

STAINTON & THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL
The Annual Report of the Chair 2016-2017

This year is a particularly auspicious year because our Parish Clerk, Mrs. Muriel Newbould, has completed 30 years dedicated service as Parish Clerk. In recognition of this, the Parish Council are pleased to present her with a crystal vase for her unstinting service to the Parish Council. I have said this before, but without Muriel, the job of Chairman would be made ten times more difficult. Thank you, not just from me, but all the Parish Councillors and the community as a whole.

On to the more mundane side of the report:-

In line with the constitution, the Parish Council held six business meetings as well as a Parish Assembly (a joint meeting with Stainton & Thornton Community Council) and an AGM in May. Attendance by Parish Councillors was 80% over the year. The Parish precept remained at £6500.00. This will mean that the precept has remained with no increase for the last two years. Finances remain healthy, due largely to the fact that we have not had to finance an election, coupled with a degree of underspending versus budget by the Environment Committee for Northumbria in Bloom, and the cancellation of Gala Day by the Residents Association, meaning that money was saved there.

Whether it was underspending by the Environment Committee or just bad luck, the result for the Northumbria in Bloom competition was disappointing, in that we only received a silver-gilt for our entry in the Large Village section of the competition, a silver for the Front Garden, but we retained the Gold Medal standard for Stainton Quarry and Kell Gate Green in the Conservation Class.

As in previous years, it is planning that has dominated the agenda throughout the year. Phase 1 & 2 of the Taylor Wimpey site at Rose Cottage has now been built and sold. It is because of the sales success that work has commenced on Phase 3 of the Rose Cottage site to build the 172 3, 4, and 5 bed roomed executive style houses. The one worrying factor in the development of Phase 3 is that the 106 monies promised/mentioned at the planning committee meeting when approval for the development was given, has not been forthcoming. At the planning meeting a figure of £20,000 was suggested to be given to TFOSATGS for improvements to the environment, along side off-site provision of affordable housing, highway infrastructure and education facilities. With the exception of the £20,000 no actual figure was suggested or guaranteed, but best guess was it would be in excess of £1.5million. Once the 106 agreement has been agreed and signed by Taylor Wimpey and MBC, it turns out that MBC will benefit to the tune of £1.8 million with nothing coming to the village or its volunteer groups, save for £30,000 for a new Puffin Crossing on Strait Lane, which I am not sure we need anyway. The whole business of 106 monies and/or CIL monies (Community Infrastructure Levy) must be taken up and resolved with MBC to ensure that the local community (US) gets at least some money for the disruption caused by the development throughout the year.

Work on the Hemlington Grange site has begun at long last with revised and approved plans for the Police Headquarters/Safety Hub, breaking ground in March

2017 and Persimmon and Taylor Wimpey commencing to build a hybrid development off the Stokesley Road, north of the Larchfield Community. A total of 1230 houses will be built over the next ten years.

Silk Healthcare were granted planning permission to build a three storey Care Home on the land opposite the Sporting Lodge Hotel on the corner of Low Lane and Strait Lane. Outline planning for a number of care apartments was also granted at the same time. Work in constructing the Care Home is well under way but full planning permission for the 76, then 64, then 56 associated care apartments could not be agreed with MBC so as yet no application has formally been submitted. Silk Healthcare have subsequently sold the site to the Methodist Care Home Association. Silk will still continue to build the Care Home.

We managed to prevent a three house development on Upper Farm land in Thornton and as yet we have not heard if Lowcock Developments will appeal the decision.

To try and reduce the chance of further major housing development in the future, MBC are already appealing for further housing land sites for their next local plan, the Parish Council have begun the development of a Neighbour Hood Plan. We have already agreed with MBC that the plan can go ahead and that it will encompass the whole of the Parish of Stainton and Thornton. Two meetings have already taken place and there are a healthy number of local residents who are involved in the production of the plan.

Two new/refurbished village notice boards have been installed, one at the entrance to Maelor's Wood from the footpath at Rose Cottage Farm and one behind the seat at the bus stop on Hemlington Road/Vernon Court. The notice boards were installed by the Last of the Summer Wine group, who with the help of TFOSATGS provide a truly valuable service in keeping the villages up to scratch through their efforts in mowing the grass in Kell Gate Green and The Quarry to the Spinney and Maelor's Wood. On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank each and every one of them for their work throughout the year and I hope we will be able to continue our financial support for the group for the foreseeable future.

The Parish Council have purchased and had installed, a defibillator. It is located on the wall next to the entrance of the Memorial Hall. A special thank you to the hall committee for allowing us to site it there and for providing the electricity to keep it charged.

Despite our continued efforts, the village is still without any bus service. However, there are moves afoot to provide a temporary solution. Full details I hope will be available soon. Coupled with the fact that we now have a CONSERVATIVE Tees Valley Mayor following his election in May, pressure should be kept upon the Council to provide a bus service for Stainton & Thornton that links across the south of the borough and into town.

Anti-social behaviour associated with the Care Home on Hemlington Road appears to

have resolved its self, but not without a lot of pressure from the P C , local residents and the Police. Elsewhere through the village, crime etc. has remained fairly low. Coupled with the change in Policing policy, funding and the fact that we are considered as a low risk area by the Police, it has become apparent in recent months that we are not getting the same level of visible Police presence that we had two or three years ago. We should try and persuade the Police that we need a greater visible presence AND persuade residents to report crime. One major crime that was reported, but as yet is still undetected, was the theft of the owl, one of the latest Steve Iredale sculptures, from the northern end of Maelor's Wood. Negotiations are underway with TVWLT to hopefully replace it.

Thanks go to Angela Cooper for editing the village newsletter and to Florence Rix and her team of deliverers for delivering the newsletter. A special thank you to Alan Conroy for once again arranging to put up and take down, the Christmas Lights, that provide the square with such a cheery outlook over the Christmas period that are enjoyed by all.

Finally I would like to thank all of the Parish Councillors for their help and support throughout year.

Alan Liddle- Chairman.
Stainton & Thornton Parish Council. 2016-2017.