

Minutes of the Meeting of the S & T Parish Council Environment Committee
held on Friday, 28th October, 2016 in the Memorial Hall, Stainton

1.Present: Councillor David Coupe (Chair) welcomed those present at the meeting: Cllr. Alan Liddle, Lynne Brear, Pat Burton, Pat Henderson, Elizabeth Revett, Maureen Holmes, M. Newbould (Sec.), Brian Chapman and Ron Dennison.

2. Apologies for Absence: P. McInnes. **3. Agenda:** Date changed from 7th to 28th Oct. 2016.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th May, 2016: Acceptance proposed by B. Chapman and seconded by M. Holmes. The Minutes were then approved by those present and signed by the Chair as a true record.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes: The List of Planters had not yet been provided to the Secretary by the Chair. As a result, letters of thanks to all volunteers who tended planters had not been issued to date. This would be rectified asap.

6. Northumbria in Bloom update – Summer Judging results: E. Revett had gone up to Gateshead with L. Brear to collect the NiB prizes. A Silver Gilt Award had been presented for the Village overall and a Silver for Best Front Garden, 8, Thornton Road; a Gold Award had been won for the 5th year running by Stainton Quarry and Kell Gate Green in the Conservation Class. Elizabeth read out the Judges' comments, e.g. old-world charm, Maelor's Wood – an asset for local residents; good community involvement; the Stainton pub – a good asset; residents show pride in their surroundings; local history could be publicised more effectively; the pub recycling area could be screened; a very hard-working core of volunteers! Re the Quarry and KGG, very good involvement of management of conservation projects; volunteers from a younger age-group required; excellent conservation project; wildflower area in centre of village; excellent haven for wild-life! Easily accessible. The History of the Village should be put in the Memorial Hall. 8, Thornton Road – "The artificial turf is immaculate." Cllr. D. Coupe pointed out that Marton & Nunthorpe had also been down-graded in the Summer 2016 competition results. **2017 entry?** For Northumbria in Bloom, 2017: Everything was to be put online. RHS were to have more input and central control. The judges would take their own pictures and carry out spot judging. Judges each had their own individual opinion, although certain criteria had to be met by entrants. There had been a lot of effort put in by E. Revett and others. The N in B competition provided a focus to work towards. R. Dennison liked the competition as it provided a marker by other people and 'It's Your Neighbourhood' was attached to it. **Portfolio** – It was stated that previous years' portfolio photos and written information ought not to be included in that of the current year. Maybe people could submit their own photos in 2017? Central buying could be re-introduced and have a theme running through the village. 2017 NiB Entry was agreed following a show of hands vote (6 for, 2 against and one abstention). Good publicity and extra helpers were required.

7. It's Your Neighbourhood Awards Ceremony in Gateshead on 2nd Nov. 2016 E. Revett, P. Henderson (Thornton Bloomers) and A. Liddle (Last of the Summer Wine) would attend.

8. Purchase of new planters? Discussion took place regarding Litter Picks, signs at the bottom of Strait Lane and the W.I. rose-bed, which required attention. Maureen Holmes suggested a wild-flower meadow on the rose-bed. She had a packet of Kew seeds towards this and Cllr. A. Liddle had 6 pkts. as well. Individual tubs and planters were not a problem. Replacement of 5 barrels was agreed. Re the rose-bed at Thornton T-junction: the daffodils needed saving and the rose-bed would be re-generated. The roses had been donated by Stainton W.I. whose members were in agreement with the proposal. The roses would be replaced by perennials and bulbs. The soil would be enriched with compost. Neighbours would be consulted to give their ideas and opinions at a chosen Saturday Morning Coffee in the Memorial Hall and this would be advertised in advance in the Village Newsletter and at the Community Council meeting on 8th November to give people an opportunity to object if they so wished. MBC would be asked to contribute towards this effort as substantial drainage was needed. Cllr. D. Coupe informed members about a 'Walk the Ward' Environment Initiative by MBC in March 2017 when Richard Ward would visit S & T and walk around the village with himself and others. Any Environmental problems could be raised with R. Ward, such as the 2 rose-beds, large barrels from Strikes, a new planting scheme, etc. Askham Bryan volunteers might be involved and Janet & Judy from the nursery could give advice.

9. Taylor Wimpey reserve and any 106 monies – No 106 monies had been received by the Friends of S & TGS as yet but this would be pursued. The Taylor Wimpey reserve balance was £230. The Gardens Society legacy had already been used for an environmental feature for the village during Cllr. Maelor Williams' lifetime. Also, Chris Hobson had donated £500 for an Environment project outside of the Parish Council. Agreed that 4 or 5 Amberol self-watering tubs would be purchased. Cllr. A. Liddle would look into this.

10. Gala Day July 2017 – Plant Stall – It was agreed to continue the Plant Stall proposal. The stall would be organised for Gala Day by Maureen Holmes. Mrs. Coleman had donated a lot of plants to E. Revett for the stall.

11. Any Other Business (a) Strait Lane hedge trimming – the Chair reported that Taylor Wimpey did the maintenance for the Rose Cottage Farm estate. Middlesbrough Council refused to adopt the hedge. (b) Large Village Sign at Lowcock's corner, Thornton: Pat Henderson reported a problem. Brian Chapman offered to assist. The grass verge there was very untidy too. Brian would ask Brian Hogarth to see to that matter.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Fri. 17th February, 2017 at 5.00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall. * Please note that this may have to be changed to 17 March **after** the NiB Inaugural Spring meeting, straight after the Parish Assembly in March 2017, as agreed at the Environment Cttee. Meeting on 13th May, 2016.

