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 Friday, 21st September, 2018

1. **Chair's Welcome**:- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and, in particular, Dr.Sue Antrobus of Tees Valley Wildlife.
2. **Present**:- Sue Antrobus (TVWT), Brian Chapman, Alan Conroy, Geoff Edwards, Dave Fewtrill, Nick Cubitt, Ken Hornby, Alan Liddle (Chair) and Muriel Newbould (Secretary). **Apologies**:- Elizabeth Revett (Vice Chair), Brian Hogarth (Treasurer), John Cooper, Nicky Morgan (One Planet), and Dave Sanders.
3. **The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th April, 2018** had been approved at the AGM.
4. **The Minutes of the AGM held on 9th July, 2018** were approved as an accurate record of proceedings and signed by the Chair.
5. **Matters Arising**:- There were no matters arising which were not to appear later on the agenda.
6. **Treasurer's Report**:- A brief report was given verbally by the Chair and other members. The most significant expense had been £150 for repair of the badger sculptures while income was estimated at approx. £500.
7. **106 monies -** MBC had confirmed that The Friends of S & TGS would definitely receive £20,000.00 of 106 money from the Taylor Wimpey Phase 3 development at Rose Cottage Farm. Borough Cllr. David Coupe had taken up the matter with the Chief Executive of Middlesbrough Council, who had given authorisation. The paperwork authorising the money had been sent by MBC to Taylor Wimpey but some wording in the document needed changing. A. Conroy would ring Chris Irving and the Chair would email D. Coupe.
8. **Grant Applications**:- Alan Conroy, had now re-submitted the BLF grant application to Awards for All and an acknowledgement had been received. The grant would provide funding of £10,000 of which £9,650 would be for footpath improvements (ref. agenda item 9 of the AGM minutes). The quotations for the grant had been based on those given by Jay Morrison (4-Nature) and included the field drain to improve the route between Maelor's Wood and the High Rifts field; the footpath to run behind Cedarwood Glade to the hill; a trial was currently being conducted by the TMG using non-slip marker tape on the edges of the steps in the east end of the Quarry to help Brian Davies and other partially-sighted people. A. Conroy had included £500 in the grant application to mark all the step-edges throughout the system.
9. **Improvements to be made**:- The footpath was to be extended from the entrance of Cedarwood Glade to the Ski Slope and the path that led onto the edge of the wood. The other one would be the footpath from the metal bridge to the big steps and to the bridge there. Another improvement suggested was to replace a couple of trees in Cedarwood Glade with 2 Rowans. Brian Chapman suggested improvements to the entrance to High Rifts field. The gate and Robock lock had been included in the grant application. Excavation was suggested for a soak-away or a pond just inside the gate.
10. **The Friends taking on work for the Parish Council**:- A large amount of the specified work had already been accomplished by the Friends' Group but Nick Cubitt reported that there was still quite a lot to do (see the Maintenance Schedule). The badgers were now ready; the deer carving had been very well

refurbished. A. Conroy reported a list of work carried out and he would add these into the new schedule. There were 20+ items still to address. Re the Rubbings Trail, some items needed replacing as some had been damaged or taken away. The Chair would send the list to Sue Antrobus, who would ask for her contingency fund to be released.

11. **Report on the Green Spaces Forum**:- The Chair explained to members how the GS Forum (Chaired by Sue Antrobus) worked and what benefits were to be gained from attending, such as meeting up with the various, local Friends groups and exchanging views. The recent 'Sammy the Snail' event in Stainton had been run by Sue, who thanked A. Liddle and Elizabeth Revett for all their help. The next Green Spaces Forum would be held at Nature's World on Wednesday, 10th October, 2018. All members were welcome. The Tees Valley Wildlife Recording Conference would be held at Preston Park Museum from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., including free lunch, on Sunday, 21st October 2018.
12. **The Quarry and Kell Gate Green**:- ***The Badgers:*** A. Conroy and N. Cubitt, who had done an absolutely marvellous job and put in a large amount of time and effort on refurbishing the badgers, were thanked by the Chair. The general consensus re the new location for the badgers was either on the grass verge on Strait Lane towards the bus stop or else in the Churchyard. Nick Cubitt had made enquiries with the PCC and awaited a reply for the latter. ***The Wildflower Meadow:*** the Chair reported that in the first year, the w.f.m. had worked fairly well and during the current year, at various times, had looked really good. It was agreed to keep the wildflower meadow. A recent cut had been carried out and a first rake-off was now needed plus a second early in 2019. Re-seeding would take place in February or March 2019. Major weeds would be removed such as dandelions and dock and the area would then be left to nature. Sue would provide yellow-rattle seeds. She would liaise with Elizabeth R. and would ask The One Planet Volunteers to do the raking-off.
13. **Habitat & Maintenance Schedule**:- Items printed in red were discussed. Alan Conroy would send out via Muriel the updated Schedule. Brian Chapman had asked John Tarron to cut the hedge and the brambles at a cost of £150-200.
14. **The Spinney**:- The Chair reported that a large, fallen tree-branch had been cleared away the previous day. The TM Group were managing to keep on top of the brambles and blackthorn. Fly Tipping prevention: it was agreed to ask the Parish Council to request 2 bollards from MBC. Replacement of missing Dog Signs: the Parish Council would be asked to order new signs from Sam Garside, MBC Dog Warden.
15. **Thinning in the Old Orchard** It was noted that apples were in abundance this autumn but a shortage of plums had been observed. A programme of thinning had now been commenced.
16. **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 Neighbourhood Plan being prepared by the Parish Council and residents 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. Designation as legal of existing footpaths in the Green Spaces was the

aim. The Chair reported that Maelor's Wood and the Quarry would be designated Green Spaces and as such, could not be built on. However, KGG belonged to the Pennyman Estate and was leased by the Parish Council.

17. **Maelor's Wood**:- The 5-year Plan would be revised by Sue Antrobus. She would make a site visit early in December with some members (including A. Liddle, E. Revett, Jenny Haygun and Matt) to ascertain what needed doing. On 8th November, Jenny Haygun (for Ageing Better in Middlesbrough) would be at Maelor's Wood with a group of potential volunteers to show them what was available in the area. Matt would be leading the event. 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. All of the stumps had not been done by Paul Bamber. Footpath improvements had 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.
18. **Any Other Business**:- Dave Fewtrill reported that Stainton W.I. of which his wife was a member had asked whether the Environment Committee's Green Fingers Gang would look after the W..I. Rose Garden on Strait Lane. It was agreed to pass on the request to the GFG.
19. **Date and Time of the next meeting**:- During the first or second week of January 2019 at 10.00 a.m. in the Parish Church Room. The exact date would be specified and confirmed later.

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