THE FRIENDS OF STAINTON AND THORNTON GREEN SPACES

The Minutes of the 8th Annual Meeting held on Monday, 9th July 2018 at 10.00 a.m. in the Parish Church Room, Stainton

1. **Chair's Welcome**: The Chair, Cllr. Alan Liddle, welcomed all those present at the meeting.
2. **Present**: Cllr. A. Liddle (Chair), Mrs. E. Revett (Vice Chair), B. Hogarth (Treasurer), Cllr. A. Conroy, Borough Cllr. D. Coupe, B. Chapman, J. Cooper, D. Sanders, K. Hornby, G. Green, N. Cubitt and M. Newbould, (Secretary).
3. **Apologies** were received from Paul Bamber, Tees Wildlife.
4. **The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th April, 2018** were agreed by all and signed as a true record by the Chair. There were no Matters Arising to be discussed at this point on the Agenda.
5. **The Chair's Report for the year 2017-2018** (copy attached) was circulated, taken as read, elaborated upon, agreed by all and signed by the Chair.
6. **The Treasurer's Report** was given by Brian Hogarth, accepted and agreed by all and duly signed (copy attached).
7. **Election of Officers**: Nominations for the position of Chair for the year 2018-2019 were requested, following which Cllr. Alan Liddle was proposed by Mrs E. Revett, seconded by Ken Hornby, and happily accepted the position. All were in favour. Vice Chair for 2018-2019: Mrs. Elizabeth Revett was proposed by Cllr. Alan Liddle, seconded by Ken Hornby and was happy to re-stand. All were in favour.
8. **Election of Officers**: Brian Hogarth was happy to continue as Treasurer and M. Newbould as Secretary for 2018-2019.

Both of these elections were proposed by Cllr. A. Liddle and seconded by Mrs. E. Revett. All were in favour.

9. **106 monies** The awaited 106 monies had not yet been received by the Friends of S & T GS. However, the Deed of Variation had been sent from MBC to Taylor Wimpey to allow MBC to release the funds to the Friends of S & TGS Group. A meeting concerning the matter was being held that afternoon. Cllr. David Coupe reported that no-one at MBC would take the decision.

Grant Applications, Improvements to be made and Maelor's Wood Copies were handed out by the Chair to those present of a map of the areas for improvement, which had been produced for the Group by Tees Wildlife. In addition, the link between the High Rifts field and Maelor's Wood would also require improvement. The 3 groups which had provided the best quotes for the work were Tees Valley Wildlife, Groundwork North East and 4 Nature. The Friends of S & TGS had to prioritise which, if any, of the footpaths would be tackled. If all were chosen, the cost would be well over £20,000. Map Area (i) the big long run by the houses to the hill – to make it DVA and wheelchair accessible: quotes by TVWT, GNE & 4 Nature: the 4 Nature quote (£4,130) was much cheaper mainly because TVW and Groundwork (Galvanise) NE had included timber-edging. The Chair had more faith in Jay Morrison of 4-Nature, who had been recommended by Sue Antrobus, Tees Wildlife. Discussion took place about which paths needed to be improved. Area (ii) quotes: TV 5690; GW NE 1427; 4 Nature 2370; Area (iii) quote: TVW 2487; Area (iv) quote: TV 1330; GW NE 2917 Areas (iii) & (iv); 4 Nature 1840 Areas (iii) & (iv); Area (v) the top dusting with ash of the long path running along the beckside: quotes: TV 4926; GW NE 3580; 4 Nature 1790. **Priority Number One:** Areas (iii) & (iv) - all that was needed here at present was the entrance to Cedarwood Glade and the bottom of the ski slope.

Priority Number 2: The Field Drain in KGG across the entrance of the concrete path and beyond – Quotes: TVW 1774; G NE 1755; 4 Nature 1563. The Chair had walked around the location with Jay. The drain would be 15 metres long from the litter bin near to the fence. It was advised that a 'sump' drain would fill up. **Priority Number 3:** The link between Maelor's Wood and the High Rifts field. Cllr. D. Coupe had gone around with Paul Clarke (MBC) and the area had been very muddy indeed. TVW had quoted £5000+ whereas 4 Nature only £2510 for this 60 metre section, field drain, stone base, crusher run and top dress. Mrs. E. Revett suggested a boardwalk covered with chicken wire but the cost would be increased. B. Chapman recommended that firstly the ditch, which was currently full to the brim, be cleared out. The drain just before the new footpath was also full. At the gate entrance, opposite where Maelor had lived, there were underground streams. If a small pond were created at the left of the entry, the water would run down to the pond. **Priority Number 4:** The footpath round by the owl linking the 2 metal bridges. **Priority Number 5:** Dusting – Cllr A. Conroy commented that, in years past, thousands of bluebells had been planted by the Group and none of them had shown. Discussion would be continued at the next meeting when more money might be available. N. Cubitt advised the Group to delay the dusting (Quote £1790) because grants could not be used on maintenance, only on new footpaths. **Priority Number 6:** To evacuate this area near the deer. TVW had quoted for clearing this out £1774; GW NE £1755. B. Chapman explained that the water was coming from the lake in Thornton Wood. The horses were there too and the drain was getting blocked. The problem was on the other side, around behind the deer. **Grant** Cllr. A. Conroy volunteered to apply on behalf of the Chair for an Awards For All grant of £10,000 from the Big Lottery Fund for the new footpaths. The offer was welcomed by all.

10. **Friends' Group's work for the Parish Council** – It was reported that the seat outside the Church and the notice boards had all been refurbished. (see the H & M Schedule).

11. **Report on Green Spaces Forum** by Mrs. E. Revett. The next meeting would be held at Lodore Grove on Wednesday, 11th July, 2-4 p.m., (all invited) and on Wednesday, 25th July, 2018, there would be an event called The Sammy Snail Roadshow in Maelor's Wood, organised by Sue Antrobus. A Men's Shed leaflet was also available and info publicising Tees Wildlife Rocks, suggested by Sue Antrobus, hoping to get the young mums out into the green spaces outdoor community.

12. **Habitat & Maintenance Schedule** by Cllr. A. Conroy. This would be updated as necessary and circulated. A. Conroy and N. Cubitt were thanked for their work on the badgers. Siting would be considered. Hedge cutting would commence in September – possibly by John Tarren. PPE's, Best Practice and Insurance were also discussed.

13. **The Quarry and Kell Gate Green – wildflower meadow** The Chair reported favourably re the meadow where the poppies, in particular, had been lovely. He advised leaving it and just cutting and raking off in the back-end of the year.

14. **The Spinney – what, if anything, needs doing**? Nick Cubitt reported that nothing needed doing in The Spinney at present. The bluebells had come and gone.

15. **Maelor's Wood** – the sculptures were being stained and oiled. Permission had been given by Paul Bamber, Tees Wildlife, to the Friends to paint or stain the orange owl any colour. The programme of thinning was going to have to continue. Re the seat at the bottom – the Chair would have a word with Nicky at

the Forum. There were now 2 entrances where people were able to drive in from Rose Cottage. The Chair would look at the problem and check up on this. B. Chapman reported that a tree had been set on fire in the High Rifts field. The Fire Brigade had extinguished the fire. Peter Chapman of MBC would be invited to Maelor's Wood to walk around with 2 or 3 of the Friends, including Brian, to make sure the hedge cutting was prioritised as the land belonged to Middlesbrough Council.

16. **Footpaths and Bridlepaths update** – Cllr. D. Coupe reported the temporary closure of Rose Cottage Phase Three for 6 months, due to an extension in the closure of the footpath.

17. **Any Other Business** – It was noted that the Chair would be on holiday in Australia and the Far East from 25th September to 20th November, 2018 inclusive. Dog Signs: the Chair would try to get these for free. The Community Council and the Parish Council would look into the problem of signs being taken. Two signs had disappeared from The Spinney, for example. Signs could even be produced by the Friends and laminated. The Chair would see if MBC had any stickers to spare.

18. **Date, Time and Location of next meeting** – Provisionally, the next meeting would take place on Friday, 21st September, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. in the Parish Church Room.

The Chair formally closed the meeting at 5 past 12 noon.

Signed as a true record by the Chair _____

Date _____

Minutes as taken by M. Newbould, 4 Thornton Close, Thornton, Middlesbrough TS89BT

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