

STAINTON AND THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL.
CHAIRS REPORT 2019-2020.

The parish council held seven meetings during the year including the AGM in May at which all current serving officers were re-elected to their posts. The parish council had an attendance rate of over 85% from serving councillors. Most parish councillors attended the Parish Assembly, a joint meeting between the Parish council and Stainton and Thornton Community Council.

Finances were currently in a healthy state and so it was decided that the Parish Council precept household charge to residents should remain the same as the previous year and using reserves, if necessary, to make up any shortfall in budget requirements. With the Rose Cottage Farm development almost finished and the development on Hemlington Grange by Taylor Wimpey and Persimmon, being built and occupied at an alarming rate, it means that there are now an extra 100+ houses in the parish paying the parish precept resulting in an overall increase in income of about £1000.00.

The council continue to financially support The Friends of Stainton and Thornton Green Spaces with a donation of £200.00 pa for day to day expenses AND a donation of £500.00 to maintain our street furniture, seats and notice boards.

With the development at Hemlington Grange continuing at a pace, it was discussed, how best to try and integrate the development into the parish and community. The quarterly village newsletter AND the Community Council newsletter were being delivered to most new households at Hemlington Grange, but integration, because of distance, was proving more of a challenge. The development feels that it has no identity and with no "local" place to meet to discuss and develop, it should be made a priority of the parish council to try and integrate the development into the parish.

Following the local elections, there has been a change of regime within Middlesbrough Borough Council and as such the proposed Local Plan has been abandoned and the new Local Plan being produced seems to be concentrating on redevelopment of the town centre rather than building to the south of the borough (our parish) on green field sites. With this in mind, the Neighbourhood Plan Group, under the auspices of the Parish Council, are continuing to develop the Neighbourhood Plan. The plan was almost finished when the coronavirus/covid-19 pandemic hit and as a consequence, like most things, it has been put on hold.

Because of the pandemic the council are having to adapt, but with the help of two local residents, the parish council have organised a team of almost 50 volunteers to help vulnerable and at risk residents with their shopping and getting prescription medicines. The April council meeting was held online via a remote platform (Zoom) and indications are that the AGM in May will also be held remotely.

Planning, speeding, anti-social behaviour and dog fouling issues, still tend to dominate proceedings at most council meetings, all of which are being looked at by the council. Discussions and costings are underway with the police and borough council for the purchase and installation of ANPR flashing speed signs for the village, but because of the pandemic, meaningful face to face discussions cannot take place and similarly no planning committee meetings are happening at present.

We are currently living in strange and unprecedented times, but I would like to thank all Parish Councillors for their help and support at present and throughout the year.

Alan Liddle – Chair.

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