

Minutes of the 255th meeting of the Stainton & Thornton Parish Council held online via a remote platform (Zoom) on Tuesday, 9 February 2021 at 7pm.

Authority to hold meeting: The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

Present: Parish Councillors A. Liddle (Chair), B. Neale, C. Dean, A. Conroy, D. Coupe, A. Cooper, R. Dennison. Clerk the Council - J. Holmes.

Non-Councillor members of the Parish Council Sub Committee on Stainton Beck Pollution:
J. Cooper, R. O’Kennedy.

01/21. Apologies for absence/Declarations of Interest. None

02/21. Public Participation – Opportunity for members of the public to address the Council - None below.

03/21. The **Minutes of the 254th meeting held on Tuesday 8 December 2020** were approved by the Parish Council, recorded as a true record and signed by the Chair.

04/21. Matters arising from the above Minutes.

- a) **Neighbourhood Plan** – Chair reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Group were currently collating all the responses from the Draft Neighbourhood Plan consultation period. Once amended and a habitat assessment completed the plan will be submitted to Middlesbrough Council. The group were currently meeting weekly via Zoom.
- b) **Roadside Speed Display Unit/ Community Speedwatch scheme** – Cllr. Coupe reported that Middlesbrough Council were still awaiting confirmation of the national Towns Fund, which would permit some funding for roadside speed display units.
The local police neighbourhood officer who was going to assist the parish council in the Community Speedwatch scheme has moved to another area. Cllr. Neale will try to engage with other officers to progress action.
- c) **Right of Way footpath – Wynd to Low Lane** – Now that the builders have completed Rose Cottage 3 development the ROW footpath appears ready to be re-instated. Footpaths Officer at Middlesbrough Council to be contacted to confirm re-instatement.
- d) **Maintenance and Cutting of Hedges/Footpaths** – Some properties in Thornton have hedging encroaching onto the footpath and will need cutting back to their curtilage. Cllr. Coupe to speak to Richard Ward at Middlesbrough Council for advice before the Parish Council issues warning letters.
- e) **Cold calling signage – High Rifts** – No further progress at the moment.
- f) **Housing developments – Elderwood Park and Ashfield Park.** – Residents have complained to Cllr. Coupe about the lack of waste bins on the developments. Middlesbrough Council informed. Construction of a pedestrian crossing across Stainton Way near the Gables roundabout would commence in the spring.
- g) **Parish precept** – Housing numbers. Clerk reported he had received notice from Middlesbrough Council that the agreed base for the parish of Stainton & Thornton had been set at 1088 and was calculated as specified in the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) (Regulations 2012). Last year the base figure was 869.

- h) Christmas Lights** – Cllr Conroy reported that the village christmas lights were put up by Middlesbrough Council in late November and taken down in early January without any problems, although the reserves of new LED bulbs have been depleted. A stock of new bulbs, 10 of each colour, will be required as replacements. Invoice from Middlesbrough Council has been received and paid. No VAT charged.

05/21. The Report of the Clerk to the Parish Council

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 **9.2.21.**

Bank Balance at 8.2.21. **£9818.01**

Income since last meeting: **£466.00.**

Expenditure since last meeting: **£1553.52** Approval required.

Date:	Payee.	Reason .	Cheque No.	Amount.
30.12.20.	J.Holmes	Salary (December)	475	289.35
30.12.20.	HMRC	PAYE (December)	476	72.20
4.1.21.	A.Liddle	KGG Chains	477	17.90
5.1.21.	C.Cutler	Website	478	100.00
14.1.21.	Baines Jewitt	Pro. Services	479	40.80
27.1.21.	J.Holmes	McAfee Anti-Virus	481	54.99
27.1.21.	J.Holmes	Microsoft 365	482	79.99
28.1.21.	J.Holmes	Salary (January)	483	248.41
28.1.21.	HMRC	PAYE (January)	484	62.20
29.1.21.	MBC	Xmas Lights	485	<u>570.10</u>
				1535.94

Unpresented cheques

27.1.21.	A.Liddle	Printer Inks	480	17.58
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Resolved: All payments aforementioned approved.

4. Zoom remote platform. – It was noted that the Parish Council have been using the free version which requires restarting every 40 minutes and interrupts the meetings. An updated version, with unlimited time is available for subscription at a cost of approximately £120 per annum. This version contains features such as on-screen subtitles and can have up to 9 users, which would allow other committees and groups to host their own meetings. It was agreed that uninterrupted meetings would be to the benefit of councillors and public.

Resolved: Clerk to arrange a subscription to the Zoom portal.

06/21. Committee Reports

PLANNING. Recent planning applications received.

21/0064.CO.U. Whimsey Nook, Stainton Way. – Retrospective extension to residential curtilage with boundary fencing. – No objection by Parish Council.

Stainsby Country Park – Consultation Document – Councillors had previously viewed the online masterplan as proposed by Middlesbrough Council. Access to the area will be from both the B.1380 and A.1130 creating a link road through the development. The Chair asked if the Parish Council had any objection to the creation of the proposed link road, which would start on the B.1380 roundabout at the Jack Simon Way junction with Low Lane.

A vote by councillors' present resulted in a 6 – 1 majority in favour of the proposed route. The Chair would inform Middlesbrough Council accordingly.

ENVIRONMENT

Stainton Beck – Pollution at Kell Gate Green. The parish council Sub Committee reported they have not received any of the recent test results from the Environment Agency which were necessary when considering whether or not it was safe to re-open KGG to the public. The beck was currently in spate, but the flow varied according to the weather and season.

Actions:

Cllr. Conroy to contact NWG (testing laboratory) re future sampling/testing for the Parish Council.

Cllr. Little reported that one of the 2 properties concerned, in Marwood Wynd, was empty and up for sale. The owners of the other property were very co-operative and eager to find a successful outcome, installing updated equipment if necessary.

Dr. O'Kennedy suggested that a specialist risk assessment of the beck be undertaken, and he would source the necessary template for the assessment.

Cllr Coupe is to speak to Middlesbrough Council Environment Services and the planning department for a progress report on how the initial planning application arrived at the conclusion that the package treatment plants were suitable to be used in conjunction with a "seasonal" beck and who will be financially responsible for the ongoing sampling and testing of the discharge over the coming months/years.

Meanwhile, Kell Gate Green remains closed until test results are obtained and risk assessments carried out.

Wildflower seeding. – Chair reported that Middlesbrough Council had been informed of the locations where councillors/residents thought it was suitable for wildflower beds to be prepared and seeded.

Boot scrapers – Cllr. Dennison suggested that boot scrapers at the entrances/exits from the village green spaces would be of benefit to residents and walkers. It was agreed for Cllr. Dennison to source items and costings.

CRIME & DISORDER – No recent reports of serious incidents. It was noted that new Neighbourhood Officers had been assigned to the area but had yet to make contact. Clerk reported he was hopeful that he would receive monthly crime statistics for the area, by email, which would be passed on to councillors.

07/21. Draft Budget Proposal and Precept 2021/2022 – The Clerk reported that in reviewing expenditure so far in this financial year and in anticipation of likely expenditure until 31.3.21 the Council were within the budget set for 2020/2021. In fact, owing to COVID restrictions which had prevented certain council activities, there was likely to be a significant underspend.

Draft budget proposal information had previously been circulated to councillors and for the financial year 2021/2022 the Clerk proposed that parish council budget be set at £10000.00.

Resolved: Parish Council budget for 2021/2022 be set at £10,000.

At the previous PC meeting it was agreed that Parish Council precept for the year 2021/2022 would remain at £9.31 per household. It was now known that the number of properties had increased from last year (869) to 1088 which would realise a total precept of £10129.00.

Resolved: Parish Council precept 2021/2022 remains at £9.31 per household. Clerk to submit precept requirement of £10,129.00.

08/21. Parish Council – Financial Risk Management – Councillors had previously been circulated with a Risk Assessment document, prepared by the Clerk, which detailed the Financial, Management and Administration of the Parish Council as well as the Physical Equipment and areas appropriate to the Parish Council. This risk management document is a requirement of the Model Financial Regulations adopted annually by this Council.

Resolved: Stainton & Thornton Parish Council Risk Management Document adopted, February 2021.

09/21. Parking issues, Hemlington Road/Re-siting of bus stops. – Cllr. Coupe reported on the continuing problem of inconsiderate parking issues on Hemlington Road which block the progress of the Service 13a bus through the village. Middlesbrough Council enforcement team have and will continue to visit the area, issuing fixed penalty notices where appropriate. 3 bus stops in Stainton are to be re-sited which will improve road safety. The bus stop at the bottom of Strait Lane near the junction with Low Lane is to be moved further up Strait Lane away from the junction. The bus stop in front of the old school in Meldyke Lane will have bus stop markings on the road which should enable a bus to pull into the stop safely. The bus stop on the south side of Hemlington Road opposite Fawcett Avenue is to be moved further up the road opposite Vernon Court. Vehicles will not be permitted to park at any designated bus stop. Middlesbrough Council will be consulting residents about the proposed changes.

10/21. Friends of Stainton & Thornton Green Spaces. – Chair reported that owing to the recent long spell of bad weather together with the current lockdown regulations no work is currently being undertaken.

11/21. Cleveland Local Councils Association – No meetings programmed. Weekly circulations are forwarded on to councillors. The local office has been contacted recently for advice on legal matters.

12/21. COVID-19. – The Parish Council is actively keeping residents aware by newsletter, email and social media of the help and assistance available during any lockdown or self-isolating period. Currently the entire country has been in lockdown since early January. It is noted, with relief, that national vaccination programme is well under way.

13/21. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 13 April. 7pm. Venue to be notified.

The Chair formally closed the meeting at 9.30pm

Agreed and signed as a true record Date

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.