

Minutes of the Meeting of the S & T Parish Council Environment Committee

**held on Friday, 17th February, 2017 at 5.00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall,
Stainton**

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

2. Apologies for Absence: Councillor Angela Cooper, Lynne Brear, Pat Burton and Pauline McInnes.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th October, 2016: The Minutes were approved by those present and signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

(i) **Letters of thanks to planters** – only one reply (from Bob Small) had been received and this had been reported at the Parish Council meeting on 13th December, 2016. The sum of approx. £60.00 was agreed and authorised for the purchase of 6 shrubs for a strip of land on the corner of High Rifts. Bob Small was willing to look after the bed once it was established. This new bed would be beneficial to the village's appearance.

(ii) **Rosebeds** – **(a) Thornton T-junction:** Cllr. Alan Liddle reported that the roses had been dug out but some bluebells remained in the flower-bed; a seat had been purchased by Dorothy Pearson and turf and paving slabs ordered to level and reduce the size of the bed so that it would be more manageable for the Thornton ladies' group to tend. The seat was currently resting in E. Revett's stable. Cuprinol would be used by Pat B., Pat H. and Elizabeth to clean the seat, which would be securely concreted in beneath the tree by the TM Group, or possibly Nicky Morgan's One Planet Pioneers, before Easter. A plaque would be engraved by Feet First for the seat in memory of Margaret Davidson.

(b) Strait Lane Memorial Garden: Since Ron Dennison had retired from looking after the rosebed, Maureen Holmes had been caring for it. If the bed became easy-care, Maureen would agree to continue. There was a small amount of bark left and the roses could be retained. Brian Chapman would roll the bed in the summer before Gala Day to level it. It was suggested that an Open Meeting be held and advertised in the Newsletter and Cllr. Jim Holmes' "What's On" email circular

5. Northumbria in Bloom 2017, Spring Judging Inaugural Meeting on 1st March at 10.00 a.m. at the Federation Brewery in Gateshead – Cllr. David Coupe hoped to attend. **2017 entry submitted** for Northumbria in Bloom: 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. At the meeting, more would be learnt about the judging process and criteria for 2017 and posters for the village would be collected.

6.Portfolio – an update on portfolio requirements was given by the Chair. Further

information would be gleaned at the meeting at Gateshead on 1st March. Pictures of the village environment could be uploaded to Northumbria in Bloom. The Chair would look at the website and email E. Revett. It was assumed that a Portfolio **would** be needed. **Preparation for Spring Judging** – Cllr. A. Liddle reported that the bulbs were coming through at the far end of the Tear-Drop bed on Hemlington Rd. A lot of the troughs had been planted up but some had not. More people should be involved. He proposed that the Committee have a word with a supplier, go back to bulk-buying and deliver the plants and compost out to the planters, e.g. Whitegates were selling a ton of compost for £80.00. Volunteers should be asked: “Are you still happy to continue to look after your bed or trough?” and “Do you need any plants or compost to plant them up if the Committee purchases and provides the plants?”

7. Purchase of new planters, tubs and barrels Cllr. Alan Liddle reported a quotation of £468.00 (£175.00 each plus £40.00 delivery, plus £78.00 VAT) for 2 brown replacement Amberol planters/barrels for the Seamer Road entrance. It was agreed that 2 Amberol self-watering tubs would be purchased. Cllr. A. Liddle would progress this. The stone planters outside the Church that Brian Chapman had obtained 2 years previously were guaranteed for 25 years. Cllr. D. Coupe reminded 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 on 9th March with himself, John McQuade and others. Any Environmental problems could be raised with R. Ward, such as the 2 rose-beds, large barrels, a new planting scheme, etc. e.g. A lady at No. 7, Roseberry Drive had complained about a Council tree outside her garden. **Vernon Court Bed** – This bed used to be looked after by Ron Dennison. Accent N.E. had cleared and re-planted the bed but had then informed Cllr. A. Liddle that it belonged to MBC. The couch-grass needed removing from the bed. This would be added to Cllr. D. Coupe’s list for ‘Walk the Ward’.

8. Taylor Wimpey reserve and any other monies – No 106 monies had been received by the Friends of S & TGS as yet but this would be pursued by Cllr. David Coupe, who would go and see Paul Clarke, MBC’s Chief Planning Officer. The Taylor Wimpey reserve balance was £230. Chris Hobson had donated £500 for an Environment project outside of the Parish Council. It was agreed that when the £500.00 from Chris Hobson had been used, a photo would be taken and sent to her with a letter of thanks. Cllr. A. Liddle summarised expenditure needed for the very near future: £60.00 for shrubs for Bob Small; £390.00 for the 2 barrel planters; turf for Thornton T-junction; 3 slabs of concrete for the steps to go up to the new seat at Thornton; gravel and hard-core to go underneath the new barrel planters; & plants for Spring Judging.

9. Gala Day on 16th July, 2017 – Plant Stall plans – The stall would be organised for Gala Day by Mrs. Maureen Holmes. Mrs. E. Revett remarked that she would not be responsible for the plants this year. The Plant Stall would be advertised in the Village Newsletter and Cllr. Jim Holmes’ “What’s On”.

10. Any Other Business:

(a) Looking after our Environment Volunteers Ron Dennison suggested talking to volunteers in person 'one to one' to find out what they would like to do in order to get them more involved and inviting them along to a meeting.

More people were needed to volunteer to look after the Village Welcome signs.

(b) Horses – Brian Chapman reported that there were horses in the field along Stainton Way.

© Marton West - Cllr. David Coupe reported that Leslie McGoin and the people at Marton West were in favour of a joint Gardens Competition organised locally.

(d) Containers at The Stainton Pub Cllr. Alan Liddle would go to see Paula at the Pub.

(e) Social Media: Maureen Holmes reported a new online group entitled "Next Door" and Cllr. David Coupe reported the Stainton & Thornton Community page on Facebook.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 4th April, 2017 at 7.00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall, Stainton. Volunteers would be invited to attend and this would be advertised at the Parish Assembly/Community Council meeting on 14th March, 2017 and in Cllr. Jim Holmes' weekly "What's On". New residents would also be invited by Cllr. D. Coupe.

The Chair formally closed the meeting at approximately 6.40 p.m.