

Minutes of the Stainton and Thornton Community Council, Stainton Memorial Hall - Tuesday 10th September 2024.

Chair – The meeting was chaired by Tia Ellahi.

Present – There were under 10 people present at the meeting.

Apologies for Absence – Apologies were received from Alan Conroy and Clare Howard Wren.

Police report – PCSO Jak Fisher was unable to attend, as he was off shift, but two of his colleagues came in his place. **Jim** provided the crime statistics and updates on Jak's behalf. He also promised to pass on all comments to Jak and ensure that he follows up.

The police shared the following updates:

- **Sporting Lodge:** Drunken guests causing nuisance in the car park.
- **Elderwood and Saffron Gardens:** Following a social media appeal for information about suspected stolen motorbikes, residents from these new-build estates provided numerous calls and online reports, including sightings and CCTV footage of males driving motorbikes dangerously on and off-road. These incidents have been logged together under the same report due to their connection to the broader issue.
- Over the summer, more than a dozen vehicles used for anti-social behaviour (ASB) and criminality were seized. Five males were arrested and charged with the following offences:
 - Riding a motorcycle without protective headgear
 - Driving without a valid licence
 - Operating a vehicle without third-party insurance
 - Careless driving
 - Failing to stop when required by a constable or traffic warden
 - Dangerous driving
- **Violence Against the Person:** 5 domestic-related incidents were reported.
- **Burglary:** At **Primrose Way**, a prowler attempted to gain access to unlocked garages and vehicles. Nothing was confirmed stolen.
- **Criminal Damage:** Windows were smashed at the **BT Building** next to Sporting Lodge. The building has been vacant for some time.
- **Other:** There are ongoing neighbour disputes. No links between these incidents have been identified, and they appear to be isolated.

Additionally, residents are advised to remain vigilant, especially as the nights become darker, and to report any suspicious activity. The police also received reports suggesting poaching activity in nearby fields, although nothing has been confirmed. The local wildlife officer will continue to monitor the area.

The majority of the calls from Stainton and Thornton have been from the Elderwood and Saffron Gardens estates, with concerns that the males on motorbikes are also looking to burgle homes. No confirmed cases of burglary have been reported in these estates during August, but the police will continue to monitor the situation.

General Crime Prevention Advice was also provided, including securing homes, staying vigilant in crowds, using trusted ATMs, and being mindful of social media activity.

Other comments - David Coupe mentioned a complaint from a farmer about a large dog causing nuisances in the village (one dog in particular), as well as speeding becoming more

of an issue in the area with residents complaining even more. David asked whether we could use Middlesbrough Council's funding allocated for the area to buy a speed camera for the village. A resident asked if we could get dummy speed guns but it was confirmed that this is illegal. Another issue discussed was regarding dog walkers putting dog waste in other people's bins and walking onto their property to do this. Alan also mentioned community speed watch Facebook pages and if it was something we could jump onto - Jim confirmed he would report all this back to Jak to look into and sort out.

Guest Speaker – Acting Inspector Daniel Oldroyd – Cleveland Police.

Unfortunately, the guest speaker was unable to attend, having sent an email a few days before the meeting to confirm his absence.

Minutes of the previous meeting Tues 9th July 2024 – Accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising – There were no matters arising.

Report from the treasurer- The current balance stands at £2,244.07.

There is still no sign of the annual grant from Middlesbrough Borough Council, which was due in April. Last year's grant wasn't received until 29th September 2023. Middlesbrough Council has yet to issue a purchase order number, and until one is received, the Treasurer is unable to submit an invoice to claim the funds.

Report from Ward Councillor –

“It was good that Cleveland Police were able to be with us this evening. The crime rate has again risen in the area but the police have confiscated a number of motorbikes that have been used in crime and antisocial behaviour., so it always pays to be vigilant. If you see anything suspicious going on in the area, for example off road bikes, you should call Cleveland Police on 101 as soon as possible. You can also download the new COPA app, which is a quick and easy way to report an incident. If the incident is serious and an immediate threat, then you should ring 999.

The brown bin collection this year should continue until early December to give residents a better value for money. The fortnightly black bin collections has now started. A few people are still putting their black bins out every week and even a few green bins, which will not be emptied. If you have a green bin and have missed the collection date the council should remove it on request as long as it is empty. Everyone who is entitled to a single larger bin should have received it by now.

Middlesbrough Council's finances are still critical with Children's Services still struggling to keep within budget. As you may have seen in the media the council's 2021/22 and 2022/23 accounts will not be audited by EY, which is something I found to be incredulous, considering how much they have been paid over the years.

The 13 and 13A bus service continues to serve the people of Stainton as well as the main part of Hemlington. Hemlington Grange should get a service in the future, although this could be some time in the future. It is important that people do not park in bus stops or impound the bus in any way.

I am sure you will have seen the new path on Stainton Way linking the existing footpath and the entrance to Maelors Wood, something I have asked for. The other part of the Hemlington

side is planned to be expanded towards Brookfield and two pedestrian controlled crossings put in, one across Stainton Way and the other across Hemlington Hall Road.

Blocked drains and potholes are still a major problem in Stainton and Thornton. I am pleased to say that the council's new Gateway System does appear to work quite well and I have been able to report issues and get most of them sorted in a faster manner than on the old system. The junction on Stainton Way and Hemlington Grange is currently subject to temporary traffic lights. These works have been going on for far longer than expected. I have pushed for this to be completed as soon as possible and I have been assured that it will be complete by the end of September. There will be permanent traffic lights and a pedestrian crossing when the scheme is complete.

Parking in Stainton is still an ongoing problem with Hemlington road particularly bad. There was an accident near Vernon Court involving a parked car and a local resident. There are issues with people with blue badges parking on yellow lines, which they are entitled to do so as long as they don't park dangerously or cause an obstruction. You should not park within 9 metres of a corner.

The land previously owned by Angela Swift Developments near to Rose Cottage Phase 2, which is now to be developed with 22 dwellings by a Housing association. This came to the planning committee and unfortunately there was nobody there to oppose it. I did speak on behalf of the residents and was unable to vote. The planning application was passed. It now remains to be seen if they have full access rights to the land and drainage system.

As you may have seen in the media the Boundary Commission are proposing to expand the Ward of Stainton & Thornton to include Stainsby. This would extend from the Mandale roundabout to beyond the Larchfield Community. With the proposed 2000 houses at Stainsby, 750 at Stainton and over 800 at Hemlington Grange you may feel that is too big. You can contact the boundary Commission up to 16th September to give your views. Email at reviews@lgbce.org.uk. Bellway Homes have proposed a development of 550 homes in the land to the west of The Sporting Lodge. This is in the process of going through the planning department, which will decide whether it gets referred to the Planning Committee. As I have mentioned before the whole site may see up to 800 homes across the site depending on the Local Plan, with 400 houses at Home Farm near to the police hub 600, including the possibility for a primary school and perhaps a shop. The council currently have a target of about 350 new houses per year, even though there were over 600 built in Middlesbrough. 600 new homes is now the new governments target for Middlesbrough, which will mean 3000 new houses over the next 5 years.

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. Once again, my thanks to the dedicated team of volunteers who plant and maintain these throughout the year. We are always looking for more helpers so if you feel you can help please contact either Maureen Holmes or myself.

I try to attend the Saturday Coffee Morning in the Memorial Hall if anyone wishes to bring any problems or concerns, or you can email or telephone me."

David Coupe

Grant Applications – No new grant applications were received.

Planning applications – The following planning applications have been received for the area since the last Community Council meeting:

- 1) Single storey extension to side (property: 32a Cedar Drive, Middlesbrough).
- 2) Erection of detached garage to rear (property: 27 Maltby Road, Middlesbrough).
- 3) Certificate of lawful development for single storey extension to rear, dormer window to rear and rooflights to front (property: 1 Pennyman Way, Middlesbrough).

(Alan also noted that the Stainton Old School building is still awaiting approval from planning)

In addition to discussing the three planning applications, Alan clarified the distinctions between the Council, Community Council, Parish Council, and Ward, as there appeared to be some confusion among attendees about the roles of these different bodies. He also confirmed that the proposal for Stainton & Stainsby to share ward councillors will be considered in the upcoming Local Government Boundary Review.

Alan Liddle

Any other business – David Coupe asked residents for suggestions regarding the guest speaker for the November meeting. He asked if residents would prefer Mayor Ben Houchen or the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Joan George raised an important issue concerning the Thirteen Group's property at 1 Meldyke Place. She read the following letter:

“My concern pertains to items 3 & 4 on the agenda, and I would like to address them to the Cleveland Police, Councillor Coupe, and the Community Council. Specifically, it concerns the Thirteen Group's property at 1 Meldyke Place and their appalling record of response to complaints, concerns, and fears, which is in direct contrast to their stated ethos.

For months, even before the last tenant vacated the property, it has looked derelict and attracted much interest from passers-by. Rubbish, including tins of paint, was left in full view for weeks before eventually a token tidy-up took place. The garden is again overgrown, but more importantly, fence panels have blown down and remain on the front garden. The border fence to the public footpath is loose.

There is increasing interest in the property, not least from groups of youths. I fear that it will become a squat or meeting place for drug users or, at the very least, a target for arson, given the availability of material on site.”

Response - Jim from the Parish Council stated that this sounded like a Parish Council matter, and Alan will take it up. David Coupe added that he has a new contact for Thirteen Group and will contact Julie Pearce about the issue.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Community Council will be the second Tuesday of the month, - 12th November 2024 at 7.00pm

The chair closed the meeting at around 8.20pm.

Minutes of the Community Council meeting can be found on the Stainton and Thornton Parish Council website : staintonandthorntonparishcouncil.org.uk
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Residents who would like to receive information by e-mail can send their addresses to ccdatabse@btinternet.com (Jim Holmes)