Minutes of the meeting of The Friends of Stainton and Thornton Green Spaces held in the Parish Room of St. Peter and St. Paul's on Monday 9th April, 2018

1. **Chair's Welcome**:- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular, new members, Geoff Edwards, Alan Murray and Dave Sanders. Geoff and Dave were now regular volunteers on Thursday mornings.
2. **Present**:- Paul Bamber(TVWLT), Brian Chapman, Geoff Edwards, Dave Fewtrill, Nick Cubitt, Brian Hogarth (Treasurer), Ken Hornby, Allan Murray and Alan Liddle (Chair)
3. **Apologies**:- Alan Conroy, Elizabeth Revett, Muriel Newbould.
4. **The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15th January, 2018** were approved as an accurate record of proceedings.
5. **Matters Arising**:- There were no matters arising, but the Chair asked for a volunteer to be Acting Secretary as Muriel was finding it difficult to attend meetings at present due to health problems. The Chair would take notes on the meeting and forward them to Muriel who would circulate the finished minutes. Unless Muriel's health improved, then the position of Secretary would need to be addressed at the AGM in July.
6. **Treasurer's Report**:- Brian handed out hard copies of his report to the meeting (a hard copy to be given to Muriel to be included and circulated with the minutes) The balance at the end of March was £1303.28 with more money to come in April from the Parish Council, £200.00 regular annual contribution and £300.00 as part of the contribution for village asset maintenance, plus £100.00 annual contribution from the Community Council. The report was accepted by the meeting.
7. **106 monies and Grant Applications**:- An email confirmation had now arrived from MBC that The Friends of S & TGS would definitely receive £20,000.00 106 money from the Taylor Wimpey Phase 3 development at Rose Cottage Farm. The paperwork authorising the money was still with the legal department of MBC. MBC had suggested that if money was required urgently to carry out improvements/works, invoices could be sent direct to Middlesbrough Council for payment. This idea was rejected by the group who agreed to wait for the full £20,000.00 to be released by MBC so that the money could be used as and when needed with no recourse to the Council. Brian queried whether the Group should "invest" the money when it came through, rather than leave it in the current account with HSBC. Because of the low current interest rates, it was suggested that it would be more trouble than it was worth, but Brian would ask HSBC if there was anything they could suggest. With help from Alan Conroy, the Chair was preparing another grant application for submission to Awards for All, but this would involve getting up to date quotes for improvements, (see item 8).
8. **Improvements to be made**:- Jeremy Garside and two of his colleagues from TVWLT were due to visit the sites on Wednesday, 11th April to discuss footpath improvements. The Chair, Alan and Nick would also go round with them to discuss what needed doing. Quotes would have to be submitted for:- clearing the field drain and path improvements linking the High Rifts field to Maelor's Wood. Creating a new footpath from the Cedarwood Glade entrance to the Quarry, linking up with the footpath next to the badgers AND extending the same footpath to link up with the bottom path in the Quarry. To "top dress" the whole length of the bottom path in the Quarry. To create a new footpath linking the metal bridge near the owl seat to the footpath that leads down from behind the houses. To create a new footpath from the top of the steep steps along the flat area behind the houses to the entrance at Cedarwood Glade. To improve the field drain near to the deer in Kell Gate Green and install a new field drain at the entrance to Kell Gate Green. Improvements would depend upon money, so each of the above projects would be individually costed and quoted. We would then prioritise the work to be carried out depending upon finance. Groundwork NE would be visiting the sites on Monday, 16th April to quote for the same work. Another suggested improvement that was required was for more bulbs to be planted (non scripta/English

bluebells). This, like everything, depended on money.

9. **The Friends taking on work for the Parish Council**:- A programme of work had already begun to maintain some P C assets, the handrails in the Quarry had been repainted, the main posts of the finger posts had been creosoted, the finger posts themselves were due to be sanded and stained, benches and notice boards were also due to be sanded and stained/painted. Most of these required a period of dry weather, something which had been lacking in recent weeks, but was ongoing. Materials to carry out the work had been purchased and would be carried out whenever possible. The volunteer group on a Thursday was becoming larger and as a consequence, was dividing into groups to carry out the work. Brian Chapman had reluctantly decided to reduce the amount he was doing in Kell Gate Green, but was being replaced by John Cooper from Thornton, so with the help of Geoff Edwards, when needed, Kell Gate Green would continue to be well looked after. Brian had agreed to keep the strimmers in his garage for the time being until alternative storage could be arranged. As Brian used to transport the strimmers, petrol, etc. in his car (a tractor with seats), the Thornton team needed a large garden trolley/4-wheeled cart to carry the equipment to where it was needed. Brian Hogarth was to source/purchase one to suit their needs. Storage might be a problem as Brian's garage would not have enough room. If kept outside, there was the risk of theft. The alternative was to approach either John (not present at the meeting) or Elizabeth for storage. A very big THANK YOU was due to Brian who had been a stalwart of the group for so many years from its Quarry Management days to the present and had been a driving force in keeping the group going and maintaining such a high standard that had allowed The Friends of S & TGS (formerly the QMG) to receive so many awards in the past.
10. **Report on the Green Spaces Forum**:- The next Green Spaces Forum would be held at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 18th April and the Chair and Elizabeth would attend. There were two spare seats in the car should anyone else want to attend. The previous meeting highlighted that anti-social behaviour was borough wide as the Friends of Bluebell Beck had had paint thrown onto their newly installed wooden sculptures. Strimmer training, insurance cover and the volunteer handbook/registration were discussed and would hopefully be finalised soon.
11. **The Quarry and Kell Gate Green**:- There would be no major changes to the maintenance programme for both, with the cutting regime, once it started to be carried out on a three weekly cycle. Clumps of snowdrops from the Quarry had been lifted and transplanted at various locations in the Quarry and many transplanted into the Spinney. The wildflower meadow at the east end of the Quarry needed some attention and a contact weedkiller for the more pernicious weeds needed to be applied. Further wildflower seeds needed to be scattered to supplement the self seeders from the previous year's plants. John Cooper had managed to get some Remembrance Day Poppy Seeds and Elizabeth had some RHS wildflower seeds to help augment what was already coming through.
12. **Habitat & Maintenance Schedule**:- The Chair would discuss with Alan Conroy what had been discussed and approved at the meeting and Alan would send out via Muriel the updated Schedule.
13. **The Spinney**:- Snowdrops had been transplanted from the Quarry into the Spinney and at long last the bluebells that had been planted a couple of years previously were beginning to establish themselves. The entrance to the Spinney from Hemlington Road needed some work to keep it looking tidy and recently there had been some fly tipping (promptly removed by MBC once reported). As with the rest of the village, there seemed to be a lot of litter that needed picking up (see any other business).
14. **Footpaths and Bridlepaths**:- Nothing further to report from Stewart Williams (MBC Footpaths Officer) on the proposed development of a bridleway linking the Unicorn Centre with Stainsby Riding School or on the Designation of Rights of Way through Maelor's Wood and the Quarry. The Chair reported that the new Neighbourhood Plan would be able to give some weight to footpath improvements for the area, e.g. the footpath along Stainton Way

linking Brookfield to Coulby Newham and any new development at Stainton Grange/Arthur Dale's farm would incorporate some form of connectivity with the existing footpaths, particularly into the Quarry.

15. **Maelor's Wood**:- The thinning programme being carried out was on schedule and it was hoped to bring back Community Pay Back to do some more work and to bring their chipper to chip the piles of brash dotted about the wood. Footpath improvements have been discussed elsewhere. The metal seat at the southern end of Maelor's Wood needed the bolts tightening up. This would be done by the Thursday Morning Group.
16. **Any Other Business**:- As the village was not entering Northumbria in Bloom in 2018, it had been suggested that the Group might organise a village litter pick, similar to what used to happen in the past, on a Saturday morning. The date suggested was Saturday, 5th May, to be advertised via Jim's What's On and the Facebook pages of the village organisations.
17. **Date and Time of the next meeting, the AGM**:- 9th July at 10.00 a.m. in the Parish Room.

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