

The Minutes of the 214th meeting of the Stainton & Thornton Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall, Stainton on Tuesday, 8th April, 2014 at 7.15 p.m.

Present: P/Cllrs. M. Williams (Chair), A. Liddle (Vice Chair), A. Conroy, A. Cooper, J. Holmes and Bob Macmillan. M. Newbould, Clerk to the Council. Public: 6.

13a/14, Apologies – Cllr. R. Dennison (away on holiday). The reason for absence was accepted by the P/Council. **13b/14, Declarations of Interest** – none.

14/14, Public Participation – Opportunity for members of the public to address the Council

Mr. Johnston, 34 Hemlington Road, had written to explain that the Maintenance Agreement for houses in the Cobblestone Close development had increased the annual fees substantially. He asked if an alternative company would be acceptable to the Parish Council and asked if the residents could discuss a way forward at a meeting in the village hall. The P/Council provided information as to where meetings could be held. The residents planned to consult a solicitor and possibly change the maintenance company in order to avoid unacceptable increases in the annual payments.

15/14, The Minutes of the 213rd meeting held on Tuesday, 11th February, 2014 were formally approved by the Council following amendments (p.3, 6/14@,line 4, “thrown” became “stolen” and 7/14, line 3, “step” became “steep”) and duly signed by the Chair as a true record.

16/14, Matters Arising from the Minutes:-

(Ag.Item9/14)**Rose Cottage Farm New Residents’ Refuse Collection/Telephone Connection problems** The Chair reported that new residents were still without landline connection. At their request, he had written to Taylor Wimpey to provide telephone lines, to improve the sight lines and to cut back the hedges. He also reported that there was to be a further excavation on Strait Lane, from which it was hoped there would be no remaining debris.

(i) **Notice Board replacement – progress of new board for Fawcett Avenue** Advance payment of £701.50 had been made to GM Joinery Services for the new board for Fawcett Avenue. A progress update was given by Cllr. A. Liddle.

(ii) **Welcome Leaflet for new residents** The Chair apologised for his lack of a great deal of progress with the proposed 2-sided A3 format. Agreed that P/Cllr. A. Cooper would further advance the leaflet.

(iii)**Report of Training course on Data Protection and Freedom of Information – 27 March** Documentation had been received following the course at Shotton Hall, which the Chair and Cllr. Bob Macmillan had attended. A brief report was given.

(iv) **No responses to letters (a) critical of the proposed footpath route from Rose Cottage Farm to school and (b) Suggestions for a footpath from Hemlington Grange site to Stainton along Stainton Way and 'Local Traffic Only' signs for Hemlington Road and Strait Lane** Following complaints, *it was resolved that* a 'strong' letter be written by the Chair to MBC Highways re heavy, vehicular through-traffic, asking how to impose a weight restriction and requesting responses to the above letters (a) and (b). In addition, re (a), Cllr. A. Liddle reported that Geoff Field, MBC, was investigating progress on the footpath route and the grassed access to Stainton Wood and contacting Planning re the unsatisfactory, remedial work on the sewers. It was hoped there would be a contribution from Phase 2.

(v) **MBC Paul Clarke informed of suggestions for local funding from 106 Agreements /CIL** *The Chair would check with Paul Clarke* re the 106 Agreement/CIL. Geoff Field, MBC was also making enquiries.

(vi) **Future Children's Play Area** meeting not yet arranged with MBC Public Right of Way Officer to consider access.

(vii) **Evening Gazette informed of the differences on the local World War 1 memorials** The Chair had informed the Evening Gazette of the discrepancy between the Memorial Hall and the Parish Church memorials and had given contact details for Mrs. Joan Mason, who knew the reason behind the differences.

(viii) **Payment of £200 to the Friends of S & T Green Spaces from 2013/14 financial year** Councillor. A. Conroy, Friends' Group Treasurer, thanked the Parish Council for the payment gratefully received.

(ix) **20mph Zone – Speedwatch trials** were to be arranged from Community Council requests.

(x) **Parish Assembly held on 11 March (Fire advice 20mph zones, roads)** Comments were received from the Parish Councillors.

17/14, The Report of the Clerk to the Council

1. Appeals had been received from the Butterwick Children's Hospice in Stockton and from the Toma Fund for treatment of childhood cancers based in Gateshead. Noted.
2. MBC had submitted their Local Plan Housing Document for examination on 21st March. The plan outlined the context and vision for future housing in the town up to 2029.
3. An organisation called Local Works had requested support for a campaign to allow a percentage of Business Rates to be paid to Parish Councils for the benefit of local economic growth. Noted.

4. The Mad Alice Theatre Company based in Durham had offered their performances to schools in the area. They claimed that Parish Councils in Newcastle had sponsored their performances. The info was passed on to two local schools by the Chair.
5. Following the sad death of Mr. Arthur Adamson, his daughter had passed on historical information, particularly about the school in Stainton, to Mrs. E. Revett.
6. The Blood Transfusion Service had provided notices of donation sessions in Hemlington on 11th April. These had been displayed on the notice boards.
7. The NYCC Minerals & Waste Joint Plan – Issues & Options Consultation had been passed to the Chair and the Vice Chair.
8. Communications from NALC had been forwarded to Parish Councillors.
9. On circulation to P/Councillors were the following publications: the CPRE newsletter; the Clerks & Councils Direct magazine; and the Local Council Review.

The Financial Statement: the Balance in the General Account at 8th April, 2014 was: £4649.21, After Adding: Contribution to Environment Committee from Taylor Wimpey £500.00 and HMRC VAT repayment £138.37; And Deducting: Contribution to Friends of S & T Gn. Spaces £200, MBC re Christmas Lights £362, Prontaprint re newsletters £94.80, M. Newbould Clerk's Salary (2 months) £294.50, Clerk's Expenses £60.40, Baines Jewitt re PAYE (1/2 yr.) £72, Memorial Hall re Hire of Hall £72, and Northumbrian Water £8.81. These payments were fully authorised by the Council. It was announced that there had been a misunderstanding and, in actual fact, Mr. Chris Stout was happy to continue this year as Internal Auditor. The External Audit would take place on 30th June, 2014.

18/14, Committee Reports:-(a) Planning Committee:- Cllr. A. Liddle reported: Applications granted by MBC: 3 Thornton Close – conversion of garage to playroom, new double garage, dormer window and window with balcony to rear. New Applications: 2 Whinstone Drive amendment to raise roof height by 170mm, objections from neighbours; 38 Seamer Rd. – removal of 1 Horse Chestnut, 1 Ash & 1 Cypress trees; 4 Thornton Rd. (in the Conservation Area) front extension over garage, garage conversion and changes to doors & windows, rear single storey extension. The report was accepted by the P/Council. **(b) Environment Committee:** from Cllr. R. Dennison's written report: **Northumbria in Bloom Spring Judging 3 April.** Cllr. A. Liddle & Mrs. E. Revett were thanked for guiding the judges around the villages. **Summer Judging scheduled for 15th July.** **Replacement Jubilee Tree planted** on grass verge near 7, Strait Lane because drainage there much better than on original location on Broad Close. No reply from John McQuade re preference to manage own floral displays. **Proposals to overcome no MBC bedding plants:** nearly all beds & containers now covered by volunteers. Lists of these ready for the portfolio. **Donation from Taylor Wimpey:** £500 received for floral displays. Letter of thanks sent to Taylor Wimpey. Spending of the £500 contribution to be discussed at Env. mtg. on 16 May. Report accepted by the P/Council. **(c)Crime & Disorder Report:** Cllr. A. Liddle reported PCSO John Blance's retirement. Plants were being stolen from the flower-beds near the electricity sub-station on Hemlington Rd.

19/14, Friends of Stainton & Thornton Green Spaces: Cllr. A. Liddle reported from the meeting on 7th April. The newly installed Interpretation Boards looked good. The N in Bloom judges had been most impressed with the Quarry & Kell Gate Green, both entered for the Conservation Award. The 'Last of the Summer Wine' group and the 'Thornton Bloomers' had been entered into the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Award. A very successful Bird Box Nature Event for children had recently been held. Cllr. A. Conroy gave a progress update on the Hemlington Rd. village sign. Agreed in principle to pay in the order of £60 for a block of stone. The AGM would take place in June. Rolling of Kell Gate Green for the Gala Day – if MBC were unable to do this as part of the maintenance schedule, because of financial constraints, costs should be shared between the Gala Day Committee and the Friends Group. The next Parks & Green Spaces Forum would occur on the 7th May, 1-3 p.m. at the Hebrew Meeting House, Linthorpe Cemetery – 6 Friends of S & T would attend. Cllr. A. Conroy pointed out that the TMG was not separate from the Friends Group and was committed to the Green Spaces of the village. Where possible the TMG would help with 'large' tasks but should not be regarded as the village maintenance team.

20/14, Consultation on Polling Station changes for 2015 and beyond The Chair had written to John Stuart ensure that the Memorial Hall remained as Polling Station for the new Stainton & Thornton Ward.

21/14, MBC decision to re-market building plot in Cedarwood Glade reported by Chair. A report on this item would be in the next Village Newsletter.

22/14, Update on Gala Day arrangements for Sunday, 20 July Details given of planned stalls and attractions. The portaloo had been ordered by the Parish Council and would cost £65 + VAT. Cllr. A. Liddle would collect the gazebos from Cllr. A. Cooper, who would be away on 20th July.

23/14, Date for the Parish Council Annual Meeting, Tuesday 27th May at 7.15 p.m. and the next business meeting of the Council – Tuesday, 10th June, 2014 at 7.15 p.m. Apologies received in advance from Cllr. A. Cooper for the June meeting. **NOTE:** If any P/Cllrs. are unable to attend, could they please report to the Chair or the Clerk any progress on matters delegated to them. The meeting was formally closed by the Chair at 9.20 p.m.

Accepted as a true record and signedDate

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