

STAINTON AND THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL.
CHAIRS REPORT 2021-2022.

As the covid pandemic restrictions were eased, the parish council were able to resume face to face meetings and a total of 7 meetings were held including the AGM during 2021-2022. Only the AGM on 6/5/2021 was held via the Zoom platform all other meetings were held in the Memorial Hall and the 7 meetings had an attendance rate of 94% by councillors. Seven members of the public in total attended one or more of the meetings to discuss and comment on agenda items.

The development at Hemlington Grange continues to be built at a rapid rate and will probably be completed several years ahead of the MBC projected completion date of 2029. As more and more houses are being sold and occupied, precept revenue from the council tax is increasing, even though the parish council have kept the precept contribution per household the same as in previous years. More houses means more revenue. It does emphasise/highlight the problem of trying to integrate the Hemlington Grange development into our community and integration remains a challenge. Despite delivering the village newsletters to all residents in Hemlington Grange, there has been a muted response from residents in the development and only a couple of residents have come along to the Community Council meetings.

May 2023 will be an election year for ward and parish councillors, and it would be an ideal opportunity at this year's AGM to have an indication from incumbent parish councillors of their willingness/decision to stand for re-election next year? Whatever individual decisions are taken I feel it is important that we try and enlist new councillors from both Rose Cottage Farm AND Hemlington Grange Estates. Because of the extra housing numbers, it may be an opportunity to increase our councillor number from 7 to say 9 or 11, something to be discussed over the coming months, particularly as MBC are conducting a Community Governance Review this year looking at the viability and success of parish and community councils. I have asked John Stuart from the electoral services department to review our parish councillor numbers against the increase in resident/electoral numbers.

The Stainton and Thornton Neighbourhood Plan was finished and the referendum held on the 3rd March this year overwhelmingly endorsed its adoption. MBC will vote on its adoption at the next full council meeting.

The pollution of the beck in Kell Gate Green has yet to be resolved and because of the lack of progress/impasse in resolving the problem, it has been agreed that the Parish Council will take MBC to the Parliamentary Ombudsman to intervene/decide on what further action is required to help resolve the problem.

Speeding and parking remain a problem in the village, the parish council have agreed to fund their own flashing speed sign and agreement has been reached with local residents and businesses to install yellow lines at the corner of Church Close and Hemlington Road to try and ease the parking problems and allow the buses to get through without a problem. The parish council speed sign is only part of a scheme involving traffic calming measures on Thornton Road and further flashing speed signs throughout the villages. It is hope that up to 5 flashing speed signs will be installed in 2022 at various locations throughout the villages. The traffic humps/pancakes/calming measures will be installed when Thornton Road is re-surfaced.

The state of the roads and footpaths are a source of complaint from residents and the potholes at various locations are being dealt with by the borough council when funds are available for repairs.

Finally, as always, I would like to thank all parish councillors and our Parish Clerk for their help and support throughout the year.

Alan Liddle – Chair.
Stainton and Thornton Parish Council.
May 2022.