

Minutes of the 285th meeting of Stainton and Thornton Parish Council held on Tuesday, 9 December 2025 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall, Stainton.

Present: Parish Councillors A. Liddle (Chair), D. Coupe, M. Russell, B. Neale, J. Holmes (Clerk to the Council).

Members of the public: 3 Police: PCSO Jak Fisher, Sgt. M. Watts. MBC: Tim Hodgkinson (Licensing)

78/25. Apologies for absence: Cllrs. A. Ward (unwell), D. Lister, A. Cooper.

79/25. Declarations of Interest: None

80/25. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the 284th meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 October 2025 were approved by members present, recorded as a true record and signed by the Chair.

81/25. Matters arising from the Minutes

- a) Middlesbrough Council Draft Local Plan – No further progress. A Planning Inspector was due to be appointed in November, but any details have yet to be released.
- b) Parking and Speeding problems in Stainton and Thornton – Problems ongoing and still no response from Middlesbrough Council (Steve Rigg, Principal Engineer) in a request for a site meeting with Parish Councillors. Chair to write to MBC in a final attempt to resolve this issue.
- c) Christmas Lights/Tree – The village Christmas lights were put up two weeks ago with the assistance of MBC. Local resident Chris Dean, a member of the Friends Group, sourced the Christmas Tree. The 'switch on' event took place on 5 December much to the delight of residents. Thanks to the Memorial Hall Committee for hosting the event and providing refreshments, Chris Dean for obtaining the tree, Alan Conroy for the electrical work linking the tree to the lights, Marske Junior Brass Band for the musical entertainment and the many residents who turned out despite the poor weather conditions.
- d) Communication with Middlesbrough Council – Despite having met with the MBC Chief Executive and the Director of Legal Services the Chair, Cllr. Liddle reported that communication between MBC and the Parish Council remains problematic. The issue has been highlighted in a letter to Luke Myers, MP who has also expressed his concerns to MBC.
Cllr. Lister has had conversations with MBC Planning Department regarding timely consultations between MBC and the Parish Council on planning applications and responses from the Parish Council.

82/25. The Report of the Clerk to the Parish Council. December 2025

- 1. The following magazines are on circulation to Parish Councillors: Clerk & Councils Direct, The Clerk.
- 2. NALC circulars and information received from CLCA have been forwarded to all councillors where appropriate.
- 3. Financial Statement **9.12.25.**
Balance at 14.10.25: **£24149.44**
Income since last meeting: **Nil**
Expenditure since last meeting: **£1333.55**
Balance at 9.12.25: **£22815.99**

Date	Payee	Reason	How paid	Amount
16.10.25.	A. Russell	Plants – EC	BACS	46.00
16.10.25.	J. Holmes	Toner Cartridge (B)	BACS	46.19
16.10.25.	C. Wren	Plants – EC	BACS	8.00
20.10.25.	L. Brear	Plants – EC	BACS	54.99
20.10.25.	Virtually Branded	Website – November	BACS	30.00
31.10.25.	J. Holmes	Salary – October	BACS	316.61
31.10.25.	HMRC	PAYE – October	BACS	79.20
31.10.25.	Unity Trust Bank	Service charge	Direct	6.00
14.11.25.	A. Conroy	Xmas lights equipment	BACS	27.53
14.11.25.	P. Burton	Plants – EC	BACS	26.00
14.11.25.	WAVE	Water supply KGG	BACS	28.51
24.11.25.	Virtually Branded	Website – December	BACS	30.00
24.11.25.	MBC	Printing – Newsletter	BACS	105.23
27.11.25.	Famous Flyers	Newsletter delivery	BACS	90.00
28.11.25.	HMRC	PAYE – November	BACS	79.20
28.11.25.	J. Holmes	Salary – November	BACS	316.61
30.11.25.	Unity Trust Bank	Service charge	Direct	6.00
1.12.25.	J. George	Plants – EC	BACS	37.48
				1333.55

Resolved: All payments authorised.

4. Unity Trust Bank – To note that the monthly service charge will be £7 from 1 February 2026.

83/25. Committee Reports

Planning – Cllr. Liddle

25/0603/RES – Reserved matters application for 137 houses, including landscaping and drainage proposals. Location: Land at Hemlington Grange South. - Application noted.

24/0251/MAJ – Hybrid planning application consisting of full planning for the development of 140 dwellings, site access, landscaping, community woodland and associated SuDS and outline planning (all matters reserved) for up to 447 dwellings. Location: Land at Low Lane, Stainton Vale Farm. - Parish Council has already submitted objections on the original application but will comment/object to the revised plans submitted by the developer.

24/0492/FUL – 5 Kelgate Terrace, Stainton. - New revised plans have been submitted on 1 December under the old/above reference number. The parish council will object to the revised application on the grounds of access/road safety.

Environment – Cllr. Russell

Village pump – Local builder Kevin Liddle had agreed to re-install the pump on Thornton Road but has yet to complete the work. Friends Group may be able to assist in this matter, early New Year.

Crime and Disorder – Cllr. Neale

PCSO Jak Fisher was in attendance and gave an overview of the November crime statistics for Stainton & Thornton. Overall reported crime and ASB was very low compared to other wards. Cllr. Neale stated that residents will be encouraged to report all crime and anti-social behaviour incidents, however trivial, to the police in order that a true pattern of crime and ASB is obtained. Reporting incidents on social media instead of to the police was merely blurring the figures. Police visibility in the area was important to all residents giving them confidence to report incidents.

Tim Hodgkinson, Licensing Officer, Middlesbrough Council (licensing@middlesbrough.gov.uk) reported to the Parish Council following complaints of excess noise from the Stainton Inn either by individuals outside the pub and/or entertainment from inside the premises.

A meeting had been held involving the licensee, the brewery area manager, MBC Licensing and MBC Environmental Health to discuss complaints and concerns regarding excess noise and to draw up an action plan to address the problem. Nearby residents have been issued with a noise diary and the licensee and staff will be checking on noise levels both inside and outside of the premises. A cut off time of 7pm will be imposed on customers congregating outside the front of the premises to smoke and policed by staff. Hopefully the noise issues will subside but if complaints continue the process for formal action will follow.

84/25. Friends of Stainton and Thornton Green Spaces. – Cllr. Liddle.

The group had successfully applied for a £2000 grant to provide seats, a noticeboard, information boards and circular walk maps. Match funding by the Parish Council should ensure that all equipment can be purchased and installed by the group. Work to start in the new year before the cutting season.

Following successful planting and cutting back sessions this year in Maelor’s Wood by Sue Antrobus (Tees Wildlife), local residents and members of the Friends Group, it is intended to continue with them on selected Sundays next year.

85/25. Cleveland Local Councils Association

Cllr. Liddle had attended a Zoom meeting with Margaret Whitehead, CLCA Chair, Jonathan Owen, Chief Executive NALC, and Rita Lawson, Chief Executive, Tees Valley Rural Action, regarding the staffing of CLCA previously provided by Hardwick in Partnership. Hopefully the services of CLCA will be re-introduced soon, however in the interim the services of NALC are always available.

86/25. Draft Budget Proposal and Precept 2026/2027 – Clerk (Responsible Financial Officer) reported that he expected a slight overspend on this year’s budget of £11000 and an end of a year balance of £19000 (notwithstanding any match funding for FSTGS projects). A provisional budget of £12000 for 2026/2027 will be confirmed at the next parish council meeting in February. Councillors did agree that the precept amount should remain unchanged at £9.31 per household.

Resolved: 2026/2027 precept for Parish of Stainton and Thornton to remain at £9.31 per household.

87/25. Fibre broadband – Stainton and Thornton – The variances of broadband services in both villages was discussed and the prospect of fibre broadband questioned. It was agreed that Middlesbrough Council be contacted to ascertain if they were aware of any progress in this area.

88/25. Any Other Business. – None

89/25. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 10 February 2026. 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

The Chair formally closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Agreed and signed as a true record..... Date: