

Minutes of an extra meeting of the Stainton & Thornton Parish Council held online via a remote platform (Zoom) on Thursday, 29 April 2021 at 6pm.

Authority to hold meeting: The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

Present: Parish Councillors A. Liddle (Chair), B. Neale, A. Conroy, D. Coupe, A. Cooper, J. Holmes (Clerk)

26/21. Apologies for absence. Cllr. R. Dennison, Cllr. C. Dean

27/21. Public Participation – Opportunity for members of the public to address the Council - None

28/21 Reason for Meeting – Chair informed councillors present that this extra meeting had been convened following a recent meeting of the Kell Gate Green Pollution Sub Committee and the closure of Kell Gate Green to the public.

Cllr. Liddle reported that Middlesbrough Council were actively engaging with the resident of one of the properties involved, using cameras to investigate the drainage problem with the hope of getting both properties connected to the main sewer.

Cllr. Conroy commented that he detected a change of attitude from Middlesbrough Council who were now acting proactively in addressing the pollution problem. As a result, the Pollution Sub Committee have indicated that Kell Gate Green could be re-opened to the public but only on a temporary and conditional basis. Warning signs about the contamination of the water course would need to be in place before any re-opening. If conditions in the beck deteriorated the Parish Council would not hesitate to introduce a further closure. The re-opening was also conditional on real progress by Middlesbrough Council and the householders to resolve the issue.

Cllr. Neale expressed caution. The closure of KGG by the Parish Council and the outcry from residents had, in his view, pressured Middlesbrough Council into action and re-opening KGG before the pollution problem was resolved could be detrimental, slowing down the progress made so far.

Cllr. Cooper asked if Middlesbrough Council were working to any timescales and if the Parish Council would be supplied with any progress reports.

Cllr. Coupe stated that Middlesbrough Council had indicated they would bear the cost of water testing for samples taken in late spring/early summer. They also indicated that they would provide the relevant warning signs once the wording had been decided by the Parish Council.

Cllr. Liddle reported the Pollution Sub Committee had recommended that Kell Gate Green could be re-opened subject to the reasons previously stated and asked councillors to vote on the proposal

‘The Parish Council to re-open Kell Gate Green on a temporary and conditional basis once approved signage was in place’

The vote resulted in favour of the proposal by 3 votes to 2. There were no abstentions.

29/21 Closure of Meeting – The Chair thanked Councillors for attending and closed the meeting at 6.30pm.

Minutes taken by: J. Holmes, Clerk to the Council, 13 Strait Lane, Stainton, TS8 9BB.
clerk@staintonandthorntonparishcouncil.org.uk Tel: 01642 296060. 07980 572115.