

Minutes of the Stainton and Thornton Community Council, Stainton Memorial Hall - Tuesday 09th July 2024.

Chair – The meeting was chaired by Tia Ellahi

Present – There were 21 people present at the meeting

Apologies for Absence – Helen Orchel, Brian Chapman, Maureen Holmes.

Police report – Unfortunately PCSO Jak Fisher was unable to attend as he was off duty, however he did send the current police figures for our ward to be discussed at the meeting

Within Stainton and Thornton and surrounding wards, over the last few weeks there has been a rising number of incidents relating to the nuisance and damage caused by off road motor bikes being driven dangerously. Now there has been significant success in addressing this issue, with repeated reports of vehicle confiscations and rider arrests. At the moment the police have seized 5 bikes and one arrest with further investigations ongoing.

Please ensure garages and vehicles are locked with nothing on show.

The statistics:-

ASB –

- 1) The Gables, 3 groups of youths and small fire set
- 2) Hemlington Grange, Way Hume Drive, motorcycle(s) disturbance
- 3) Sporting Lodge- large quad bike driven at speed.
- 4) Thornton Rd – 2 nuisance scooters driven on the road

Violence against persons –

- 1) Sporting Lodge, - Common Assault x 2, Suspect Arrested.

Burglary –

- 1) Ramblers Way – Several suspects wearing face coverings attempting to gain access to houses and vehicles.
- 2) Rose Cottage Gardens – 3 males attempting to open garage door.

Theft –

- 1) Cookson Rd – 3 males attempting to open car door.
- 2) Meldyke Rd, - Theft of tools from rear of van

Criminal damage –

- 1) Brookes Lane – Rock thrown at window resulting in damage.

Others –

- 1) Elvey Lane – Public order offences
- 2) Hemlington Grange Rd – Verbal altercation between dog walkers.

General crime prevention advice – Secure your home, be mindful of displays, stay vigilant in crowds, use trusted ATM's, shop safely on line, travel safely, beware when parking and list emergency contacts.

Guest Speaker – Julie Pearce – MBC South Neighbourhood Manager.

The chair welcomed Julie to the meeting and Julie replied by saying she was very happy to be here once again, but this time with a whole range of new responsibilities in her current MBC role.

Julie started by explaining that her new position now covered the areas of Stainton and Thornton, Hemlington, Coulby Newham, Nunthorpe, Marton East and Marton West. In all of these areas she is supported by great teams and has responsibility for all environmental issues.

In addition to this workload Julie also has an additional portfolio that covers:

- 1) Anti-social behaviour and low level crime, working closely with the police.
- 2) Cleansing, including litter picking, road sweeping and bin emptying.
- 3) Horticulture issues, together with Richard Ward (currently off sick), weed spraying, tree and shrubbery trimming, grass cutting and planting.
- 4) Community resilience including volunteering and community cohesion, working closely with voluntary and statutory groups, with some funding encouraging residents to access activities in the area.

Julie explained that the changes were part of the cost savings within MBC and that there are now 4 area managers with a similar remits.

Residents shared their concerns about vehicles speeding through the villages and despite repeated appeals to the police about conducting speed checks, nothing has happened. Reasons given – speed gun broken or not available and police manpower issues. Julie said she will investigate why this is such a problem.

Badly parked vehicles in the villages is another source of concern, sometimes traffic flow and bus service cannot pass safely. Julie suggested that looking at the existing road markings and parking arrangements might need to be re-examined to ensure we have the best available, changes may be possible.

Questions were asked about vehicles parking on the pavement and blue badge holders parking on yellow lines? Julie responded by saying that obstruction and dangerous parking was a matter for the police and that blue badge holders can park on yellow lines but not so as to cause an obstruction or near a junction (32ft).

Overhanging trees and shrubs blocking the walkways was another issue. Julie said that there was an existing process for dealing with these matters. She asked for photos of offending areas, saying that initially a letter would be sent to the owners seeking correction. A specific issue was raised about a section of shrubbery in Thornton near Low Farm close, there is some doubt about who owns the offending trees? JP to check land ownership.

Julie also explained that there was some funding to help with improvements in the southern area, £25k general fund and £195k for motorcycle issues. Residents asked if this money could be used to purchase a speed test unit that could be used locally (after training) and to increase the number of litter bins in the villages? She went on to explain that these could be looked at and said that the money available needs to be spent before March end 2025.

Julie mentioned the possibility of help from Probation Community Pay Back group, for work in an area where heavy work is needed, benefit to the area and the group involved. She also referred to the 'Copper App' an information app for the whole community.

Guest Speaker 2 – The chair welcomed our second speaker of the evening, Jackie Rubin (equine trustee) from the Unicorn Centre.

Jackie shared with the residents the function of the centre, it is a purpose-built unit that focuses on Riding for the Disabled association. The centre provides riding therapy, learning, achievement and fun for children and adults with a large range of disabilities across Teesside and beyond.

Activities and consequently income was severely affected by the Covid – 19 epidemic and increases in the national living wage. Funds for the centre are currently very low and as we are a charity totally dependant on donations, we are extremely grateful for any donations.

Jackie explained that the current fund-raising campaign has already reached £16,468 + £1,918 Gift Aid, the existing target is £100k.

The centre used to have 20 horses, but due to the existing difficult conditions it has been necessary to reduce numbers to 12, with some ponies. The centre operates self-funded lessons with support from staff and volunteers, it also reaches out into the community visiting care homes. Ponies in care homes can have significant impact on elderly residents, the noises, smells and behaviour can have a really positive impact on people (79yr old lady suddenly started to interact).

Last week the centre held a Unicorn Day, with activities and fund raising, later in the year they are planning another called Rides for Santa. The centre also has a venue for functions that may be suitable for other organisations.

The discussion about the Unicorn Centre was well received by residents with many suggesting stronger future links between us.

Minutes of the previous meeting Tues 14th May 2024 – Accepted as a true record

Matters Arising – There were no matters arising

Report from the treasurer- There has been no expenditure on our account since our last meeting in May. Therefore, the balance of our bank account remains £2494.07.

We still have not received our annual grant from Middlesbrough Council. We have been unable to apply for our grant because we need a purchase order number to be issued by the Council before we can submit an invoice. We provided Kieron Rudd at Middlesbrough Council with all of the information required on the 29th April and requested a purchase order number. We were advised on the 1st May that the grant we receive was currently under review. Julie Pearce, who was present at our meeting tonight asked for a copy of the email to be forwarded to her and she will chase it for us.

Report from Ward Councillor –

In Hemlington Grange there has been various problems with bins and paid for waste collections around the Elderwood area. I'm hopeful this has now been resolved. I believe problems with the green and brown bins have also been resolved and that collections this year should continue until early December to give residents a better value for money. The fortnightly black bin collections will start shortly. Everyone who is entitled to a single larger bin should have received it by now.

They 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 sometime in the future. It's important that people in all areas do not park in bus stops or impede the bus in anyway.

Blocked drains and potholes are a major problem in Stainton and Thornton and indeed across the town. Middlesbrough Council have just introduced a new tool for councillors called Gateway which should help in reporting problems and getting a faster response. There are teething problems at the moment, but it should be working properly, soon.

The ongoing roadworks on Stainton Way near the Police HQ are causing problems with traffic. I have taken this up with the Council and Taylor Wimpey, they have been asked to expedite the removal of the temporary lights as soon as possible.

The land previously owned by Angela Swift developments near to Rose Cottage phase 2, is now proposed to be developed with 22 dwellings by a housing association. This application is coming before the planning committee on Thursday this week and it is recommended to be passed by the committee.

The Boundary Commission reported back today on the possible future ward boundaries. Their suggestion is to change Stainton and Thornton to become Stainton and Stainsby, with the Boundary stretching from Mandale roundabout to Larchfield. If this is accepted it would mean you have 4 communities with no connection to each other and the possibility of an additional Ward councillor?

The Environment Committee a.k.a. 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 please do so, or you can email me or contact me by telephone.

David Coupe

Grant Applications – At the meeting this evening, there was a verbal application for a grant from the Stainton and Thornton Friends of Green Spaces group. The purpose of the grant is to help with the operational costs of this volunteer group who work in the green spaces of the villages, helping them to keep the areas in good standard for the entire community. A vote from those attending, was passed to grant £250.00 to the Friends group.

Planning applications – Straight Lane, planning 23/0527/MAJ for 22 dwellings is going to planning committee on the 11th of July. Despite objections by residents, the parish council and the Methodist Homes Association (Montpelier Manor care home), the planning officer/department at MBC are recommending approval.

Local plan, is being reviewed and they are having to carry out extra work, including traffic surveys and work on the gypsy site. Best guess is that it will go out for a consultation to residents in December.

Bellway have submitted a new planning application for Stainton Vale farm which should be validated this week I don't have details, but based on the consultation exercise that Bellway

and MBC carried out last year, it could be for between 550 and 850 dwellings. Documents will be available on the MBC website/planning portal soon.

Planning application 24/0239/COU change of use application from residential property to residential care home for up to 3 children at number 2 Hemlington Grange Way. TS8 9FX
Planning application 24/0525/TPO, pruning works to Oak tree at number 1 Rose Cottage Gardens

Planning application 24/0232/COU change of use from office to dwelling single story extension at the rear roof lights to the side and rear and a detached double garage to the rear at number 6 Meldyke Lane. (The old school)

Hot off the press, the local government boundary commission have been reviewing the number of ward councillors in Middlesbrough, along with the areas/boundaries they represent and have put together their recommendations which can be viewed on their website at www.lgbce.org.uk and submissions can be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to review officer (Middlesbrough) LGBCE, PO box 133, Blythe. NE24 9FE. Basically, the WARD boundary will include the whole parish of Stainton and Thornton plus Stainsby Hall farm and will be represented by 2 ward councillors.

Alan Liddle

Any other business – On June 23rd Sue Antrobus from the Wildlife centre was trying to meet individuals interested in doing a little maintenance work in Maelor's Wood, generally to improve the Wood for all visitors. Unfortunately, the only people who turned up were some from the Friends Group and a visiting counsellor/would be politician. Although small in number some work was undertaken and improvements were made, however the Wood is a large area and more work is needed.

Sue has organised another 3 events all on Sunday mornings 10.00 till noon, on 21st July, 18th August and 22nd September, the idea of the Sundays is hopefully to attract more local volunteers. No specific skills are needed, tools and guidance will be provided and the tasks are suitable for all ages, so children are most welcome. Let us meet in Maelor's Wood.

In order to help those residents who do not have e-mail, it has been agreed with the Memorial Hall Committee that a number of hard copies can be located there for collection on a Saturday Coffee morning.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Community Council will be the second Tuesday of the month, - 10th Sept 2024 at 7.00pm

The chair closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

Minutes of the Community Council meeting can be found on the Stainton and Thornton Parish Council website : staintonandthorntonparishcouncil.org.uk

Residents who would like to receive information by e-mail can send their addresses to ccdatabse@btinternet.com (Jim Holmes)