

## **Minutes of the Stainton and Thornton Community Council, Stainton Memorial Hall – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024.**

**Chair** – The meeting was chaired by Tia Ellahi

**Present** – There were 15 people present at the meeting.

**Apologies for Absence** – Brian Chapman, Clair + Howard Wren.

**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. We also had 2 visiting PCSO's from Middlesbrough Central attending for police issues.

The two officers reported that there were difficulties when dealing with stolen motorcycles or quad bikes, it was also stated that there is an issue if individuals are wearing facemasks or balaclavas. The police are not allowed to remove these face coverings?

Jak's report shows two motorcycles have been confiscated in Hemlington and the report also states that individuals have been arrested and charged.

A resident at the meeting commented that the post office in Hemlington had its security blinds deliberately damaged whilst closing the shop by youths who were nearby. It cost the owners £180 to have this particular damage repaired in order to make the shop secure. There is a clear disregard for people and their property in that area.

Another resident said that they had reported three youths riding a motorcycle on the estate. Also, that the design of the estate which has wide open spaces makes it difficult to control, in terms of speed and unauthorised vehicles. This issue is to be further looked at by Middlesbrough Council.

Jak's police report said there are no concerns about crime patterns or trends for our area.

The statistics:-

ASB –

- 1) Hemlington Village Road - public urination.
- 2) Stainton Way - 3 males on a motorcycle.
- 3) The Gables - group of youths causing disturbance at the car park at the rear of the vacant property.

Violence against persons –

- 1) Lynmouth close - threats of violence and common assault (no injury).
- 2) Cedar Drive - domestic incident-does not support police action.
- 3) Buttercup Grove - malicious communications over social media-harassment.

Burglary –

- 1) Hemlington Grange Way - calls received regarding unknown male attempting to gain access to unsecured properties, cars, garages etc. All within the same vicinity and on the same evening/night.
- 2) Stuteville Row - attempted burglary from garage/shed.

Theft –

- 1) Sporting Lodge - theft of flat - bed trailer and vehicle.

Criminal damage –

- 1) Cedarwood Glade - damage to garden fence and parked vehicle.
- 2) Stainton Way - damage to bus stop.

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. Be watchful for Scam

Speed check – Because of unresolved ongoing issues there is yet another request from the Stainton and Thornton area, the 2 police representatives present said they would forward the request, once more.

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

**Guest Speaker** – Craig Green from 'Safer Communities Group' the topic '**Friends Against Scams**'.

The chair welcomed the speaker Craig to our meeting and said we were looking forward to his input relating to a topic that was very relevant to us all at this time.

Craig explained that he is a retired police officer and since 2013 he has been working with the Safer Communities group on programs such as Friends Against Scams. He has also been involved in a restorative justice program. In this capacity Craig commented that a lady with legal experience who had been engaged to act on residents behalf and funded only for 12 months, was able to make returns of fraud to individuals, totalling £800,000.

He started by sharing examples of the types of fraud being used by criminals e.g.

Personal Fraud – Where individuals come to your address, possibly suggesting something is wrong with the property e.g. tiles loose or guttering damage, or as a distraction to gain entry.

Postal Scams – Claiming you have won something but you need to reply giving further information.

Telephone Scams – From suppliers or deliverers, where you need to give them personal information in order to get what they are supposedly delivering.

Internet Scams – Unexpected messages from strangers or known names asking for help or money.

Romance Frauds – Usually developed over longer periods either by e mail, internet or post. These can lead to huge losses because of the emotions involved.

Bank/ Credit card fraud - Where the message relates to your bank account or card being used by someone else. This can sometimes involve ringing a police number to verify that the call is genuine, but the caller has not replaced his handset, so the verifying call is back to the criminals.

These are not the only types of fraud in use, but these are the most common in circulation at the moment. **Craig explained that there are telephone call blockers for people having troubles, available from his organisation, free of charge provided the person has a BT landline.** There are also other devices that can be installed that recognise 'true' calls from known friends, family or other sources.

A final tip from Craig was if you have any concerns about a situation you find yourself in, **Stop, Breathe and Ask** questions, never let the scammers force you into making fast decisions. People can also sign up to a 'Which' scam alert.

**Craig closed his presentation by stating that scams represent 52% of all crimes and that Fraud is the only crime where victims help the criminals.**

**Minutes of the previous meeting Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2024** – Accepted as a true record

**Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising

**Report from the treasurer-** We finally received our £750 annual grant monies from Middlesbrough Council on the 22/10/2024. The grant was actually due in April. The balance of our bank account as at today's date is £2946.07 with transactions during the period shown below.

|                                                       |        |         |                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|
| <b><i>Opening balance as at 10/09/24</i></b>          |        |         | <b>2244.07</b>  |
| <b><i>Receipts</i></b>                                |        |         |                 |
| Middlesbrough Council Grant                           |        | £750.00 |                 |
|                                                       |        |         |                 |
| <b><i>Total receipts</i></b>                          |        |         | <b>£750.00</b>  |
|                                                       |        |         |                 |
| <b><i>Expenditure</i></b>                             |        |         |                 |
| Hire of Memorial hall for meetings, May July and Sept | £48.00 |         |                 |
| <b><i>Total Expenditure</i></b>                       |        |         | <b>£48.00</b>   |
| <b><i>Closing balance as at 12/11/24</i></b>          |        |         | <b>£2946.07</b> |

**Grant Applications** – I have 2 grant applications:- 1 from Stainton Bowling club, for a total of £120.00 for 4 wooden storage boxes (£60) and two scoops to pick up the bowls (£60).

The other is from - Marske Brass Band, for £75.00 as a donation for their services of playing at the Christmas Light switch on event on 29/11/2024.

Both of these grants were proposed and seconded by residents at the meeting.

**Report from Ward Councillor** – I am working with the council and the mayor to find a solution to the problem of easy access across land and footpaths by the problem vehicles, motor cycles and quad bikes, mainly around Elderwood. The latest crash in the area (car) did result in injuries to the occupants of the vehicle involved.

Roadworks near the police headquarters is finally about to be finished, with only the sides needing to be completed, when finalised there should be a safe area for pedestrians crossing.

The new 'Council Gateway System' is finally starting to work. Potholes have been repaired and the hedge on Strait Lane will hopefully be cut later this week. Also, the leaves around the church should soon be cleared. There are two more brown bin collections, including tomorrow and they are planned to recommence again in March.

Parking in Stainton is still an ongoing problem with Hemlington Road and the area outside Memorial Hall being hotspots. The yellow lines are there to prevent indiscriminate parking, however there are issues with blue badge holders parking on yellow lines. Which they're entitled to do, so long as they don't park dangerously or cause obstruction. **The exception to this is the yellow lines outside the Memorial Hall where parking is not permitted at any time,** a number of tickets have been issued. Blue badge holders have been warned not to park here.

The land previously owned by Angela Swift near to Rose Cottage phase 2, is proposed to be developed with 22 dwellings, this has been passed by the council, with no start date.

The Boundary Commission seem determined to change the ward boundaries, their suggestion is for Stainton and Thornton to become Stainton and Stainsby, with the boundary stretching from Mandale roundabout to Larchfield, this will make it a very large ward.

Bellway homes, have not only proposed the development of 550 homes in the land to the west of Sporting Lodge, they're also proposing 400 new houses at Home Farm. This should result in a primary school and amenities in the Hemlington Grange area. They will be exhibiting the plans here in the Memorial Hall on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. Alan Liddle and I have a meeting with them in two weeks, to discuss the developments.

Environment committee, also known as the Green Finger Gang, are there to help people plant and maintain the flowerbeds and tubs throughout the villages. My thanks to the dedicated team of volunteers who do work on these throughout the year. We are always looking for more help, 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, so if anyone wishes to bring problems or concerns, you can contact me there, or by email or by telephone.

Concerns were raised by residents at the meeting about the condition of No1 Hemlington Road, David advised the residents that the council had appointed a new officer who will be looking into this directly.

There was another issue about the condition of hedges obstructing pavements, these should be identified with information passed to the council for action to be taken. **However, residents should maintain their hedges properly so as not to obstruct or overhang pavements.**

Another question related to City Fibre, this is the company responsible for installing high-speed Internet. David said that nothing had been heard recently from City Fibre.

David Coupe

**Planning applications** – There are only two new planning applications of importance:-

- 1) The construction of a micro energy storage project, in the land off Stainton Way adjacent to the police hub in Hemlington. The purpose of this construction is to take energy from the national grid supply at times when demand is quiet and then replace energy into the national grid when demand is high. No further information is available at this stage.
- 2) Felling of 2 Ash trees to the rear of number 8 Seymour Road in Thornton.

Alan Liddle

**Any other business** – Unfortunately, attendance at this meeting was low. Residents who attended were asked for suggestions for guest speaker topics they would like at the meeting. Unfortunately, no suggestions were made at the time.

**If readers of the CC minutes have ideas for speakers they would like to hear, would you please make contact and let us know, we will do our very best to get appropriate topics covered.**

You can contact myself, Alan Conroy (secretary) on [alan@staintonandthorntonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:alan@staintonandthorntonparishcouncil.org.uk) or Jim Holmes at [ccdatabse@btinternet.com](mailto:ccdatabse@btinternet.com)

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, - 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 at 7.00pm.

The Community Council Officers wish all residents a very **Merry Christmas and the Happiest New Year.**

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](http://staintonandthorntonparishcouncil.org.uk)

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