

Minutes of the Meeting of the S & T Parish Council Environment Committee held on Friday 29 September, 2017 at 7.15 p.m. at 3 Meldyke Lane, Stainton.

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

2. Apologies for Absence: Elizabeth Revett, Pat Burton.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 June 2017 were agreed by those present and signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes (not dealt with elsewhere)

(i) **Beds – (a) Thornton T-junction** Report by Elizabeth Revett.

Brian Chapman kindly gave the bed a spraying of round up. The bed will need digging over to remove any remaining wicken roots, also lifting the Daffodil bulbs on the road side of the bed which will be either seeded or turfed. The seat will need to be set in concrete before any planting can be done. Only then can suggestions for the plants for the area be discussed.

Discussions will take place with One Planet Pioneers and other similar groups who may be able to execute the siting of the seat.

The two **Amberol Barrels** are in my carport to replace two of the worst ones on the Seamer Road grass area. Need to liaise with the guy who has looked after the current ones, remove old barrels, check and do any repairs to the remaining ones. Site the new ones; fill with water, compost and plants.

Alan Liddle reported that the One Planet Pioneers are unavailable as they are busy with other projects so he would enquire if Dave Smallwood and the Community Payback team can help with the digging and removal of roots etc. The size of the bed needs to be reduced and the seat installed once it has been turfed and paved by the 'Thursday Group'.

(b) Strait Lane Memorial Garden. The memorial plaque sited in the bed is to be removed, cleaned and retained on display in the Memorial Hall (agreed by Memorial Hall management committee 30.9.17.)

The wording on the plaque is as follows:

This tree was planted 6th May 1995 by Wilf Raistrick to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of VE Day. Donated by the Stainton and Thornton Garden Society on behalf of all war veterans of the villages.

The Parish Council would decide on the wording of any new memorial plaque and where it would be sited.

(c) Hemlington Road Tear-drop. Alan Liddle reported that there had been little progress this year with new planting and that a perennial route similar to Strait Lane was the best option for the future.

(d) Maintenance of Seats and Notice Boards. Following an appeal by the Parish Council for volunteers to 'adopt' and maintain seats and/or notice boards in the village two residents had responded. The seat in the centre of Strait Lane and the one near the corner of High Rifts had been renovated by Ron Dennison and the Notice Board on High Rifts had been sanded and re-stained by Linda Thirling. This was very welcome, and notwithstanding any resident wanting to help in this way, the FSTGS Thursday Group would endeavour to undertake planned maintenance during the winter months on the remaining fixtures.

5. Northumbria in Bloom 2017. Report and result analysis – Cllr. D. Coupe reported he had attended the NIB Award Ceremony at Gateshead. In the Large Village category we were awarded Silver. Maelor's Wood received a Silver Gilt in the Conservation category and in the Private garden category Mrs Coleman of Meldyke Lane was awarded Silver. This year the marking overall, throughout the region was harder and it was interesting to note that in the Large Village category there was not a Gold award to any of the entrants. The overall winner in this category, the village of Ord in Northumberland was awarded a Silver Gilt.

The following comments are extracts from the NIB Judges Marking Sheet:

Overall summary: Stainton & Thornton are interesting villages with a wealth of heritage in a small area. The villages do much to enhance the rural feel of the community. New developments are taking place which will bring challenges for the residents and the Bloom effort.

Section A – Horticultural achievement.

Areas of achievement: The centre of Stainton is enhanced by a number of well planted and colourful planters. The pub also contributes to the welcome these displays create. The public areas planted in Thornton take on a more subtle theme that suits the more tranquil nature of this part of the village. The use of perennial planting in a number of areas, notably the memorial bed, is good to see. Such beds are much more sustainable in the long term. Domestic gardens throughout the entry were of a very good standard with only a few exceptions. Public areas were similarly well tended and enhanced by the presence of a good selection of trees.

Areas for development: The plan to mirror the seating in Thornton on the opposite side of the road is a good one and will be a delightful addition. As the group already realises, some of the barrel planters need considerable renovation. Consideration might be given to providing a colour theme for containers, buying plants collectively and in bulk could save money.

Section B – Environmental responsibility

Areas of achievement: The village benefit from two large conservation areas providing wildlife habitats which show significant biodiversity. The information boards found throughout are very informative and well maintained. The 'rubbing posts' found in Maelor's Wood provide a wonderful introduction to nature for young children in particular. Whenever practical, consideration is given to the recycling and reuse of natural materials, to

maximise sustainability. The standard of street furniture was high; it always nice to see sitting area enhanced by good planting.

Areas for development: Maelor's Wood is reaching an age when serious consideration must be given as to how best to manage the area. The entry is aware of the need to thin and replant to provide arrange of tree ages and differing habitats. Care should be taken to source native species to maximise biodiversity. The five year plan and the involvement of appropriate outside agencies should ensure this.

Section C – Community participation

Areas of achievement: The Bloom initiative has achieved much to be proud of and the involvement of local people in so much of this is to be commended. The Butterfly event in August is a wonderful idea; such events are a great way to involve more of the community.

Area for development: At present the Bloom initiative, is inevitably dominated by the older part of the village. The new housing already built, together with future building, could put considerable strain on the Bloom effort. It may be worth considering a Bloom specific committee to decide how the enlarged community can be brought on-board as the workload inevitable increases and help raise the profile of Bloom. The absences of youth facilities – notably a school, make it hard to involve young people but the conservation areas in particular are an ideal resource for such involvement. Other entries with similar problems have involved Duke of Edinburgh Award groups and even Young Offenders.

Following discussion, the pros and cons of continuing to support this event were debated and following a vote among committee members present it was decided not to submit an entry to Northumbria in Bloom 2018.

6. Planting event

Secretary reported he had taken delivery of 5000 crocus corms. These were to be planted in support of the worldwide Rotary Purple4Polio campaign. Probable planting sites were discussed and planting would commence once MBC had completed the final grass cut in mid-October.

7. Financial Report at 29 September 2017

Income		£
Year end balance at 31.3.17. brought forward		826.13
Parish Council Budget Allowance 2017/2018		<u>500.00</u>
		1326.13
Expenditure since 1.4.17.		
4.4.17.	E.Revett re NiB posters	5.95
4.4.17.	A.Liddle re posts, concrete & plants for Teardrop bed	57.96
4.4.17.	Bob Small re plants for High Rifts bed	60.00
4.4.17.	M.Holmes re Strait lane Memorial bed	100.00
15.4.17.	Nigel McManus re plants	13.95
1.6.17.	Barbara Geldard re plants	12.69
6.6.17.	Rotary Club of Teesside West re crocus corms	95.00

6.6.17.	M.Holmes re plants	22.00
27.6.17.	Pat Burton re plants	20.00
30.6.17.	A.Liddle re plants and key	<u>34.95</u>
		422.50

Income less expenditure	903.63
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8. Any Other Business:

a. Ron Dennison proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to Muriel Newbould on behalf of this committee for all her work over the years as Secretary to this Committee. All agreed.

b. Ron asked members present if the Environment Committee should continue in its present form. The lack of 'new blood' was problematic and there was a need to create interest, particularly from new residents. The current 'planter carers' need to be thanked for their efforts and encouraged to continue, however the maintenance of planters and beds fell upon a small group of mostly aging people. Following discussion several suggestions were made including changing the name of the committee in attempt to attract interest. It was decided that there would be a big 'push' to attract new members in the New Year by holding a well organised Open Meeting with a guest speaker and displays etc. A leaflet drop to every household inviting attendance would be made. Members present were asked to formulate ideas and inform the Secretary who would collate the information and circulate to all.

c. Pat Henderson informed the meeting that she was unable to continue as a member of the Environment Committee however she was happy to maintain planters and troughs in Thornton. The Chair thanked Pat for her past contribution to the committee.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Friday 16 February 2018 at 7.15 p.m. in the Memorial Hall, Stainton.

The Chair formally closed the meeting at approximately 8.45pm.