mr J Hunt, the Clerk took the Chair and read a letter of resignation from Mr J Hunt, both as Chair of the PC and as a Parish Councillor. This was received with regret and the Clerk was asked to write to him expressing the PC's appreciation of his past service.

3.2 Mr W Allison proposed and Ms S Robertson seconded the election of Mr D Godfrey as Chair of Grindon PC. All in favour. Appreciation was expressed at Mr Godfrey's willingness to take on this role.

3.3 Mr D Godfrey took the Chair and the meeting continued.

4. POLICE AND COMMUNITY ISSUES

4.1 PC J Ollett reported that there had been only 3 crimes in the parish during the previous month (1 sheep worrying; 1 vandalism and 1 burglary). There had also been one traffic accident resulting in the overturning of a lamppost in Thorpe Thewles. He also reported that consideration of speed restriction issues on the Wynd, Wynyard were in hand. There being no other business for him, PC Ollett left the meeting with renewed appreciation of his work in the community.

5. PRESENTATION BY DAVID BOND, STOCKTON BC DIRECTOR OF LAW AND DEMOCRACY

5.1 Mr D Bond distributed various papers in relation to the new Members' Code of Conduct and spoke to them. In particular, he drew attention to the fact that the new code was intended to ease matters of personal and prejudicial interest in smaller councils, such that members could now participate in discussions (though not vote) in ways they would not have been able to do under the old Code. He answered various questions in clarification of the Code and thanks were expressed to him for coming to do this.

5.2 Mr W Allison took advantage of Mr Bond's presence to ask if was possible to split Grindon PC into two, so that the business of both Wynyard and Thorpe Thewles residents could be more effectively addressed. Mr Bond responded that such a split was theoretically possible, but that the likelihood of it happening was not great.

6. INTERESTS TO DECLARE

Cllr J Gardner declared his interest as a member of Stockton BC Planning Cttee and took no part in discussion of Planning items.

7. MINUTES:

Mr W Allison proposed and Mr D Jones seconded approval of the minutes of the meeting of 12.12.2007 as a correct record. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

8.1 Provision of dog bins for Wynyard. The Clerk reported that progress with Wynyard Estate Services was slow. He was asked to approach Stockton BC: 1. to confirm the BC's willingness to empty up to 6 dog bins 2. to obtain a definite price for the installation of each bin.

8.2 Enquiry at Land Registry re Village Green, Thorpe Thewles: solicitor's terms and conditions for acting on behalf of Grindon PC. The Clerk reported that Jacksons Solicitors were preparing a draft letter, which would be sent to members for approval.

8.3 Grindon Lane traffic: a letter from Stockton BC was read to the meeting, detailing plans to review speed restrictions. Because Grindon Lane would not be a priority Mr W Allison agreed to contact residents to see if there were particular times when speeding occurred, with a view to asking PC Ollett to take action.

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8.4 Risk assessment on financial activities: Mr J Atkinson reported on his meeting with the Clerk and tabled a draft Financial Risk Assessment pro forma. In particular it was noted that the budget would now be monitored monthly instead of quarterly. The Clerk was asked to clarify two issues with the Director of Law and Democracy, after which the PC could approve and adopt the Risk Assessment procedure.

8.5 SEIB grant for floral displays. Cllr J Gardner gave the meeting the background on £5.3K which was available to be split between Wolviston, Wynyard and Thorpe Thewles on an annual basis. After discussion he was asked to revise downwards the PC's bid for planters in Thorpe Thewles (so that money would still be left in future years for new projects after maintenance fees on existing ones had been paid) and to submit this to Stockton BC.

8.6 Thorpe Thewles village tidy-up: Procedure to seek replacement for Mr A Whitfield. Mr W Allison reported that his work on this was ongoing.

9. PLANNING

9.1 Planning decisions

The following decision was noted:

9.1.1 07/2999/FUL Conversion of bungalow to dwellinghouse at Quarry House, The Transport Depot, Blakeston Lane. Approved with conditions.

9.2 Planning Applications

9.2.1 07/3173/FUL 18 Fulthorpe Grove, Wynyard, Billingham Single storey rear dining room/garden room with balcony above.
No comment

9.2.2 07/3344/FUL 34 The Wynd, Wynyard, Billingham Two storey extension to side
No comment

10. HIGHWAYS

10.1 A177 between the end of the dual carriageway and the bridge. The clerk was asked to contact CFYA to ask for the hedge to be cut back on the east side because walkers are having to step around overgrowth into the road. This request had been made before and no action taken, so an explanation should also be sought about this inaction.

10.2 The Wynd, Wynyard: the PC was reminded that Mr S Lumb would be addressing the next meeting on issues concerning speed restrictions

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11. ACCOUNTS

11.1 The Clerk reported the following account balances: Current a/c £864.81; Reserve: £6093.01

11.2 The 2007-08 budget (below) was monitored. It was noted that the allocated £900.00 had not yet been spent on a new bench for Wynyard and the Clerk was asked to approach Wynyard Estate Services about the possibility of installing one on its land.

GRINDON PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2007-8

INCOME RECEIVED/SPENT TO DATE

Precept 6700.00 6700.00

VAT repayment 103.00 104.17

Interest 50.00

Wayleave 4.60

Contra overspend on grasscutting 107.26 (From St James's PCC)

TOTAL 6857.60 6911.43

EXPENDITURE

Thorpe churchyard grass-cutting 650.00 757.26 (Overspend because of admin. error – see balancing contra income above)

Parish appearance 300.00 255.00

Audit fee 60.00 58.75

Donations 300.00 200.00 (Wynyard Fete)

Stationery 25.00

Insurance 400.00 375.84 (To be agreed at January meeting)

Wynyard bench and fixing 900.00

Wynyard dog bins 750.00

Felling diseased and dangerous tree 1500.00 1237.50 (As VAT not reclaimable 17.5% less than in Thorpe churchyard (one-off donation) budgeted)

Grindon Parish Hall meeting hire 120.00 220.00 (Overspend because of estimating mistake by Parish Hall – covered from contingency)

Clerk's salary and expenses 1400.00 990.00

Contingency 455.00 135.00 (£25: Retirement gift re Thorpe Tidy-up
£110.00: contra Parish hall overspend))

TOTAL 6860.00 4229.35

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11.3 Budget and Precept 2008-9: After discussion Mr W Allison proposed and Mr J Atkinson seconded adoption of the budget below for 2008-9, which would involve setting a precept of £6700.00. As all were in favour, the Clerk was asked to return this figure to Stockton BC.

It was further agreed that a public meeting be held (perhaps concurrent with the AGM in May) at which members of the community could be asked for their views on what work they would like to see carried out to improve their area. This would assist the PC in setting the precept and budget in the following year.

INCOME

PRECEPT 6700.00

VAT REPAYMENT 136.00

INTEREST 50.00

WAYLEAVE 4.60

CONTRA GRASSCUTTING OVERSPEND 110.00 Reimbursed by St James's PCC

EARMARKED RESERVE FROM 2007-8 1650.00

TOTAL 8650.60

EXPENDITURE

PARISH APPEARANCE 4330.00

Comprising:

1. New work

£780.00 St James's, Grindon churchyard grass-cutting. From 2008 Grindon PC will pay all invoices and receive a contra cheque from St James's PCC for the balance of the cost that exceeds the agreed grant. In 2008/9 the grant will be £670.00, based on 3% inflationary increase.

£500.00 - Work to trees on Thorpe Village Green

£1000.00 – repairs to chains on Thorpe Village Green

£400.00 Thorpe Village tidy-up: 25% increase based on likelihood of difficulty in finding anyone to accept the work at the current rate.

2. Work carried over from 2007-8 and funded by earmarked reserves from 2007-8

£750.00 Dog bins for Wynyard

£900.00 New bench for Wynyard

LEGAL FEES 1350.00

AUDIT FEE 65.00 Based on £58.75 actual figure for 2007/8

DONATIONS 300.00 As 2007/8

STATIONERY 25.00 As 2007/8

INSURANCE 400.00 Based on £375.84 actual figure for 2007/8

GRINDON PARISH HALL MEETING HIRE 230.00 Based on 3% inflationary increase

CLERK'S SALARY AND EXPENSES 1442.00 Based on 3% inflationary increase

CONTINGENCY 500.00

TOTAL £8642.00

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11. ACCOUNTS (cont)

11.4 Mr W Atkinson proposed and Ms S Robertson seconded:

1) Payment of Clerk's monthly salary of £110.00

2) Payment of the annual premium from Zurich Insurance in the sum of £375.84. (Renewal Notice circulated).

All were in favour, so that cheques and stubs were circulated and signed.

12. PARISH APPEARANCE

12.1 A questionnaire from Stockton BC on recreation facilities was circulated for completion

by both wards.

12.2 The Stables Pub, Wynyard: the Clerk was asked to copy a letter previously sent to Punch Taverns to Wynyard Estate Services in the hope that they would take action.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

13.1 Stockton BC: a letter was read concerning the basis for excluding members of the public from part of a meeting.

13.2 TVRCC: a copy of Rural News was circulated.

13.3 Co Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership: details of courses were circulated.

13.4 Stockton BC: A request for comments on the proposed List of Local Validation Requirements for Planning Applications was circulated.

13.5 CK Electric UK: a leaflet re power interruption was circulated.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, February 13th, 2008