

Minutes of the 269th meeting of the Stainton & Thornton Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall, Stainton on Tuesday 11 April 2023 at 7pm.

Present: Parish Councillors: A. Cooper, A. Conroy, D. Coupe, B. Neale. M. Russell, A. Liddle.
Clerk the Council - J. Holmes.

Members of the public: PCSO Jak Fisher, Simon Walton, David Revett, Tanvir Ellahi, Tia Ellahi, Josie McCabe.

12/23. Apologies for absence/Declarations of Interest - Cllr. C. Dean (Holiday)

13/23. Public participation – Opportunity for members of the public to address the Council.

- a) PCSO Jak Fisher opened discussion on the March crime statistics - a reduction in reported offences compared to the previous month. David Revett informed the meeting that there was an increase in anti-social behaviour occurring in Stainton Quarry by teenagers and requested police attention where possible. The officer reported that neighbouring wards were experiencing nuisance with off road motor bikes. Police have recently been trained and issued with DNA marking spray to assist with the identification of offenders and any off-road motor bike incidents in this area should be reported.
- b) Josie McCabe informed the meeting that arrangements were well in hand for a Coronation Plaque to be manufactured by the William Laing Foundry in Middlesbrough. A picture and full estimate of cost, in the region of £450 would be available soon.

14/23 Minutes of the 268th meeting of the Parish Council held on 14.2.23. – The Minutes were approved by the Parish Council, recorded as a true record and signed by the Chair.

15/23 Matters arising from the above Minutes

- a) **Parking issues – Hemlington Road** – Cllr. Coupe reported that Middlesbrough Council would be extending the yellow lines from Church Close, past the shops, to the end of the terraced houses on Hemlington Road. Local residents had been informed.
- b) **Footpath 3 Strait Lane** – No progress. Still awaiting confirmation from Middlesbrough Council.
- c) **Footpaths, Roads and Overhanging hedges** – Cllr. Coupe reported that the whole of Thornton Road had, at long last, been resurfaced. Speed cushions had also been installed. However, public opinion was that the cushions were ineffective in reducing speeds of vehicles and Middlesbrough Council were arranging to raise the level of the cushions next week. Cllr. Neale stated that the speed cushions were not included in the original traffic calming plans for Thornton Road. He had previously had a site meeting with officials from Middlesbrough Council and it had been agreed that reducing the carriageway width in certain places would be the most effective traffic calming measure. Speed cushions on the road were not part of the original plan. Cllr. Coupe reported that the Parish Council had never had sight of the plans for the traffic calming measures before work had started. Cllr. Neale stated he would be taking the matter further with Middlesbrough Council Road Engineers.
- d) **Coronation – Commemorative Mugs** – Clerk reported that he had taken delivery of 4 boxes (144 mugs) of Commemorative Mugs celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III, as ordered by the Parish Council. These would be distributed to the following village organisations – Memorial Hall, Parish Church, Methodist Chapel, Larchfield Community and RDA Unicorn Centre. Total cost to the Parish Council £1162.80.
- e) **Gala Day** – Cllr. Russell reported that very little progress had been made in resurrecting the Village Gala Day this year. Whilst many people liked the idea of a Gala Day there was very little

evidence that residents would support and help run the event. Long term planning for future events was essential.

16/23 Report of the Clerk to the Council – April 2023

1. The following magazines are on circulation to Parish Councillors: Clerk & Councils Direct, The Clerk.

2. NALC circulars and information received from CLCA have been forwarded to all councillors where appropriate.

3. Financial Statement **31.3.23.** (End of financial year)

Balance at 14.2.23. **£11960.38**

Income since last meeting: **None**

Expenditure since last meeting: **£2146.76** - Approval required.

Balance at 31.3.23. **£9813.62**

Date:	Payee.	Reason .	Payment	Amount.
1.3.23.	HMRC	PAYE (February)	BACS	69.20
1.3.23.	J.Holmes	Salary (February)	BACS	277.21
1.3.23.	Communicorp	Coronation Mugs	BACS	1162.80
1.3.23.	K. Robinson	Plants. EC.	BACS	12.00
6.3.23.	A. Sweeney	Plants. EC.	BACS	12.20
7.3.23.	MBC	Printing	BACS	93.88
7.3.23.	Memorial Hall	Hall Hire	BACS	48.00
19.3.23.	C. Wren	Plants. EC.	BACS	22.98
21.3.23.	M. Holmes	Plants. EC.	BACS	60.00
21.3.23.	J. Holmes	Incidental Expenses	BACS	24.08
28.3.23.	HMRC	PAYE (March)	BACS	69.20
28.3.23.	J. Holmes	Salary (March)	BACS	277.21
31.3.23.	Unity Trust Bank	Service charge	Direct	<u>18.00</u>
				2146.76

Resolved: All payments aforementioned approved.

4. Income & Expenditure 2022/23

Balance at 1.4.22. 11380.59

Income (Precept) 12090.00

23390.59

Expenditure. 13576.97

Balance at 1.4.23. 9813.62

Full yearly accounts will be made available for the next meeting of the Parish Council.

17/23 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2022/23 – Clerk reported that this return had to be completed and published on its website before 1 July 2023. As the Parish Council was a smaller authority, where the gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 it could certify itself exempt by submitting a Certificate of Exemption to the external auditor by 30 June 2023. To commence this process an internal auditor had to be appointed in accordance with Part 2 of AGAR 2022/23 and the Accounting Statements prepared and signed by the RFO (Clerk).

Resolved: Appointment of internal auditor to be progressed by Clerk.

18/23. Committee Reports

Planning – Cllr. Liddle

The following planning applications have been received with no objections from the Parish Council.

8 Seaward Close. 23/0143/FUL. Single storey extension to rear.

40 Seamer Road. 23/0162/PNH. Single storey extension at rear.

42 Cedar Drive. 22/0669/COU. Change of use from residential property (C3) to residential respite (C2).

No objection in principle by the Parish Council but concern expressed re ease of access.

Land at Low Lane. 20/0510/OUT – Planning application for commercial development. – To note that the application was originally refused however an appeal has been made to the Planning Inspectorate. Planning Inspectorate to hold informal meetings on 3 & 4 May at Middlesbrough Town Hall. Cllr. Liddle to attend.

Environment – Cllrs. Conroy & Liddle

Stainton Beck – Pollution at Kell Gate Green. – No further progress. Still awaiting reply from Environment Agency regarding latest water test results.

Village Pump relocation – Cllr. Coupe reports he expects this relocation to be completed soon.

Crime & Disorder – Cllr. Neale

It was reassuring that communication via police and Cllr. Neale (Specific Point of Contact) re recent incidents worked well.

Concern was expressed that the Sporting Lodge Hotel was being used as a ‘halfway house’ for persons recently released from prison. Cllrs. Coupe and Neale to make enquiries as to the legitimacy of this.

19/23. Friends of Stainton & Thornton Green Spaces – The replacement ‘badgers’ are to be re-sited in a new position on Strait Lane this week, or as soon as the weather permits.

The next Quarterly Meeting of the Friends Group will be held in May.

Cllr. Conroy reported that the cutting season for the Friends Group would be starting soon, weather permitting.

20/23. Cleveland Local Councils Association – Circulars from CLCA and NALC continue to be emailed to all Councillors on a weekly basis. Minutes of meeting held 21.2.23. at Marske had not yet been received.

NALC circular PC1-23 Infrastructure Levy was discussed. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) had issued a consultation in respect of the Levy. NALC was inviting responses from county associations and member councils. Cllr. Liddle to complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council.

21/23. Parish Council website – Clerk reported that he had received notice from CPC-Computing that the company would cease trading from 1 April and another firm would be required to host and manage the Parish Council website. Virtual Branding, an IT company operated by a local resident, Simon Walton had agreed to take over the website on the same terms as the previous operator.

However, Simon had proposed that Parish Council consider changing their website to a more modern design more suited to the demands of all residents, young and old. Simon addressed the meeting, expanded on the benefits of his ideas and answered questions from Councillors. After consideration it was agreed that a new website for the Parish Council should be progressed. The cost for building such a site would be at the discounted sum of £1500. The maintenance cost would remain at £30 pcm.

Resolved: Virtually Branded to be contracted to build and supply a new website for the Parish Council.

22/23 Parish Council elections 2023 – A Notice of Uncontested Election had been issued by Middlesbrough Council in the election of Parish Councillors for Stainton and Thornton on Thursday 4 May 2023. 6 nominations had been received for the 7 vacancies by the closing date 4 April 2023. Subsequently all current Parish Councillors had been re-elected for a period of 4 years with the exception of Cllr. C. Dean who had decided to retire and not seek re-election. The Chair, Cllr. A. Liddle and members paid tribute to the contribution made by Cllr. Dean to the Parish Council over the past 8 years.

23/23. Village Newsletters – Future distribution and delivery. – Clerk reported that currently the quarterly Village Newsletters were delivered to each household by a team of volunteers, which has been the case for many years. The same people also delivered the bi-monthly Community Council Newsletters to the same households. The team of volunteer deliverers had been founded and organised by Ray and Florence Rix. Once the newsletters had been printed Ray and Florence would divide them up and take them to the deliverer's homes for distribution by the volunteers. They had now decided that it was time to retire from this task. The Community Council newsletter in May, next month, would be their final edition. Currently the print run is 1600 copies of each newsletter and delivery by private distributors would prove very costly. There is now an urgent need to replace Mr & Mrs Rix in some capacity in order that volunteer deliverers can continue as normal. Enquiries to be made.

24/23. Date and Time of Next Meeting: 37th Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – Tuesday 16 May 2023. 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

The Chair formally closed the meeting at 9pm.

Agreed and signed as a true record Date

Minutes taken by: J. Holmes, Clerk to the Council, 13 Strait Lane, Stainton, TS8 9BB.
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