

Parish of Stainton & Thornton Community Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Community Council meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Stainton on Tuesday, 14 September 2021 at 7pm.

Chair: The meeting was chaired by Angela Cooper

Present: The attendance list recorded 24 people present at the meeting.

Apologies: H. Wren, E. Revett, H. Dennison, Cllrs. R. Dennison and A. Conroy.

Officers/Councillors in attendance: P/Cllrs. A. Cooper, D. Coupe, A. Liddle.

Welcome – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first Community Council since March 2020.

Police Report – PCSO Mike Fenwick was unable to attend the meeting and had arranged for a colleague to give the police report in his place. However, the police were absent from the meeting owing to operational requirements in Hemlington.

Speaker – Mieka Smiles, Deputy Mayor of Middlesbrough gave a very interesting talk about her role as Ward Councillor for Nunthorpe and Deputy Mayor of Middlesbrough Council. She also fielded and Q & A session from resident's present, which was well received.

Chair's Annual Report of the Community Council 2019-20 - Angela Cooper

Unlike in previous years, due to the Covid 19 restrictions, we were unable to hold the 6 meetings as per our constitution, The Community Council did manage to hold 5 business meetings during the year 2019-2020, including the Parish Assembly, a joint meeting with the Parish Council. The average attendance was 26 per meeting.

The Minutes of the Community Council meetings were diligently taken by our secretary Jim Holmes and circulated by e-mail to all residents who have registered their e-mail address and were posted on the Stainton and Thornton Parish website. Thank you, Jim.

We are grateful to the police for attending 3 Community Council meeting this session and for reiterating that crimes however trivial should always be reported to the police, so they are aware where offences are being committed. As well as delivering the crime figures, PCSO Josh Murphy has listened and responded to concerns and complaints raised by residents and is happy to be contacted by email if necessary. The police tried to attend the Saturday Coffee Morning in the Memorial Hall once a month for anyone wishing to discuss any concerns.

A proposed change to the constitution of Community Councils was discussed, whereby Officers of the Community Council (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) no longer need to reside in the ward or area to occupy an officer role. Currently the constitution states that the Officers must live within the boundary of the ward or area the Community Council covers. After full discussion, it was unanimously agreed that Officers of the Community Council should live within the ward or area and there was no support to change the Constitution as it stands.

Speeding throughout the villages continues to be a problem. Cleveland Police have carried out speed checks in Stainton and Thornton and they are now enforcing the 20mph limit. The flashing speed signs were fitted on Thornton Road for short periods of time but had to be removed as the batteries needed

to be replaced. Cleveland Police have been promising a Speed Watch with residents for some time but as yet has not been delivered.

The Puffin Crossing on Strait Lane has now come into full operation with improved street lighting to make people on the crossing more visible to motorists.

The Neighbourhood Plan for Stainton and Thornton is progressing well and should be completed by Easter.

Parking in Stainton continues to affect the through traffic flow and is especially problematic for the 13 and 13A buses. Middlesbrough Council fitted bollards on Hemlington Road to try and reduce the problems caused by parking on both sides of the road. They are reviewing the proposed yellow lines near to the Memorial Hall.

Angela Swift Developments have sold the land next to the care home to a builder and there will be a housing scheme proposed for that area.

This year has seen a diverse selection of guest speakers at our meetings, and I would like to thank them all for their interesting and informative talks.

In July, John Regan, a resident of Stainton, an author and poet, gave an interesting talk on 'Why I love words' followed by an example of some of his poems. He informed meeting that he had written a book of poems which were for sale, £4 per book, with all profits going to the Unicorn Centre for disabled riders.

Our second speaker, Steve Elwick, Intervention and Prevention Officer at MBC, did not attend for reasons unknown.

At September's meeting, both speakers booked to attend the meeting, Steve Elwick from MBC and Barry Coppinger, Police and Crime Commissioner did not attend for reasons unknown.

November's speaker was Peter Brunton - Local resident and author of children's books "Sally the Seal" series. Peter gave a delightful resume of his early life and how he got into writing books for children.

January's speaker, Emma McInnes a Health Improvement Practitioner, gave a talk on Dementia Friendly Communities. She explained how she was hoping to sign up all the businesses and organisations in Stainton and Thornton to be Dementia Friendly making the village being recognised as a Dementia Friendly Community.

March saw Ben Houchen, Tees Valley Mayor, give a very informative talk on the achievements, progress and aspirations about major projects in the Tees Valley area. He finished his talk with a question and answer session.

Our second speaker, Gerry McBride, Crime Prevention Officer with Cleveland Police, gave a short information talk about doorstep callers, internet scams and fraud. He promised to return at a later date to give a more detailed talk.

Thanks to David Coupe, our Ward Councillor for keeping us up to date on the latest happenings at MBC and Alan Liddle, Community Council treasurer for keeping a tight hold on the purse strings.

Finally, a big thank you to all the residents who attend and participate in these meetings, without you there would be no meetings.

The Accounts of the Community Council – Treasurer Alan Liddle.

During lock down, in the financial year 2020/21, the executive members made the decision to donate £200 to the Unicorn Centre to help feed the animals and continued to support the Friends of Stainton and Thornton Green Spaces with a donation of £100 to help with their running costs.

In May 2021, when the AGM would have normally been held, the amount in the Community Council account stood at £2628.16. Since then, we have received from Middlesbrough Council the £750 grant and paid out printing costs of £53.63 leaving a working balance of £3324.53.

Currently we bank with HSBC with a free business account. However, we have been notified that with effect from 1.11.21. our account will have a £5 monthly charge attached and we will also be charged 40p per cheque. I am looking at alternative accounts, but the major banks are not currently opening free small business accounts. The Community Council constitution states we must have two signatories on a cheque and with banks moving away from cheque book accounts the choice of banks to approach is limited.

Middlesbrough Council are currently undertaking a Community Governance Review which will look at both Parish and Community Councils, looking at their role, funding, and viability. Middlesbrough Council are hoping to get the views of residents by consulting with all households. If you have any queries regarding this review then you can contact Sylvia Reynolds, Head of Democratic Services at sylvia_reynolds@mmiddlesbrough.gov.uk

Election of Officers

The following were nominated and re-elected to the positions identified

- Chair **Angela Cooper**
- Vice Chair **David Coupe**
- Secretary **Jim Holmes**
- Treasurer **Alan Liddle**

The Chair, on behalf of the Officers, thanked residents for their support.

Election of Executive Committee (The Officers and 3 co-opted members)

The following, from persons present at the meeting, were nominated and elected as members of the Executive Committee - **John Cooper, Brian Hogarth, and Paul Brannan.**

Ward Councillors Report – David Coupe

Unfortunately, the Neighbourhood Police Team could not be with us this evening. There has been an upsurge in ASB mainly in Hemlington. As usual ring 101 if not urgent but 999 if it is more serious.

Again, can I mention the new development at Hemlington Grange, which is both part of our Ward and Parish. John Cooper, Jim Holmes, and I delivered the newsletter there and again we ran short by about 10 leaflets. There now over 500 houses built with the vast majority either being occupied or just about to be. It was good to have Cllr Mieka Smiles the Deputy Mayor here this evening to answer questions on the council and her portfolio.

The roads and footpaths in Rose Cottage phases 1 and 2 have finally been adopted by Middlesbrough although there is a problem with tar on the road. Phase 3 is in the pipeline with a few outstanding issues.

I mentioned in the past that over 50% of the council's income is spent on adult and children's social care. Can I tell you that this is now closer to 60% of the budget. At a meeting last week, I was informed that looked after children in external homes had risen from 65 to over 80. I am pleased to say this is down to below 60 again thanks to hard work by the council especially our new head of Children's Services Sue Butcher.

The 13 and 13a Bus Service is progressing well. I have had a meeting along with other councillors with Steve Walker MD of Stagecoach about a possible new bus service to cover the south of

Middlesbrough which would run from Stainton to Nunthorpe. I would be interested in feedback about this possible new service

We are looking at installing flashing speed signs on roads in Stainton and Thornton. I intend to put in a request to Middlesbrough Council to the member's scheme for a grant towards the cost.

Cleveland Police have again started to carry out Speed Watch with residents. I was at a meeting this afternoon to re-launch Project EDWARD which aims to reduce deaths and serious injuries on the roads. I have left some leaflets regarding this here in the hall.

I am pleased that the roads in Stainton and the potholes have been patched. There are a few more to do. Maltby Road is being done this week and the huge Pothole on Hemlington Road should be done at the same time...Watch this space.

As mentioned before Angela Swift Developments have now sold the land next to the care home to a builder. There is still no sign of any definite plans.

The Environmental Committee AKA the Green Fingers Gang is there to help and encourage people to plant and maintain the flower beds and tubs throughout the villages. Again, thanks to the dedicated team of volunteers who plant and maintain these throughout the year.

The Neighbourhood Plan for Stainton & Thornton is now with the inspector and will go out to referendum shortly I try to attend the Saturday Coffee Morning in the Memorial Hall if anyone wishes to bring any problems or concerns, or you can e-mail or telephone me.

david_coupe@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Grant Applications – None received. However, it was proposed, seconded and agreed by the meeting to continue the annual donation to the FSTGS as a contribution to running costs. The agreed amount this year being £150.

Planning Applications – The only current planning application under review was 21/0567/FUL – Erection of Detached Garage at 27 Maltby Road. To note that the Parish Council had objected to the application of the grounds of scale and size of the proposed construction.

Any Other Business – Maureen Holmes, on behalf of the Green Finger Gang (Environment Committee) appealed for more volunteers to help maintain planters, troughs and flower beds in both Stainton and Thornton. The idea of proposed gardening event in the village next spring found support.

Next meeting – Tuesday 9 November 2021. 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9pm.

The Minutes of the Community Council meetings will be available to view on the Parish Council website under the Local Groups tab. www.staintonsndthorntonparishcouncil.org.uk

Minutes taken by Jim Holmes, 13 Strait Lane, Stainton TS8 9BB. Tel: 01642 296060 / 07980 572115