

STANTON & STREATLAM PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on 16th January 2020

Present J Rowlandson (JR) J Teasdale (JT) N B Hutchinson (NBH)
S Chapman (SC) (Clerk)

1. **Apologies;** J Brown
2. **Public present;** None
3. **Declarations of Interest:** - (in Agenda items) - None received.
4. **Minutes of last meeting:-** (21st November 2019) Proposed by JR, seconded by NBH.
5. **Matters arising from last meeting**
 - 5.1 Since Christmas there have been vehicles including several cars and a van parking in the temporary stopover site at the top of Stainton Bank and the gate to the site has been unlocked during this period. As this site is only meant to be used when the travellers are en-route, to and from Appleby Fair we expect it to be secured outside of those times. A letter will be sent to Ms Stokoe at the Roma, Gypsy and Traveller section to ask why it is now in use.
 - 5.2 The Council agreed to ask for a 20% increase of the previous years' precept for the 2020/2021 period. Chairman to action and submit precept form to DCC.
 - 5.3 There were no expressions of interest in refurbishing the wooden memorial bench on the village green so the relevant parties were asked if it could be replaced by the council. This was agreed and they will supply and fit a new memorial plaque.
 - 5.4 Following continued complaints about parking on the village green two signs will be purchased to locate on each section of the green. William Smiths will be asked for a quote for them.
 - 5.5 Following the councils request to DCC for information about reported importation of waste into the quarry we have not received a response. Since then residents have reported seeing a trailer load of straw being taken in and it is believed this is for a biomass burner. JR will contact DCC to see if they can offer further information.
 - 5.6 We are still awaiting a receipt from the town council clerk for payment for the poppy wreath laid in the memorial park on Remembrance Sunday.
 - 5.7 The clerk will collate all the relevant invoices for VAT paid over the past few years up until December 31st 2019 and the information will be submitted to HMRC for refund. Further claims will be made in January each year for VAT paid during the preceding year.
 - 5.8 The bus shelter at Stainton Grove has not yet had the roof re-felted due to the continued poor weather conditions. Once it improves the work can be done and the structure repainted.

- 5.9 The sign advising motorists of their proximity to a playground has been damaged so HAL will be contacted to see if they can supply and fit a replacement.
- 5.10 The email to DCC re the lack of lighting on the road from the A688 into the village produced only a standard automated response and no action. A follow up letter will be sent to HAL requesting reinstatement of the street lights on that stretch of road.
- 5.11 The footpath on that stretch has been cleared by Mr Charlton, a village resident. A letter of thanks to be sent to him for this. Tree pruning on the other side of the road has left a lot of debris that was not cleared after work was completed. Pruning debris was also left in the playpark.

6. Financial Report

- 6.1 Payments approved at this meeting: clerks wage £230 for December and January and village hall hire for meeting £20.
- 6.2 A previous cheque for the clerks wage for November was filled out incorrectly and therefore cancelled – this payment to be reissued at next meeting.
- 6.3 Due to an previous overpayment to HMRC there has been no tax paid on the Councils account over a number of months. The overpayment is gradually being reduced and should be cleared early in 2020 and normal payments resumed.
- 6.4 Balance of account at 31st Dec was £5,015.97

7. Any Other Business

- 7.1 The grass cutting will be put out to tender this spring to ensure best value with an ad placed in the Teesdale Mercury asking that applicants submit tenders by 28th February. Information supplied to applicants will be that cutting is to start before the 30mph signs and include the village green, all grass verges within the village and the playpark with a limit of 12 cuts.
- 7.2 Our current contractor has advised that he is willing to continue to provide the service at his current rate. Councillor Brown has suggested that it might be possible to infill the etched names of Stainton and Stainton Grove with a solid colour that would stand out against the natural stone. Enquiries to be made to see if there is anyone local who could do this and at what cost.
- 7.3 Once again some of the planters at the A688 end of the village have been vandalised and plants stolen so this will require further outlay to refill the planters at the start of this season.
- 7.4 We previously asked DCC planning dept about reports of someone living in a caravan at Barford Storage Depot. Since then there has been a building erected on the site but we do not know if there has been any application for this.

- 7.5 The village hall committee has asked that we advise them of the official opening date for the refurbished play park so that they can hold a Teddy Bear's Picnic to coincide with the opening.
- 7.6 Stainton Grove Community Association is still in existence although the Community Centre has now closed and will in due course be returned to DCC. The signed Deed of Surrender is to be returned to DCC and then they will inspect and take over responsibility for the building. Remaining funds after all final accounts are settled will be donated to local charities with a similar purpose to SGCA.

8. Future Meetings

19th March 2020
Parish Council Meeting
7.00pm
Stainton Village Hall

28th May 2020
Stainton Village Hall
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING -7.00PM
Annual Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm

Chairman

Date.....