

Minutes of the 262nd meeting of the Stainton & Thornton Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall, Stainton on Tuesday 8 February 2022 at 7pm.

Present: Parish Councillors A. Liddle (Chair), B. Neale, C. Dean, A. Conroy, D. Coupe, A. Cooper, R. Dennison. Clerk the Council - J. Holmes.

01/22. Apologies for absence/Declarations of Interest - None

02/22. Public Participation – Opportunity for members of the public to address the Council – None

03/22. The Minutes of the 261st meeting held on Tuesday 14 December 2021 were approved by the Parish Council, recorded as a true record, and signed by the Chair.

04/22. Matters arising from the above Minutes.

- a) **Neighbourhood Plan** – Chair reported that the submitted Stainton and Thornton Neighbourhood Plan was now at the referendum stage and voting cards had gone out to all residents. The referendum on Neighbourhood Plan will take place on Thursday, 3 March 2022 between the hours of 7am – 10pm. The NP document can be viewed online at www.staintonandthorntonparishcouncil.org.uk and a hard copy is available to view on request.
- b) **Roadside Speed Display Unit** – Cllr Neale reported that Steve Rigg, Principal Engineer at Middlesbrough Council has confirmed with the manufacturers the specification for the proposed sign and post on Strait Lane. The order for the unit for Strait Lane has been placed at a total cost to the Parish Council of £3446.00. Following a successful bid to Middlesbrough Council further speed reducing measures will be installed in our area in the new financial year.
- c) **Parking Issues – Hemlington Road** – Cllr. Coupe reported that he held a site meeting with the Principal Engineer at Middlesbrough Council last week. Parking restrictions (yellow lines) are to be introduced on Hemlington Road, either side of the Church Close junction. There will also be a physical barrier (post) to prevent parking on the footpath on the corner of Church Close. Complaints have been received regarding parking at this location, obstructing traffic flow and reducing visibility at the junction. The proposed yellow lines would improve traffic flow and road safety by restricting parking at the junction and would apply to all motorists, including residents of Church Close.
- d) **Re-siting of Bus Stops** – Cllr. Coupe reported that re-siting of the bus stop outside the Stainton Inn has been completed. A physical barrier (posts) will be installed to prevent parking of vehicles on the footpath outside the premises.
- e) **Village Newsletter** – Cllr. Cooper reported that the March edition of the Village Newsletter would be circulated with Community Council newsletter due out at the same time. Clerk will explore the viability of using a leaflet distributor to service the 450 properties at Hemlington Grange.
- f) **Footpath – 3 Strait Lane** – Cllr. Dean reported it had been established that the affected land is owned by Middlesbrough Council. The resident at 5 Strait Lane had no objection to the remedial work to the footpath which would be carried out by Middlesbrough Council or a sub-contractor. Cllr. Coupe to progress.
- g) **Community Governance Review** – Cllrs. Liddle and Coupe reported that there had been no further communication from Middlesbrough Council on this matter.

- h) **Christmas Lights** – Cllr. Conroy reported the village christmas lights had been taken down by Middlesbrough Council and were now stored in the Memorial Hall. The invoice for the installation and then removal of the lights £570.10 has been paid to Middlesbrough Council.
- i) **Storm Arwen** – Cllr. Neale reported he had been unable to contact anyone from the Emergency Planning at Middlesbrough Council and has had no response to emails. He will endeavour to make contact.
- j) **Parish Council Budget/Precept** – Clerk reported that parish council precept for 2022/23 at £9.31 per household would realise £11544. The Parish Council budget was initially set at £10000. It was likely there would be extra funds available for the purchase of seats or noticeboards once sites had been identified.

05/22. Footpaths & Overhanging hedges – Cllr. Coupe reported that the overhanging hedge at two properties on Seamer Road, Thornton was in the process of removal. One of the properties concerned had cut back the hedge and MBC will be asked to send a letter to the adjoining property asking the resident to severely cut back their hedge otherwise MBC could cut it back themselves. All the footpaths in Thornton were in a poor state if repair as were some in Stainton. Cllr Coupe to bring to attention of MBC in the next ‘walk the ward’ meeting.

06/22. Other Parking Issues – Cllr. Coupe reported that he continues to receive complaints of parking issues in Meldyke Lane and outside the Memorial Hall and Old Board School. The Community Enforcement Team (Camera car) will be making ad hoc visits to the area and acting if necessary.

07/22. Dilapidated building – 1 Hemlington Road – The whereabouts of the owner of this property is currently unknown. The building is Grade II listed but Middlesbrough Council state that if the property is structurally sound there is little they can do despite it being unsightly. Cllr. Coupe to speak to Paul Clarke at MBC in an effort to trace the owner of the property.

08/22. Rose Cottage Farm estates – Chair reported that roads and footpaths in Rose Cottage Farm Phases 1 & 2 have been adopted by Middlesbrough Council. In Phase 3, whilst the building work has been completed, the roads and footpaths have yet to be adopted. The green spaces in all 3 phases are managed by a private company with all residents paying a monthly maintenance charge. In addition to housing phase 3 contains a children’s play area (with equipment) installed by the developers, Taylor Wimpey who also created a sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS) at the Low Lane end of the estate. The SUDS pond has no protective fence. The Parish Council needs to know who is responsible for the maintenance of the hedgerows and SUDS pond areas in Phase 3. The Parish Council also needs to know who is responsible for the maintenance and subsequent insurance of the play area. All areas of the Rose Cottage estates fall within the parish and the parish council is concerned for the safety and insurance liability of these areas. Initial enquiries with Middlesbrough Council have proved inconclusive. It was agreed to write to Middlesbrough Council for a definitive answer on the Parish Council’s concerns.

09/22. Salt bins, road sweeping and drains – Following complaints to the ward councillor, Cllr. Coupe had arranged for Middlesbrough Council to attend the area. The roads had swept by a mini-sweeper and the blocked drains on Strait Lane and Low Lane had been cleaned after examination by council engineers. Salt bins were available on request to MBC.

10/22. Gardening Services – Rose Cottage residents. A resident moving house from Rose Cottage has informed the parish council that the sale of her property was nearly jeopardised because of the exorbitant charge for the termination of contract by the private company who maintain the green spaces in Rose Cottage. Enquiries reveal residents at Rose Cottage are contracted to pay a monthly fee to a private company that maintains the green spaces on the estate. The maintenance fees are currently unregulated and uncapped, meaning that in some areas whoever provides the service, can increase the charges as they see fit and impose their own set of rules regarding payments and termination charges. Whilst the termination charges appear unpalatable, they are not illegal and conveyancing solicitors should be highlighting these issues to prospective purchasers.

11/22 The Report of the Clerk to the Council including correspondence, financial statement and authorisations.

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

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

c. Financial Statement **8.2.22.**

Balance at 7.2.22. **£12427.85**

Income since last meeting: **Nil**

Expenditure since last meeting: **£1425.99** - Approval required.

Date:	Payee.	Reason .	Cheque No.	Amount.
14.12.21.	MBC	Xmas lights	540	570.10
20.12.21.	A.Liddle	Printer inks	541	34.68
29.12.21.	J.Holmes	Salary (Dec)	542	248.41
29.12.21.	HMRC	PAYE	543	62.20
31.1.22.	J.Holmes	Microsoft 365	544	79.99
31.1.22.	C.Cutler	Website (Dec-Mar)	545	120.00
31.1.22.	J.Holmes	Salary (Jan)	546	248.41
31.1.22.	HMRC	PAYE	547	<u>62.20</u>
				1425.99

Invoice to pay – Baines Jewitt – Professional Services. £42.00

Resolved: All payments aforementioned approved.

12/22. Committee Reports

Planning – Cllr. Liddle

Applications received. 22/0080/TCA. – Redwalls, 15 Thornton Road. – Tree works in conservation area. No objection by Parish Council.

Environment – Cllrs. Coupe & Liddle.

Stainton Beck – Pollution at Kell Gate Green. – Cllr. Liddle reported that on a recent visit to KGG the water at the outfall appeared clear, with no odour. This could be an indication that the 2 package treatment plants were now working efficiently. However, it was agreed to pursue with a complaint

about the way Middlesbrough Council had permitted discharge into the beck and refer the matter to the Ombudsman. Cllr. Liddle and Cllr. Conroy to progress.

Environment Committee (Green Finger Gang) - The next meeting of the Environment Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, 15 February. 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

Crime & Disorder – Cllr. Neale.

The latest crime figures from the police for January show a doubling of reported crimes – 24 in January against 12 in December. Anti-social behaviour incidents (3) no narrative regarding the locations of the crimes. Police to be asked to supply a better breakdown of reported incidents.

13/22. Friends of Stainton and Thornton Green Spaces – Cllr. Liddle reported that the Thursday morning group had installed boot scrapers at the entrance to the Quarry on Cedarwood Glade and on the entrance to Kell Gate Green on Thornton Road.

Letters will go out to residents in the Fawcett Avenue area asking if they would like a replacement tree following the removal of some diseased trees. Species of tree has yet to be agreed.

A damaged 'Welcome to The Spinney' sign had been repaired. The trunk of a felled Atlantic Cedar tree needs removal in Kell Gate Green. The hedgerow in Maelor's Wood requires cutting back by Middlesbrough Council.

14/22. Cleveland Local Council Association – Weekly circulars from CLCA and NALC continue to be forwarded to all councillors where relevant. No dates received for quarterly CLCA meeting.

15/22. Queen's Platinum Jubilee – It was agreed in principal that the Parish Council would be supportive of any local group making their own preparations to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.

16/22. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 12 April 2022. 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

The Chair formally closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

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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