

Minutes of the 274th meeting of the Stainton & Thornton Parish Council held on Tuesday, 13 February 2024 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall, Stainton.

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

Members of the public – 4.

Representatives from Middlesbrough Council (2). Paul Clarke – Head of Planning and Alex Conti – Strategic Planning Manager.

01/24. Apologies for absence/Declarations of Interest: None

02/24. Public Participation – None

03/24. Minutes of the 273rd meeting of the Parish Council held on 12.12.23. – The Minutes were approved by the Parish Council, recorded as a true record and signed by the Chair.

04/24. Matters arising from the above Minutes:

a) Village Newsletter – It was agreed that the Village Newsletter would continue to be delivered to all households by a private delivery firm (Famous Flyers) and also circulated electronically via the What's On email in addition to inclusion on the Parish Council website. Hard copies would also be made available for residents who missed delivery or reside in remote locations.

b) Village Christmas Lights/Christmas Tree – Cllr. Conroy reported that the village Christmas lights had been installed and removed by Middlesbrough Council without incident following a successful 'switch on' event. Local resident, Chris Dean, provided and installed a christmas tree in the front of the old Board School and would continue to do in future years. An appreciation fee to the Board School resident for electricity use to light up the tree is to be made.

c) Local Government Boundary Review – It was agreed before a formal response is made to the Review Commission more feedback was required from residents, especially those at Hemlington Grange on how they align with other communities. If the Parish Boundary is the same as the Ward Boundary another Ward Councillor may be required owing to the number of residents in the growing housing developments.

d) Annual Budget – The Clerk, being the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) provided the Council with projected figures showing that the suggested Parish Council budget for 2024/25 be set at £11,000. Any major overspend could be taken from reserves.

Resolved: The Parish Council budget for 2024/2025 be set at £11,000.

e) Community Council – The Parish Council discussed future arrangements already starting to be put in place following recent changes in the role of the secretary. Reflections were shared about some of the reasons for the recent significant decline in public interest and this included, late communications to residents, agendas, speakers, and minutes issues, as well as weather conditions due to the time of year. Councillor Alan Conroy related an unpleasant,

personal and totally avoidable surprise experience at the end of the last CC meeting, when the existing secretary gave up his position without notice. Alan has agreed to take the CC secretary role and is hoping to help with the needed changes. Looking ahead, it is clear that many aspects of communications with residents need to be improved if the CC is to continue. There are ideas about expanding the existing database for electronic messaging and possible location of some hard copies centrally. Notes about this are currently being shared in the village newsletter in March. Timely and accurate information sharing, both before and after the regular meetings will be an important pathway to future success, supported by an interesting programme of content, however, it is recognised this may take some time and commitment.

f) Middlesbrough Council – Financial Management. – Cllr. Liddle reported that he had received a reply from Clive Heaphy, Interim Chief Executive, Middlesbrough Council following the letter and questions raised regarding budgets and the audited accounts for Middlesbrough Council. Whilst the reply did cover most of the questions raised some remain unanswered. Cllr. Liddle to request clarification on some issues. (see Minute 96/23).

05/24. Report of the Clerk to the Council. – December

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 **13.2.24.**

Balance at 12.12.23. **£13882.66**

Income since last meeting: **Nil**

Expenditure since last meeting: **£1066.27** Approval required.

Balance at 13.2.24. **£12816.39**

Date:	Payee	Reason	Payment Type	Amount
13.12.23.	C. Dean	Christmas Tree	BACS	105.00
29.12.23.	HMRC	PAYE – December	BACS	69.20
29.12.23.	Virtually Branded	Website – January	BACS	30.00
29.12.23.	J. Holmes	Salary – December	BACS	277.21
29.12.23.	Memorial Hall	Hall hire	BACS	32.00
31.12.23.	Unity Trust Bank	Service charge	Direct	18.00
24.1.24.	J. Holmes	BitDefender VP	BACS	37.99
24.1.24.	J. Holmes	Microsoft 365	BACS	79.99
24.1.24.	Virtually Branded	Website – February	BACS	30.00
29.1.24.	A. Liddle	Storage Box	BACS	9.00
31.1.24.	HMRC	PAYE – January	BACS	69.40
31.1.24.	J. Holmes	Salary – January	BACS	277.01
8.2.24.	WAVE	Field supply, Thornton Rd.	BACS	21.97
9.2.24.	A. Liddle	Printer paper	BACS	9.50
				1066.27

Resolved: All payments approved.

06/24. Committee Reports

a) Planning

24/0031/FUL. Penrhyn, Cedar Drive – Renewal of planning permission for detached dwelling with garage. Parish Council has concerns re drainage. Chair write to Planning Dept.

24/0029/FUL. 32 Cedar Drive – Extension to side and front. Conversion/Extension of first floor. – No objection by Parish Council.

24/0022/TCA. Tree works in conservation area – St. Peter & St. Paul’s churchyard. – No objection by Parish Council

b) Environment

Stainton Beck – Pollution at Kell Gate Green. – Councillors agreed that the Parish Council has explored every avenue to address the pollution problem to no avail. The Environment Agency are responsible for investigating and enforcing pollution issues. Despite repeated requests the Environment Agency fail to respond. In future, any further complaints on this matter, residents will be advised to contact the Environment Agency direct and hopefully get a response.

Village Pump relocation – Cllr. Coupe reported that location in question belongs to Middlesbrough Council, and they will have to prepare the ground in order for the pump to be sited. Cllr. Coupe to organise.

c) Crime and Disorder

The December and January figures for reported crime were low, especially when compared to other areas of Middlesbrough. Residents are encouraged to report crimes and any suspicious incidents to the police. Despite the installation of speed signs excessive speed by the drivers of certain vehicles still presents a problem. Police to be informed.

07/24. Friends of Stainton and Thornton Green Spaces – Cllr. Liddle reported that a large tree which blown down in the Quarry was eventually removed/cut up by Middlesbrough Council. Footpath repairs in the Quarry will commence when the weather improves as will the Deer sculpture be installed near Thornton T junction. An incident of uncontrolled dogs attacking other dogs in the Quarry area was noted.

08/24. Cleveland Local Councils Association – Weekly circulars from CLCA and NALC continue to be forwarded to all councillors. The next meeting of CLCA has been re-scheduled for Tuesday 27 February, 7pm in the Memorial Hall, Stainton. Cllr. Coupe indicated he would be attending.

09/24. Middlesbrough Council – Draft local plan. – Paul Clarke (Head of Planning) and Alex Conti (Strategic Planning Manager) from Middlesbrough Council attended the meeting to discuss the Draft Local Plan which is out for consultation until 15 March. They gave Councillors an overview of the plan which sets out the number of houses required up to 2041 and the

sites where development will take place. 400 new homes will be required every year up to a total of 7600 by 2041. A robust exchange of views ensued especially regarding the proposed 700 new properties at Stainton Vale. The Parish Council will consider all the proposals in the draft plan and respond to Middlesbrough Council before the plan is submitted to the Independent Planning Inspector for approval.

10/24. Hemlington Grange – Engagement with residents. – Some members of the public at the meeting were from Hemlington Grange and they appreciated how the Parish Council were trying to reach out and connect with residents in that area. It was suggested that social media was the biggest influencer, but newsletters and email information were helpful. A forthcoming article in the Village Newsletter (March edition) will be encouraging residents to register for email information.

11/24. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 9 April 2024. 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

Please note that the next meeting of the Community Council scheduled for Tuesday 12 March 2024 will be a joint meeting of the Community & Parish Councils known as the Parish Assembly.

The Chair formally closed the meeting at 9.30pm

Agreed and signed as a true recordDate

Minutes taken by: J. Holmes, Clerk to the Council, 13 Strait Lane, Stainton, TS8 9BB. Email: clerk@staintonandthorntonparishcouncil.org.uk Tel: 01642 296060. 07980 572115.