

STAINTON and THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIR 2018-2019

From our AGM in May 2018, Stainton and Thornton Parish Council met on six occasions for standard business meetings, once for our AGM and once as a joint meeting with the Community Council for our Parish Assembly. The attendance rate by councillors was in excess of 80%.

Jim Holmes, previous parish councillor and acting parish clerk, commenced his new contract of employment from 1st September 2018 and has been instrumental in getting our parish website up and running. The website at www.staintonandthorntonparishcouncil.org.uk is proving very successful with details of meetings and minutes of meetings, not just from the parish council, but all our local groups, being published on a regular basis.

The council continue to financially support The Friends of Stainton and Thornton Green Spaces to the tune of £200.00 p.a. for their day to day running costs and £500.00 p.a. for the maintenance of street furniture, notice boards, seats etc. The parish council kept the unit levy per household the same as in previous years and would intend no increase in the 2019-2020 financial year.

The village continues to expand, with the Taylor Wimpey site at Rose Cottage phase 3 being well under way and not too far from completion. The Taylor Wimpey and Persimmon sites on Hemlington Grange (still part of the parish) have also seen a rapid number of houses being built and occupied. An extra 200 or so houses are now officially part of the parish.

The Montpelier Manor Care Home, built by Swift Healthcare but subsequently sold to MHA, has been finished and currently has a number of residents. The site next door, still owned by Swift Healthcare, was the subject of a planning appeal, by Swift, for the building of 64 assisted living accommodation units, was refused by the Bristol Planning Inspectorate.

The parish council continue to work with a group of local residents and other councillors to put together the Stainton and Thornton Neighbourhood Plan. This tries to lay down guidelines on how we would like to see the villages develop or not as the case may be. The group are trying to work as closely as possible with MBC to try and achieve a satisfactory outcome for both to achieve their aims. Following the recent borough council elections, the MBC Local Plan may be altered, which in turn may result in a slight delay of our Neighbourhood Plan.

As in previous years, the parish council have installed Christmas Lights in Meldyke Lane and in conjunction with the chapel, Stainton Inn and the Memorial Hall have provided a very festive look to the village over the Christmas and New Year period.

Anti-social behaviour in the Quarry and our other green spaces, Maelor's Wood and the Spinney continues to be a problem particularly during the fine weather and the light nights of summer. PCSO Simon French and the rest of the police team are doing their best to keep on top of the situation, but with limited resources damage etc. still remains a problem.

The other major problem is that of dog fouling. Despite the many pleas to dog owners to clear up after their animals, the minority of dog owners are giving the more responsible dog owners a bad name. We know that it is a question of education and the problem is not just borough wide but nationwide. We will continue our pressure with MBC for more dog patrols and subsequent prosecutions to try and clean up our villages.

The £20,000.00 106 money from phase three of Rose Cottage Farm development has eventually been paid to the Friends Group who will carry out a programme of footpath improvements and environment projects over the coming months.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the Parish Councillors for their help and support throughout the year.

Alan Liddle. Chair

Stainton and Thornton Parish Council. 2018-2019.