The Minutes of the AGM of The Friends of Stainton & Thornton Green Spaces held on Mon., 9th August, 2021 at 10.00 a.m. in the Parish Room, Stainton

1. Chair's Welcome: The Chair, Councillor A. Liddle, welcomed those present, namely: B. Hogarth (Treasurer), Cllr. A. Conroy, Borough Cllr. D. Coupe, G. Edwards, D. Sanders, D. Fewtrell, N. Cubitt, J. Cooper, Brian Chapman & M. Newbould (Secretary).

2. Apologies – were received from Mrs, E. Revett (ill) and Cllr. R. Dennison.

3. The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2020 were agreed by all present and signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. Matters Arising from the above Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda –
Cllr. Ron Dennison had enquired about the Green Flag Award 2021. However, it had previously been decided that the GF award was a lot of work for no reward. The Friends of S & TGS were different from the 7 MBC applicants in that the former entered for the GF Community Award.

5. Chair's Report for the year 2020 to 2021 (copy attached) The Chair read out his report Sue Antrobus commented that the work done by the group was tremendous and given by the heart and even if people didn't say this to us, they were very grateful.

6. Treasurer's Report for the year 2020 to 2021 B. Hogarth commented on the figures and answered any queries. The Report was agreed by all and duly signed by the Chair and the Treasurer.

7. Nominations & Election of Officers for 2021/2022:
(a) Election of Chair:
Nominations were requested for the position of Chair for the year 2021-2022, following which Cllr. A. Liddle was proposed by Cllr. Alan Conroy and seconded by Nick Cubitt. All were in favour and Cllr. Liddle accepted the position.
(b) Election of Vice Chair: Mrs. E. Revett was stepping down due to illness. She had been a stalwart of the Friends Gp. and all hoped she would be better soon. John Cooper was proposed by Cllr. A. Liddle, seconded by Nick Cubitt and was happy to accept the position. All in favour.
(c) Election of Treasurer: Brian Hogarth was proposed by A. Liddle, seconded by A. Conroy and all in favour. B. Hogarth accepted the position.
(d) Election of Secretary: M. Newbould was proposed by A. Liddle, seconded by B. Hogarth and was happy to accept the position. All in favour. No other nominations.

8. 106 monies and how best to use them. This could include new sculptures,sessions for the children/education and new tools or equipment and where and how we could store them. Discussion took place. It was agreed that new sculptures would be commissioned to replace the old, dilapidated ones such as the badgers. Steve Iredale would be approached. The price of timber had 'gone through the roof' but there were many trees in the Quarry that could be used. Richard Ward would be contacted.

Discussion took place on the above ideas. ***Ponds***: Sue Antrobus had a contractor available to scrape out the pond but felt it was not really necessary. Maybe it should be left alone. There were a lot of frogs and toads in the KGG pond and newts in the HR pond. The Chair advised leaving the KGG pond to develop as natural and the HR field pond as was and seeing what happened with the field drain.
Trees: Cllr. D. Coupe enquired whether MBC had taken out the tree stumps in Fawcett Avenue.

Residents would like to see new trees. The Chair had attended the TV Nature Conference the previous week. Central grants were available and the Mayor wanted to plant approx. 2 million trees. As a Parish Council, it was possible to apply for a share of this government fund for street trees but as a Friends' group it was better to "do our own thing", e.g. *Extension of the tree belt in the HR field*

Further suggestions were made by members, e.g. Ken Hornby suggested a new cutting machine, as there had been an increase in volunteers working. The Chair advised that better organisation of volunteers was required. Nick Cubitt offered to give a wheelbarrow to Brian Hogarth. Waders were also needed. John Tarron would be asked to trim the KGG hedge, at a cost of £180 max. (Agreed & authorised).Educational Nature Sessions by Sue Antrobus/Steve Ashton (TVW), costing £250 per session + hire of the Hall. Brian Chapman reminded members that KGG was originally leased from the Pennyman Estate at a peppercorn rent for an area where children could play football. Further suggestions: Goalposts in the HR field. Welcome to our village signs & 3-tier, pyramid-type display signs at the entrances to the 2 Villages. Repacement of missing or damaged barrels. Extension of the tree belt. Repair of dangerous churchyard path. More seating - Dave Sanders suggested seats on Strait Lane and by the Hall. John Cooper favoured investing in the children's education. Boot Scrapers outside the entrance(s) to the Green Spaces.

Housing – It was reported that Stainton Vale was going to come up for housing. There would have had to be some traffic management system but the Mayor wanted to halt all of that. It might still go ahead but at a time further into the future. The new Local Plan would come out in 2025. The road surveys needed attention. However, there would be nothing for the next 4 to 5 years. At present, the grassy area was a mess. Dave Sanders and the Chair advised leaving Phase 3 alone until it was finished. Cllr. Alan Conroy stated that the FSTGS needed an ***action plan*** of what they wanted to do and the people who were to meet to make all of that happen. He asked the group if it was deemed necessary to seek the opinions of those outside of the village. Cllr. Ron Dennison recommended (for parking) the grassed area beyond the Memorial Hall and the central piece of ground beyond the Chapel.

9. The Friends' Group work for the Parish Council, maintaining street furniture Cllr. A. Conroy reported that there was not a lot of work to done on the furniture by the TMG. The Group's organisation was not great. The materials were essential but the Group had not been good at mapping these up. Three sixformers from King's Academy and the Rotary had done some excellent varnishing work on the sculptures. The Chair stated that the standard of wood should be like the owl and the eagle seat.
Sue Antrobus reported that Bluebell Beck had an ISO. The question was discussed of where to place an ISO in S & T. Valerie's barn was quite central. Boot scrapers would be purchased and placed at all the Green Space entrances and exits. The street tree cherry trees that had had to be cut down would be replaced with rowans and other tree varieties. Cllr. David Coupe had an oak tree to donate to the Friends GROUP. Also, MBC had large trees to give away. The Chair would contact Simon Blenkinsop to request 12-15 trees of our choice and the locations info. MBC would plant them in the Autumn, but the Friends would be responsible for the maintenance. 8' to 9' tubing would be purchased. Brian Chapman reported that the entrance to the High Rifts field was a mud bath, and it had a very high-water table at the top end as the field was entered. Hardcore would be put in first, followed by rubble and concrete. It was agreed to get Jay Morrison (MBC Area Care) and Richard Ward (MBC) plus 4 FSTGS members out for a site visit.

10. The future of Kell Gate Green and how to manage it? The pollution of the Beck was ongoing. The Chair asked Sue Antrobus for advice on the Wet Area. The policy was now 'Let Nature take its course'. MBC cut the grass and we (the Group) did the strimming. It was decided to clear the area near the entrance and keep it clean. Brian Chapman advised that the elders needed felling. At the

moment, KGG was a mess with nettles and cow parsley spreading out of control. The Group were at the point of losing KGG. We had not given it enough, regular care and attention. Cllr. A. Conroy stated that a new plan was needed. He suggested getting a new contractor in and having a bonfire.

11. Maelor's Wood - A meeting would take place on Thursday, 12th August with a view to discuss felling trees and/or getting a contractor in. The Wood was fine to use but overgrown. The path was very overgrown. The rides had been cut by MBC but the main path to Rose Cottage where the cow parsley was too high was egressing down where the sculptures were. It was advised that strimming should be done and that a contractor be hired. Also, Tammy from The Woodland Trust would give advice if contacted. The Chair wondered whether it was worthwhile to strim around the seats and the sculpturers. David would hand cut around the features. It was agreed to ask for more volunteers. A day would be booked for maintenance.

12. The Quarry and the Spinney Nick and Geoff were in charge of the Spinney. It was reported that the path through the Spinney was very muddy. Cllr. David Coupe had asked MBC to extend the footpath and he reported that MBC would be putting up some large Dog Fouling signs. This was good news!

The Quarry handrail repairs – one had already been done. The wildflower area needed cutting and raking off in the backend. John Tarron had cut back the brambles.

13. The Habitat & Maintenance Schedule - Cllr. Alan Conroy presented the H & M Schedule. The Schedule would be revised. He went through some items with the Group for discussion and reported that MBC had not done as much cutting in the area. He would update the Schedule and send it to the Secretary for circulation. The Chair thanked him very much.

14. Date, Time and Location of next meeting - This would be held on a Monday morning in November, at 10.00 a.m. in the Church Room, Stainton. More details would follow later.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the meeting at 12.15 p.m.

Signed as a true record _____ Date _____

Minutes taken by M. Newbould (FSTGS Secretary). Email: ruthm7.newbould@gmail.com