

STANTON & STREATLAM PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on 24th June 2021 in Stainton Village Hall

Present J Teasdale (JT) B Toulson (BT) J Rowlandson (JR)
S Chapman (SC) (Clerk)

1. **Apologies;** A Dobinson; NB Hutchinson; J Brown
2. **Declarations of Interest:** (in Agenda items) - None received.
3. **Dispensations;** None
4. **Minutes of meeting on 26th May 2021;** Proposed by JT, seconded by BT.
5. **Matters arising from last meeting**
 - 5.1 Asset register updated to include items at Stainton Grove and map and location of assets.(Clearer more precise maps to be added).
 - 5.2 Insurance renewal premium paid.
 - 5.3 Policy documents to be emailed to councillors to read and approve (if agreed) at next council meeting.
 - 5.4 Memorial park – work on this is still ongoing but definitely progressing. Pictures of the work carried out will be added to the Parish Council website when the project has been completed.
 - 5.5 The stone trough at the former community centre is still to be re-located.
 - 5.6 We have not yet received an invoice for 2021 CDALC membership.
 - 5.7 VAT for the previous year is less than £50 so a reclaim will be held over until the remainder of this years' accounts are paid.
 - 5.8 Following a report of tree branch debris in the playground, it was checked but none seen. However it will be checked again as a more precise location of the debris has now been given.
 - 5.9 This meeting was allowed inside the village hall (due to bad weather) but it is not fully ready for use yet so the Annual Parish Meeting has been postponed until the building is officially re-opened in July.
 - 5.10 Request to refurbish two local milestones – one of these has been located at Stainton Grove and the other is reported to be in an area that is unfortunately very overgrown and so has not yet been found. The Stainton Grove one should show 'Bowes 6 miles' and 'Durham 23 miles on the reverse. The Bowes information is still legible (when close to) but the reverse is illegible possibly due to age and weathering.
6. **Financial Report**
 - 6.1 The current balance of account as at 24th June 2021 is £21,810.74
 - 6.2 Two cheques for the clerk require a countersignature - £230.00 for 30 hrs in April/May and £58.80 being payment for payroll software for 2021/22.
 - 6.3 Invoices presented and approved at this meeting :-

6.31	Stainton & Streatlam Village Hall, hall hire 24.06.2021	£20.00
6.32	I Chorlton, compost and flowers for hall planters	£27.25
6.33	J Teasdale, lawn treatment for Memorial Park	£13.60

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 Councillor Teasdale was contacted by P Glasper of Marwood Parish Council regarding the upkeep and maintenance of the footpaths from Teesdale School to Stainton Grove. She is working with a DCC group called Find and Fix which aims to fix community issues like footpaths, graffiti etc. After her meeting with the Civic Pride Officer from DCC it was agreed that the footpath from the school to the main Stainton Gove entrance and the area around the Gypsy Lane bus shelter will be cleared. While this is very good to hear councillors would like to see the footpath from Stainton Grove to Streatlam Farm also cleared as it gets a lot of use, especially if there are any public access events at the farm. Alan Patrickson at DCC was emailed from this meeting to request that the additional stretch of footpath be included in the upcoming works.

8. Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2020/2021

- 8.1 Exemption Certificate approved
- 8.2 Internal Audit approved
- 8.3 Annual Governance Statement approved
- 8.4 Accounting Statement approved
- 8.5 Inspection of accounts date set – to be published on website

9. Village inspection walkthrough

The date for this has been set for July 8th at 7pm.

10. **Road cleaning.** Once again Stainton is experiencing issues of dust and sand on the road and footpaths through the village. This is also leaving a film of dust on residents parked vehicles. This may in part be to do with the vehicles coming from the quarry but it has also been quite some time since the DCC road sweeper had been seen in the village. They will be requested to include Stainton on their next scheduled Barnard Castle visit. Report to HAL.

11. **Stainton Grove Signage.** Councillor Dobinson reported that the signage at the top entrance to Stainton Grove was confusing as the word Grove appeared to have been overprinted with other lettering. Report to HAL

12. Stainton Grove bus shelter

- 12.1 The wooden shelter on the estate is in need of some repair. There has been some vandalism to the trim around the sides of the roof and only the front piece of this is still intact. Also, due to the roof needing to be re-felted there has been some damage to several of the roof planks which will need replacing before the felting is done.

12.2 As the community centre has closed it seems it would be a good idea to have a community notice board on the estate and it has been suggested we attach one to the bus shelter as part of its refurbishment.

13. Any Arising Issues

13.1 Trees are overhanging the bus route into the village and need to be cut back.
Report to HAL

13.2 The grass verges from Barnard Castle into Stainton village have been cut back by DCC.

13.3 The Stainton Grove Heritage Panels have been included on the Parish Council Asset list but some of them are in need of serious pruning to enable them to be seen. Our internal auditor (and her mum) have volunteered to tidy up the one on the tank tracks, the clerk will have a go at cutting back the growth on the one at the A688 roadside and hopefully other volunteers will tackle the one outside the community centre which is very overgrown to the point of completely obscuring the panel.

13.4 Vehicles, including tractors are passing through the village at speed again. Most of the other villages in our locality have installed illuminated speed warning signs. DCC were not particularly helpful when we tried to pursue this option for Stainton but perhaps things have moved on and we might be more successful this time. Gainford council will be asked how they went about getting theirs.

13.5 The Ken Marshall bench on the village green has been repainted and is looking very smart but due to its age the council are still looking to replace it with a recycled plastic one to match the others installed in the village when this one is no longer viable.

14. Date and time of next meeting

**Thursday 22nd July with the Annual Parish Meeting
starting at 7pm prior to the council meeting.**

Chairman

Date.....