

STANTON & THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Environment Committee held on Friday, 13th May, 2016 in the Memorial Hall, Stanton at 5.00 p.m.

1. **Welcome** – Cllr. D. Coupe, Chair, welcomed those present at the meeting: Mr. B. Chapman, Mr. R. Dennison, Cllr. A. Liddle, Mrs. P. Henderson, Mrs. M. Holmes, Mrs. E. Revett and Mrs. M. Newbould, Secretary.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Mrs. L. Brear and Mrs. P. Burton.
3. **The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th Feb. 2016** were accepted by all present as a true record (proposed by B. Chapman and seconded by E. Revett).
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes** – (i) **Barrels:** Members reported that the 5 barrels in Thornton were looking good at present. The purchase of new barrels for Stanton was discussed and would be progressed at a later point in the year, following the Annual Meeting of the S & T Parish Council on 17th May, 2016, when the P/C Accounts would be presented and Budget figures reviewed. (ii) 2 new **containers** had been purchased for £212 in early 2015 using part of the Taylor Wimpey donation and installed on Hemlington Road (+ £10. unloading cost). (iii) The proposed **Gardens Competition** had been postponed until 2017. (iv) **Plant stall on Gala Day** (Sunday, 31st July, 2016) – plant donations had been requested. Mrs. Coleman would provide a lot of plants. Mrs. E. Revett would receive and store plant donations at No. 8, Thornton Rd. However, she would be away the 2nd week in July.
5. **Northumbria in Bloom update:** Spring 2016 Meeting at Gateshead on 9th March – Cllr. A. Liddle and Mrs. E. Revett, who had both attended, were thanked by the Chair and members. It was agreed to hold the Env. Cttee. meeting *after* the NiB Inaugural Spring Meeting in future, straight after the Parish Assembly during the 2nd week in March. Entries for the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' competition had to be submitted by the Chair by 14th June. The groups entering were: the 'Last of the Summer Wine' group, the 'Thornton Bloomers' and Meldyke Place. Mrs. E. Revett reported re the Spring Judging on Friday, 15th April, 2016. She and Cllr. Liddle had escorted the 3 judges on a tour around S & T. The judges had asked for a route. Cllr. Liddle pointed out that the Spring Judging only carried 25% of the total competition marks for the whole year. He felt that the Thornton T-junction feature/display was as beautiful as anything to be seen in any of the villages taking part in N in Bloom. Community involvement was a requirement of the competition but more cohesion was needed in his opinion. It was suggested that a colour-theme might be helpful for plants in village troughs, entrance signs, etc. but *not* for front gardens. A coordinated splash of colour would really

brighten up the appearance of the 2 villages. The theme and colour scheme could be advertised in the Village Newsletter and in Cllr. Jim Holmes's weekly circular to create more interest among residents and also helpers would be reminded that if they wished to claim expenses for purchasing plants and compost, they were certainly able to do so. Mrs. E. Revett had arranged hire of the Parish Room for the Summer Judging welcome and refreshments on Friday, 1st July, 2016. Summer planting was in progress and a Litter Pick would be arranged in June shortly before Summer Judging. Cllr. D. Coupe would update the List of Village Areas and write to all the volunteer planters to thank them, to ask for their ideas and to find out whether they wished to continue. Mrs. E. Revett would see Chris Haykin. Cllr. D. Coupe would see the new landlord of The Stainton, who, it was thought, might need some practical and financial assistance for the first year's NiB entry. At the Chair's request, Taylor Wimpey had swept the road, cleared the gulleys and removed plastic dog litter bags from the hedges before the Spring Judging and would continue this process until the end of the year. The NiB Awards Ceremony would be held at Gateshead in the Lancastrian Suite on Wednesday, 14th September, 2016. The IYN Awards Presentation Ceremony would be held on 2nd Nov. It was **NOTED** that *** NiB 2017 entries must be submitted by 30th Nov. 2016.

6. Suggestions for spending 106 monies A sum of £20,000 of 106 monies was soon to be received by the Friends of S & T Green Spaces. Also, £288.00 Taylor Wimpey reserve remained in the Environment Committee funds. Chris Haykin would reband barrels if necessary; a move towards the use of perennials was being made. It had been agreed at a previous meeting that planters and permanent structures could be fabricated by the Environment Committee and volunteers instead of purchasing new containers. There might be money remaining from the Gardens Society (Clerk still to check the archives) and it was possible that a grant might be forthcoming from the Parish Council in 2017. Because a lot of Env. Committee members and volunteer helpers were not claiming expenses only £151.59 had been spent on plants out of the Parish Council Environment Committee budget of £500 during the year to 31st March, 2016. Two or three Amberol Barrels could possibly therefore be purchased during the year 2016/2017 at approx. £150 each. Siting was discussed and R. Dennison requested that Robert be included in the discussion.

7. Portfolio progress: Cllr. David Coupe hoped to make rapid progress with the N in Bloom portfolio. The MBC website included the software for the Portfolio and Mrs. E. Revett had passed several portfolios from previous years to him for reference. All members were invited to take photographs of the village and to send them to him at Middlesbrough Council. An electronic version of the portfolio was also available from Mrs. P. Burton. Cllr. Coupe would progress this item and speak further about it at the Parish Council Annual Meeting on 17th May.

8. Any Other Business: (i) Hire of Roller: B. Chapman would book the roller for KGG and Stainton Wood now that the weather had improved. The cost would be about £200 for one day. (ii) 'Grass Roots' magazines were available from Mrs. E. Revett. In the most recent copy of the magazine for IYN people. Rotary International had a scheme to eradicate polio. They would sponsor and provide thousands of crocus bulbs. Crocus displays could be planted in October 2016 at the village entrances and on the grass verge opposite Cedar Drive, and at the T-junction, etc. (iii) Cllr. D. Coupe reported that green waste collections were being discontinued by Middlesbrough Council. However, Haverton Hill would remain open for waste but there were fewer queues at the Guisborough facility. (iv) Cllr. A. Liddle reported 2 new DL/litter bins had been provided by MBC for the village but had been sited at the wrong locations. Cllr. Coupe would check locations. It was stressed that it was now permitted to use ordinary litter bins for dog litter too. (v) Cllr. Liddle reported that Mrs. Crisp had provided funding for planting at Meldyke Lane, Pennyman Way (near June Ellis's) and at the sign on Strait Lane. Noted. (vi) Grass Cutting: Mrs. Henderson reported that the grass verge on the right-hand side of Maltby Rd. going towards Maltby needed attention. Cllr. Coupe would speak to MBC about the problem the following Monday. (vii) R. Dennison reported that the shrub border at Vernon Court needed attention. He used to look after this but no longer wished to do so. The rose bed on Strait Lane was very untidy. He wanted someone else to take on the rose bed too. Re the Litter Pick: a more definite arrangement was needed and better communication of plans to EC members. (viii) Overhanging branches – Cedarwood Glade. Cllr. Liddle would address this item on 17th May at the PC Annual mtg.

9. Date and Time of Next meeting: Friday, October 7th, 2016 at 5.00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall, Stainton

The Chair formally closed the meeting at approx. 6.15 p.m.