

Minutes of the 266th meeting of the Stainton & Thornton Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall, Stainton on Tuesday 11 October 2022 at 7pm.

Present: Parish Councillors: A. Cooper, A. Conroy, C. Dean, D. Coupe, B. Neale. Cllr. Coupe in the Chair
Clerk the Council - J. Holmes.

Members of the public: R. Ellison, S. Carter. R. Wallin. PCSO Jak Fisher.

71/22. Apologies for absence/Declarations of Interest - Cllr. A. Liddle (Covid)

72/22. Public Participation – Opportunity for members of the public to address the Council

Ray Wallin, Middlesbrough Erimus Rotary Club. – Looking for support for their ‘Wrap Up Project’ where members of the public would donate serviceable outer clothing, winter coats, jackets etc, which would then be collected and sorted by the Salvation Army before distribution to local charities. Informed that the Parish Council supported the idea and arrangements had been made for the Memorial Hall to be a collection point during the relevant period 31 October -13 November. The project would be advertised in the local ‘What’s On’ email and social media.

73/22. The **Minutes of the 265th meeting held on Tuesday 9 August 2022** were approved by the Parish Council, recorded as a true record, and signed by the acting Chair.

74/22. Matters arising from the above Minutes.

- a) **Roadside Speed Display Unit** – The roadside speed activated unit was installed and commissioned on Strait Lane on 23 August. The invoice for the purchase is still awaited. Middlesbrough Council have been core sampling the road surface on Thornton Road in preparation for the traffic calming measures. Additional speed activated signs on Hemlington Road and Seamer Road will be installed at the same time.
- b) **Parking Issues – Hemlington Road** – No further progress on the installation of bollards to prevent the parking of vehicles on the footpath. Cllr. Coupe to progress the matter with Middlesbrough Council.
- c) **Footpath – 3 Strait Lane** – Despite identifying the exact area to Middlesbrough Council there has been no response from Chris Bates at MBC. Cllr. Coupe will endeavour to resolve the matter.
- d) **Community Governance Review** – Following the review Middlesbrough Council recommended that the Stainton and Thornton parish boundaries should remain the same with the number of councillors remaining at 7. Nunthorpe Parish Council are to have their councillor numbers reduced to 7 effective from the Council elections in May 2023.
- e) **Footpaths & Overhanging hedges** – Cllr. Coupe reported that the maintenance of the hedgerows on both sides of Strait Lane were the responsibility of the developer Taylor Wimpey and/or their ground maintenance company.
The problem outside 32 Seamer Road is soon to be resolved following intervention by Middlesbrough Council. The homeowner is to employ a tree surgeon to cut back the offending growth.
- f) **Dilapidated building – 1 Hemlington Road** – Middlesbrough Council state there has been no alteration to the Grade II status of the building which is empty and currently up for sale. Despite be up for auction recently the property remains unsold.

g) Parish Councillor Vacancy – The Notice of Vacancy was first published on 3 August and there was no response from the public and subsequently no request for an election to be held. As a consequence, the Parish Council can now co-opt a person to fill the vacancy to serve as a councillor until the current term expires in 2023. To ensure openness and equality the vacancy will now be advertised via village noticeboards, What’s On email and social media and anyone who wishes to be considered for the role should make the fact known to the Clerk of the Parish Council. If more than one person applies the Parish Council will decide who is best suited to fill the post.

75/22. The Report of the Clerk to the Council including correspondence, financial statement, and authorisations.

a. The following magazines are on circulation to Parish Councillors: Clerk & Councils Direct, The Clerk.

b. NALC circulars and information received from CLCA have been forwarded to all councillors where appropriate.

c. Financial Statement **11.10.22.**

Balance at 9.8.22. **£20456.71**

Income since last meeting: **None**

Expenditure since last meeting: **£1750.15** - Approval required.

Balance at 11.10.22. **£18706.56**

Date:	Payee.	Reason.	Payment	Amount.
11.8.22.	D. Coupe	Printing	BACS	18.68
16.8.22.	FSTGS	Maintenance Plan	BACS	500.00
16.8.22.	FSTGS	Donation	BACS	200.00
31.8.22.	HMRC	PAYE (August)	BACS	62.20
31.8.22.	J. Holmes	Salary (August)	BACS	248.41
1.9.22.	P. Burton	Plants EC	BACS	12.97
27.9.22.	C. Cutler	Website	BACS	80.00
27.9.22.	MBC	Printing	BACS	88.20
27.9.22.	SLCC	Membership renewal	BACS	55.00
30.9.22.	HMRC	PAYE (September)	BACS	62.00
30.9.22.	J. Holmes	Salary (September).	BACS	248.61
30.9.22.	Utility Trust	Service charge.	Direct	18.08
3.10.22.	H. Heaviside	Plants EC	BACS	40.00
5.10.22.	J. McCabe	Plants EC	BACS	18.96
5.10.22.	M. Holmes	Plants EC	BACS	<u>97.04</u>
				1750.15

Resolved: All payments aforementioned approved

76/22. Committee Reports

Planning – Cllr. Coupe

All current planning applications are non-contentious. No objections from Parish Council.

27 Maltby Road. Application 22/0329/FUL. New application for garage with different design. No decision yet by Middlesbrough Council.

8 Hemlington Road. 21/0418/FUL. – Middlesbrough Council require a variation application to be submitted owing to a change in the original size and dimensions. This would then go to Middlesbrough Planning Committee who will decide if the variation was acceptable.

The Local Plan Working Group, a committee in Middlesbrough Council, met on 10 October to discuss the new Local Plan and how the plan will be developed. Cllr. Coupe is part of this group and will keep the Parish Council informed of any new developments, particularly when it comes to the consultation stage relating to new/proposed building sites and housing numbers.

Environment – Cllrs. Conroy & Coupe

Stainton Beck – Pollution at Kell Gate Green. – The office of the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman has ruled that the Parish Council were out of time with the complaint against Middlesbrough Council regarding the planning issue – discharging material into Stainton Beck. It is now a matter for the Environment Agency to police things. The systems in the 2 properties appear to be working, there is no smell or discharge from the outlet into the beck. It was agreed that the Parish Council would take water samples again for analysis and the results passed to the Environment Agency for appropriate action if necessary.

Resolved: New water samples to be taken from Stainton Beck for analysis and the results passed to the Environment Agency.

Environment Committee (Green Finger Gang) – Cllr. Coupe reported that Middlesbrough Council had failed to respond in identifying the site where the proposed relocation for the village pump near Thornton T junction. Councillors agreed that the pump should be relocated to the site previously identified and Middlesbrough Council would be informed when the task was completed.

Wood Burners – Cllr. Neale raised a query regarding wood burning stoves and the use of unseasoned wood which increases particulate emissions into the atmosphere. Dry wood properly seasoned produces fewer harmful particulates and in turn improves heat efficiency and lowers maintenance. All new wood burning stoves must conform to new Ecodesign guidelines.

Storm Arwen – Cllr. Neale reported that it is nearly a year since Storm Arwen caused electricity supply disruption in Stainton affecting the homes of elderly and vulnerable residents. He asked Cllr. Coupe to ascertain where Stainton and Thornton sits in Middlesbrough Council's Emergency Planning process.

Crime & Disorder – Cllr. Neale

PCSO Jak Fisher attended the meeting and discussed with Councillors the recently released September crime statistics for Stainton and Thornton which were 25% down on the previous month. Incidents of antisocial behaviour in September had more than halved compared to August. Thefts from sheds, garages and vehicles by opportunist thieves was still a problem and Councillors agreed that the crime prevention message to residents should be re-iterated especially now the dark evenings are upon us. The officer reported there had been a rise in rural crime - poaching offences, mainly with dogs – and local farmers have been contacted to tackle this form of activity.

The Community Speed Watch scheme is to be re-introduced and the officer was handed a list of residents who would be happy to assist in this matter.

The possibility of Middlesbrough Council installing CCTV in Stainton will be progressed by Cllr. Coupe.

77/22 Friends of Stainton & Thornton Green Spaces – During August, with the help of Tees Valley Wild Life Trust, a series of nature events took place in our green spaces. They were all well attended

and proved very successful and funded from the TW 106 monies. Steve Iredale has been commissioned to provide two more pairs of wooden sculptures and they should be installed next month. The group continues to work most Thursdays cutting the grass and repairing footpaths/handrails following damage or wear and tear. Street furniture continues to be maintained by the group. Cllr. Liddle and John Cooper attended a recent Green Spaces Forum. Area Care manager Richard Ward acknowledged that the grass cutting regime had been problematic owing to equipment failure. New machines had now been purchased so there should now be an improved service. Any new or replacement trees within or area will have to be purchased by the Parish Council, but Middlesbrough Council would do the planting. The 'free' trees are for the micro woods in the borough and could be used to plant up the area north of Maelor's Wood on the scrub land next to Low Lane.

78/22. Cleveland Local Councils Association – Circulars from CLCA and NALC continue to be emailed to all Councillors on a weekly basis. The next meeting of the CLCA will be held on 25 October in the Memorial Hall, Stainton. Agenda papers will be circulated to Councillors.

79/22. Village Christmas Lights/Christmas Tree – The Christmas Lights 'switch on' will take place outside the Memorial Hall on Friday 2 December at 6pm. Cllr. Conroy and the Thursday morning group will test the lights prior to Middlesbrough Council installing them on 24 November. Cllr. Dean asked if it was viable to put up a christmas tree in the old Board School. Cllr. Coupe would speak to the owner about this.

80/22. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 13 December 2022. 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.
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