

**Minutes of the 273<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Stainton & Thornton Parish Council held on Tuesday, 12 December 2023 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall, Stainton.**

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

Members of the public - 1

**82/23. Apologies for absence:** Cllr. Cooper

**83/23. Public Participation** – Mr. Chris Dean, local resident, submitted his invoice for the purchase and installation of the village christmas tree. The Chair thanked Mr Dean for his efforts and welcomed his continued support to the Parish Council.

**84/23 Minutes of the 272<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Parish Council held on 10.10.23.** – The Minutes were approved by the Parish Council, recorded as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**85/23 Matters arising from the above Minutes:**

- a) **Village Newsletter** – The December Newsletter had recently been distributed to houses in the parish council area by the firm Famous Flyers. Whilst it was accepted that future distributions would be by a private delivery service, as opposed to volunteer residents, some houses missed delivery. Clerk to enquire with Famous Flyers.
- b) **Village Christmas Lights/Christmas Tree** – Middlesbrough Council had installed the village christmas lights in time for the ‘switch on’ on 1 December. Local resident, Chris Dean, provided and installed a christmas tree in the front of the old Board School.
- c) **Local Government Boundary Review** – Cllr Liddle reported on the Local Government Boundary Commission who are looking into the review of ward and parish boundaries for Stainton. They will publish a consultation document running from 19 December until 11 March during which time parish councils will be able to comment on the proposals.

**86/23. 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 **12.12.23.**

Balance at 10.10.23. **£15614.92**

Income since last meeting: **Nil**

Expenditure since last meeting: **£1732.26** Approval required.

Balance at 12.12.23. **£13882.66**

Date	Payee	Reason	Payment Type	Amount
31.10.23.	L. Brear	Plants. EC.	BACS	25.00
31.10.23.	HMRC	PAYE – October	BACS	69.20
31.10.23.	Virtually Branded	Website – November	BACS	30.00
31.10.23.	J. Holmes	Salary - October	BACS	277.71
31.10.23.	Baines Jewitt	Professional Services	BACS	49.20
3.11.23.	J.A. Conroy	Xmas Light Bulbs	BACS	139.29
21.11.23.	Middlesbrough Council	Printing – Newsletter	BACS	93.98
21.11.23.	Anglian Water	Field supply – KGG	BACS	21.97
24.11.23.	Virtually Branded	Website – December	BACS	30.00
28.11.23.	Famous Flyers	Newsletter delivery	BACS	80.00
29.11.23.	HMRC	PAYE – November	BACS	69.40
29.11.23.	J. Holmes	Salary – November	BACS	277.01
5.12.23.	Middlesbrough Council	Xmas Lights installation	BACS	<u>570.10</u>
				<b>1732.26</b>

*Resolved: All payments approved.*

## **87/23. Committee Reports**

### **a) Planning**

23/0527/MAJ – Erection of 24 dwellings, provision of access, landscaping, and ancillary works – Strait Lane, Stainton. – Parish Council has objected on the grounds of overdevelopment of site.

23/0418/FUL – Construction of a detached annexe – Hawthorne Cottage, Five Acres, Stanton – Application refused by Middlesbrough Council.

23/0621/FUL – Erection of 1 dwelling and detached garage – The Orchard, Broad Close, Stainton – Refused. Location is outside the limits of development.

23/0522/FUL – Single storey extension to rear, raising of roof pitch, dormer & roof windows to front and rear and new window to side. Replacement of existing boundary wall – 1 High Rifts, Stainton. – No objection by Parish Council.

23/0600/FUL – Single storey extension to rear (Demolition of existing rear offshoot) – 5 Glebe Gardens, Stainton – No objection by Parish Council.

### **b) Environment**

**Stainton Beck – Pollution at Kell Gate Green.** – Ward Councillor Coupe received a complaint from a Thornton resident about the lack of progress by the Environment Agency in this matter. Resident informed that the Environment Agency are yet to respond to previous requests regarding this.

**Village Pump relocation** – Cllr. Coupe reported that the matter is in hand, and he would be speaking to Chris Bates, Middlesbrough Council regarding the installation of the pump on Thornton Road.

**c) Crime and Disorder**

The November crime figures have not, as yet, been received from Cleveland Police. Cllr. Neale reported that he was disillusioned with the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) of which he was a member however, following a request from Cleveland Local Councils Association (CLCA) the IAG will link up with councils in Stockton, Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland sharing intelligence on a community basis. He will be attending the AGM on 11 January. Cllr. Neale to also chase up November crime figures.

**88/23. Friends of Stainton and Thornton Green Spaces** – Cllr. Liddle reported that bad weather had restricted the work of the group in recent weeks. The new deer sculpture is ready to be sited near the Thornton T junction once the logistical problems are overcome. The sculpture will require oiling to preserve the wood and stop it drying out over the winter. A fingerpost sign in the Quarry is in need of repair as are some of the steps leading to the Owl seat. Hopefully there will be 2 new recruits to the ‘team’ in January.

**89/23. Cleveland Local Councils Association** – Weekly circulars from CLCA and NALC continue to be forwarded to all councillors. The next meeting of CLCA will be held in the Memorial Hall, Stainton on 23.1.24. Councillors are welcome to attend.

**90/23. Draft Budget and Precept Requirement 2024/25.** – Clerk (Responsible Financial Officer) reported that he expected that the end of year balance to be in the region of £11,000 despite a projected overspend (new website and coronation plaque) covered by reserves. A preliminary budget forecast based on a precept of £9.31 per household had been prepared. Full budget details will be agreed at the next meeting in February however Councillors did agree that the precept should remain at £9.31.

*Resolved: 2024/25 precept for Parish of Stainton and Thornton to remain at £9.31 per household.*

**91/23. Hemlington Grange – Engagement with residents.** – The Parish Council continues to try engaging with residents who have moved into the new developments at Hemlington Grange. Newsletters are delivered every quarter to each household and residents can elect to receive a weekly ‘What’s On’ email which contains details of how to contact Ward and Parish Councillors. The local Ward Councillor, David Coupe regularly meets with residents of Hemlington Grange.

**94/23. Estate Management Charges, Brookfield.** – Clerk reported that he and some councillors had been contacted via the Parish Council website by a resident of the new builds at Brookfield complaining of the rising estate management charges on his property. As the

area concerned is not within the parish area of Stainton & Thornton the complaint was passed to the Brookfield Ward Councillor.

**95/23. Community Council** – Cllr. Conroy expressed concerns regarding the future of Stainton & Thornton Community Council. Minutes of the meetings were not published in a timely manner and contained inaccuracies that were not corrected on request. A lack of advance notice of the meetings has resulted in very poor public attendance and as a consequence the meetings were losing their impact. Cllr. Conroy wanted to bring this to the attention of CC Executive Committee.

**96/23. Middlesbrough Council** – Cllr. Neale expressed concerns regarding media reports of the difficulties experienced by Middlesbrough Council and the poor management of financial affairs resulting in a ‘fire sale’ of assets in an effort to stave off bankruptcy. Middlesbrough Council will soon be setting their 2024/25 budget and this will impact on their services. He requested that the Parish Council write to Middlesbrough expressing the same concerns and requesting that the financial projections, fully explored, are realistic.

*Resolved: Parish Council to write to Middlesbrough Council expressing concern regarding their financial management.*

**97/23. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 13 February 2024. 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

The Chair formally closed the meeting at 9pm.

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](mailto:clerk@staintonandthorntonparishcouncil.org.uk) Tel: 01642 296060. 07980 572115.