

**The Minutes of the 219th meeting of the Stainton & Thornton Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall, Stainton on Tuesday, 10 February, 2015 at 7.15 p.m.**

**Present:** P/Cllrs. M. Williams (Chair), A. Liddle (Vice Chair), A. Conroy, A. Cooper, J. Holmes; M. Newbould, Clerk to the Council. Public: 0.

**1a/15, Apologies** were received from Cllr. R. Dennison (on holiday).

**1b/15, Declarations of Interest** – none.

**2/15, Public Participation – Opportunity for members of the public to address the Council** – No members of the public present.

**3/15, The Minutes of the 218th meeting held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2014** were formally approved by the Council and duly signed by the Chair as a true record.

**4/15, Matters Arising from the above Minutes:-**

**(i) Parking Problems in Meldyke Lane: Resolved that** Mr. & Mrs. G. Small would be notified of the outcome resulting from discussion with the Hall Bookings Manager to alleviate the parking problems which they had reported at the P/Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

**(ii) Notice Boards:** Cllr. A. Conroy had purchased cork sheeting & adhesive for the Fawcett Ave. notice board initially. He was thanked by the Chair.

**(iii) 20mph Zone – MBC to install extra signs and markings on Seamer and Thornton Roads** Following the Speed Watch Surveys by residents with the police and the MBC Traffic Monitoring Surveys, the Traffic Engineering Manager had responded that average speeds were a little high on Seamer Road and Thornton Road. Additional 20mph repeater signs and road markings would be installed on those roads shortly. The surveys on Strait Lane showed speeds in line with the 20mph limit. Seamer Road and Thornton Road had been added to the list of sites suitable for mobile speed-activated signs. Cllrs. also commented on speed signs at Low Lane and Brookfield.

**(iv) Vernon Court bus stop seat installation** Cllr. A. Liddle gave an update on installation progress: MBC Highways required 3 days' notice of the date; warmer weather was needed to allow the concrete to set; and diagrams of street lights had been received.

**(v) New Footpath from Rose Cottage Farm to footbridge** – the design by MBC was to include a combined cycle path and footpath, not a bridle path. However, there were no plans for the safety guard-rail recommended by the Parish Council. A detailed drawing to be sent by MBC to Cllr. M. Williams was awaited.

**(vi) Christmas Lights - purchase of replacement bulbs** The Chair thanked Cllr. A. Conroy for all his hard work. ***Resolved to*** purchase 60 replacement bulbs at £3.00 each. Cllr. Conroy estimated that these would suffice for the following 2 or 3 years.

**(vii) Polling Stations outcome: - new Ward to have 2 polling stations following MP's Request** The MBC Electoral Services Officer had written to explain that due to other comments received, Hemlington Hall Academy would remain a 2<sup>nd</sup> Polling Station in the Ward.

### **(viii) Parish Council vacancy notified**

The MBC Monitoring Officer had been formally notified of the vacancy for a Parish Councillor caused by the resignation of Robert Macmillan.

### **(ix)MBC response to request for Tree Preservation Orders request at Cobblestone**

**Close** An MBC Planning Officer had responded to the request for Tree Preservation Orders for the trees alongside Hemlington Road at Cobblestone Close. After a site visit using a scoring system, the trees had failed to score sufficient impact to justify Tree Preservation Orders.

### **(x)Dog Warden patrols request for High Rifts and Strait Lane**

The MBC Dog Warden had inspected High Rifts and Strait Lane on 6<sup>th</sup> February but was unable to do regular patrols because there was only one Dog Warden. He planned to send the P/Council a monitoring form. **Resolved to** await the monitoring form.

### **5/15, The Report of the Clerk to the Parish Council**

1. Following receipt of the Tax Base for the parish area, the Precept for 2015/16 for £6500 had been submitted to Middlesbrough Council.
2. Following registration for the Local Council Award Scheme, NALC had confirmed an award of the Foundation Level for one year expiring in January 2016. This prolonged the Quality Parish Council Status but eventually a re-assessment would be required.
3. Mr. Chris Stout had written to ask the Parish Council to take responsibility for removing the broken fence between Cedar Drive and the lane to Thornton Grange Farm, discover who should be responsible for the fence and arrange for the fence to be re-instated. **Resolved to** approach Groundwork NE and the Community Payback Team and to request funding from closely-neighbouring householders and those with right of access to the Lane.
4. On circulation to Parish Councillors: the Clerks & Councils Direct magazine and the Local Council Review.
5. NALC circulars from CLCA had been forwarded to Parish Councillors.
6. An invitation had been received from CLCA to submit nominations for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party in May. Cllr. & Mrs. Jim Holmes had been nominated by the Stainton & Thornton Parish Council but not selected by the draw at the recent CLCA meeting.
7. The Financial Statement: the Balance in the Bank Account at 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 was £4845.17, After Adding: zero and Deducting: M. Newbould (Clerk's salary) £247.25 & £150.48 and HMRC (PAYE) 40 pence. These payments were given full authorisation by the Parish Council. The Executive Officer/RFO of Billingham Town Council, Dianne Rickaby, had agreed to be the S & T P/Council's internal auditor.

**6/15, Committee Reports: (a) Planning Committee:** Cllr. A. Liddle reported applications granted by MBC: to demolish retrospectively and rebuild Whimsey Nook on Stainton Way; 3 Quarry Drive single storey rear extension; 37 Buttercup Grove single storey side extension; 6 Strait Lane crown & thinning of tree. Stainton Grange: approved on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. with conditions. New applications: Stainton House demolition and realignment of wall with 4.8m entrance – decision awaited on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

Cllr. M. Williams had written a strong letter of objection. This was read out to the P/Council. Cllr. A. Little had also objected on behalf of the S & T Community Council. Rose Cottage Farm: approval of conditions for sustainable surface water drainage, highway construction & lighting details, and landscape management plan; 40 Strait Lane pruning overhanging tree branches - approved. Report accepted by the P/ Council.

**(b)The Environment Committee:** proposed (i) to review the 5 tubs on Seamer Road; (ii) to buy or not containers opposite Hemlington Road shops; (iii) to consider how to replace trees on Fawcett Avenue and Pennyman Way; (iv) to agree rules for entering front gardens for Northumbria in Bloom; (v) whether to enter Meldyke Place gardeners for the “It’s Your Neighbourhood” Award;(vi) to appoint a new committee Chair; (vii) Northumbria in Bloom 2015 launch in Berwick on 10<sup>th</sup> March. Mrs. Elizabeth Revett intended to go. The Report was accepted by the Parish Council.

**(c) Crime & Disorder Report:** Cllr. A. Little reported that drug activity in The Spinney and near the footbridge had been tackled. Cllrs. J. Holmes and A. Cooper commented on a new local social-networking site “StreetLife.com”. Some comments on the site had been abusive and detrimental.

**7/15, Friends of Stainton & Thornton Green Spaces** – Cllr. A. Little reported: success in obtaining a grant of £9994 to include improvement of the footpaths; 8 more children’s educational sessions by S. Ashton (TVWT) (details in the Village Newsletter); a visit to Stainton Wood by Paul Bamber (TV Nature Partnership) to start formulation of a Management Plan. Paul Bamber would be using students from Askham Bryan College to carry out work in Stainton Wood. Acquisition was being pursued of a flagpole to display the Green Flag. The Green Flag Award application 2015/16 had been submitted by Cllr. Conroy. GF Comments re the current year received in Jan. were mostly v. good.

**8/15, Parish Assembly 10<sup>th</sup> March** – suggestions were put forward for speakers and topics. Following discussion, two possible Speakers were selected to be invited to give talks at the joint Parish Assembly/Community Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March, namely Jane Hill (MBC Social Behaviour Expert) & Sarah Wilson (Neighbourhood Watch).

**9/15, Date for the next Parish Council Business Meeting, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 at 7.15 p.m. and the Parish Council Annual Meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 due to election year**

The Chair formally closed the meeting at approx. 9.00 p.m.

Accepted as a true record and signed . . . . .

Date . . . . .

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