

Minutes of the Stainton and Thornton Community Council, Stainton Memorial Hall - Tuesday 13th May 2025.

Chair – The meeting was chaired by Tia Ellahi.

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

Apologies for Absence – Apologies were received from Vince Robinson, Clare & Howard Wren and Jim Holmes.

Police report – PCSO Jak Fisher was unable to attend the meeting but submitted a report in advance. He stated:

“I will not be available on Tuesday for the next meeting as I will not be on duty. Here is a summary of ASB and crime within the ward. I have contacted my colleagues who are on duty that date and have requested for them to attend to represent Cleveland Police in my place. Thank you.”

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Cleveland Police continue to monitor and respond to reports of anti-social behaviour within the Stainton and Thornton ward. ASB levels remain generally sporadic and lower than average when compared to other areas in Middlesbrough. However, specific concerns are being addressed:

- **Damage to the Gables Public House:** Multiple reports of damage to the currently vacant premises have been received. Local policing teams are aware and have been tasked with monitoring the site to deter further incidents.
- **Off-Road and Electric Motorbikes:** Concerns persist about the dangerous and nuisance use of off-road and electric motorbikes. Officers have seized a number of motorbikes and quads as part of an ongoing effort to address these issues and reassure the community.

The police emphasise the importance of continued reporting by residents to ensure concerns are addressed swiftly and appropriately.

Crime

The crime rate in the area continues to remain lower than the Middlesbrough average, with incidents occurring sporadically and without a clear pattern. Notable incidents included:

- **Burglary – Lynmouth Close:** One report of a burglary involving an outbuilding. No items were taken, and the main property was not accessed.
- **Theft of a Motor Vehicle:** One vehicle theft was reported, but thanks to swift police action, the vehicle was located and returned to its owner.

The neighbourhood policing team remains active and committed to maintaining safety within the community.

Crime Prevention and Seasonal Advice

Residents are advised to follow the below tips to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of

crime:

- Secure outbuildings with robust locks and consider motion-sensor lighting.
- Keep car keys and valuables out of sight from doors and windows.
- Use steering locks and driveway security devices to deter vehicle theft.
- As the weather warms, remember to close and secure windows and doors—even during daytime when rooms are unattended.

Attendance

In Jak Fisher's absence, officers Peter Johnson and Jonathan Sebers attended the meeting and updated residents on local crime issues.

Additionally, the Chair reminded residents of the increasing number of phishing scams and encouraged everyone to follow Action Fraud's guidance to remain vigilant and informed about scam tactics.

Guest Speaker – There was no guest speaker present at this meeting as the Police and Crime Commissioner was unable to attend.

The possibility of restarting advertising for Community Council meetings was discussed, with the aim of increasing resident attendance. It was agreed that leaflets would be distributed to properties within the original Stainton and Thornton area. Due to logistical challenges, wider leaflet distribution across the newer estates and surrounding areas would not be feasible at this time.

Minutes of the previous meeting Tues 11th March 2025 – Accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising – The Chair asked Ward Councillor David Coupe if there was any update regarding CityFibre. David responded that the BBC had recently interviewed local residents about Wi-Fi connectivity issues in the area, and this was featured in a published article. He confirmed that while CityFibre have installed the necessary cabling, they have experienced delays in getting the service fully operational. David assured residents that he would provide further updates as more information becomes available.

Annual report from the Chair - As this was the Annual General Meeting, the Chair delivered her annual report, reflecting on the key issues raised over the past year. She noted that speeding, parking, crime, and Wi-Fi connectivity have been among the most frequently discussed concerns during community council meetings.

The Chair encouraged residents to submit suggestions for future guest speakers and emphasised the value of continuing to bring informative and relevant voices to upcoming meetings.

She also took the opportunity to recognise the strength and spirit of the local community, highlighting the importance of the Community Council as a forum for residents to ask questions, share views, and raise issues that matter to them. The meetings remain a vital part of ensuring that the voices of Stainton and Thornton are heard and that the village continues

to thrive through shared involvement and cooperation.

Report from the treasurer - The Treasurer reported a current closing balance of £2,719.07. Councillor David Coupe suggested that the Treasurer apply for Middlesbrough Council's Community Council Grant, which is typically in the region of £700.

The Treasurer also informed the meeting that the hall rental fee will increase from September. In response, it was proposed that the hall booking time for future meetings be reduced to 1.5 hours in order to manage costs effectively. This recommendation was supported by the Chair and agreed upon by all residents present.

Election of Officers - As this meeting was the Annual General Meeting (AGM), the election of officers took place:

- **Chair:** The current Chair was re-elected for a third consecutive year. Helen Orchel proposed the nomination, which was supported by Alan Liddle.
- **Vice Chair:** David Coupe was re-elected as Vice Chair. The nomination was proposed by Tia Ellahi and supported by Alan Liddle.
- **Secretary:** No nominations were received for the position of Secretary, and the role remains vacant.
- **Treasurer:** The Treasurer was re-elected. The nomination was proposed by David Coupe and supported by Helen Orchel.

Election of Executive Committee - Following the election of officers, the meeting proceeded to elect three co-opted members for the Executive Committee. These members can be called upon to assist in decision-making when the Community Council officers are unavailable.

Previously, the Executive Committee consisted of Alan Liddle, Vince Robinson and Howard Wren. However, it was noted during the meeting that Howard Wren was no longer able to continue in the role. As a result, Helen Orchel agreed to be nominated as his replacement. Her nomination was proposed by Tia Ellahi and supported by David Coupe.

The Executive Committee now comprises:

- Alan Liddle
- Vince Robinson
- Helen Orchel

Report from Ward Councillor – “It was good that we had two PCSO here this evening. We also have the current crime figures. One area of concern is speeding through the villages as well as in Hemlington Grange. As usual ring 101 if not urgent but 999 if it is more serious. As I have stated before, The PCC Matt Storey hopes to attend a future meeting of the Community Council at a date to be decided. He is away today and could not make an event this afternoon.

The council has recently purchased two handheld speed guns, and the first outing was on Strait Lane in Stainton attended by the mayor. There were several people doing over 25 mph and they will be receiving advisory letters from the police. We

will be doing more community speed tests over the coming months when we can get the police to attend. Children and young adults have been seen in Stainton on battery powered scooters, both on the pavements and roads. This is against the law and the children were spoken to by the police. The police have stated that they have the power to seize these if it happens again. I have confirmed with the council that after the Ginger Bike Scheme ended there is no current agreement for these bikes to be used on roads and pavements.

In Hemlington Grange there has been a crackdown on the problems with quad bikes and motor bikes. It is still important to report this and any other incidents.

The 13 and 13A bus service continues to serve the people of Stainton as well as the main part of Hemlington. It is important that people do not park in bus stops, or obstruct the bus in any way. Hemlington Grange will hopefully get a service because of further building both at Hemlington Grange and Coulby Newham.

I mentioned in the last meeting the potholes in Strait Lane, and it is planned to be resurfaced in the next financial year. I am in talks with the council to make sure that as much of it is replaced as possible. Likewise, Priory Drive and Winstone Drive should be finely resurfaced late spring to early summer this year.

The brown bin collections have now re-commenced and after a few teething troubles at first it does seem to be working ok. If you are still having problems, please let me know.

At a recent council meeting the mayor announced an increase in funding for area care. This is to include cleaning of grass verges of rubbish. I pointed out that as far as I am aware the council has never done this in Stainton and Thornton, but by a fantastic army of volunteers. The council has committed to carrying out this task over the next few months, and into the future. This does not stop individuals or groups carrying out their own cleaning.

Parking in Stainton is still an ongoing problem with Hemlington Road and outside the Memorial Hall still hot spots. Some time ago someone suggested making Meldyke Lane a resident only parking area, but this was not practical. It is worth pointing out that you cannot restrict people parking outside your property unless they block your driveway or garage or obstruct the pavement. The road and pavement and most likely the grass verge is the responsibility of Middlesbrough Council.

The land previously owned by Angela Swift Developments near to Rose Cottage Phase 2 has had an application by Wilson Homes for 15 bungalows on the site, the bungalows range from 2 bedroom to 4-bedroom properties along with landscaping. If you have any feelings, good or bad, now is the time to go on the council planning portal and record your thoughts.

The Boundary Commission should report in July, and we will see how the ward of Stainton and Thornton will change.

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. Please contact Maureen Holmes if you would like to help.

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

David Coupe

Grant Applications – No new grant applications were received.

Planning applications – There were no significant building applications in the area. The following applications have been submitted:

- **25/0255/TPO** – Fell 1 no. Holm Oak at 4 Stainton House, Marwood Wynd, TS8 9AD.
- **25/0233/MAJ** – Erection of 15 no. residential bungalows including landscaping, parking, and ancillary site infrastructure on land adjacent to Montpellier Manor Care Home, TS8 9FH.
- **25/0234/FUL** – Erection of a dormer window to the front at 20 Cedar Drive, TS8 9BY.
- **25/0231/TPO** – Removal of 4 no. Ash trees and reduction of 1 no. Sycamore at 36 Seamer Road, TS8 9DG.

Alan Liddle

Any other business –

1) New Secretary Needed

The Stainton and Thornton Community Council is seeking a new Secretary. If you are interested or know someone suitable for the role, please contact David Coupe or Tia Ellahi. This vacancy will also be advertised in the weekly 'What's On?' newsletter.

2) Guest Speakers

A possible future guest speaker could be the Middlesbrough Police and Crime Commissioner. If you have any other suggestions for guest speakers, please inform Tia Ellahi or David Coupe.

3) Haverton Hill HWRC Visits

Caroline informed the meeting that she had recently learned residents are permitted to use the Haverton Hill Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) 27 times per year (from December to January). However, it was noted that the weekly '*What's On*' newsletter inaccurately states that visits are limited to once a week. This discrepancy should be corrected to reflect the actual annual entitlement and avoid confusion for residents.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Community Council will be the second Tuesday of the month, - 8th July 2025 at 7.00pm

The chair closed the meeting at around 8:30pm.

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)