

# STANTON & STREATLAM PARISH COUNCIL

Remote Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 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. **Dispensations - None**
5. **Minutes of last meeting:-** (16<sup>th</sup> January 2020) Proposed by JR, seconded by NBH.
6. **Matters arising from last meeting**
  - 6.1 Two signs now in place on the village green restricting parking on there.
  - 6.2 Following our report about cars parking in the Temporary Stop Over site at the top of Stainton Bank, it was investigated by the Roma, Gypsy and Traveller dept. The owner of the vehicles was contacted, they were removed and the area secured.
  - 6.3 The memorial bench on the village green has not had any offers of refurbishment although a village resident has offered to rehome it if the Council gets a replacement.
  - 6.4 The Council received a VAT refund of £5258.54 on goods and services purchased in the previous three years.
  - 6.5 The damaged Playground sign has been removed but as yet not replaced. HAL (Highways & Lighting) will be asked to provide a replacement.
  - 6.6 The intention to remove the lighting from the road leading into the village was notified to the Council during the initial consultation phase but was not commented on in time. We are advised it will not be reinstated.
  - 6.7 No information has been received from DCC regarding our query of whether the storage depot was being used by a residential caravan.
  - 6.8 The Council asked for a 20% increase of the previous years' precept for the 2020/2021 period. This was received in April.
  - 6.9 A receipt for the 2019 poppy wreath was received in January, the delay being due to illness.
  - 6.10 The bus shelter at Stainton Grove has received a coat of green paint that vastly improved its look although no-one seems to know who carried out the work. Other wooden item on the estate were also painted so it is possible that it was the Housing Association.
  - 6.11 The grass cutting contract for this season was awarded to Richard Toward. The cuts are as expected with 7 of the 12 completed so far.

## **7. Annual Governance and Accountability**

- 7.1 Annual Internal Audit Report 2019/20, presented and approved.
- 7.2 Annual governance Statement 2019/20, presented and approved.
- 7.3 Accounting Statements 2019/20, presented and approved.
- 7.4 Certificate of Exemption- AGAR 2019/20 Part 2. Presented, approved and a copy sent to external auditor.

## **8. Financial Report**

- 8.1 Balance of account at end of June was £16946.98
- 8.2 Payments for approval -:
  - 8.21 Grass cutting – 4 cuts £440.00
  - 8.22 Clerk's wage (May, June, July & August) £459.80
  - 8.23 HMRC (4 months- adjusted for previous overpayment) £115.00

## **9. Play Area & bus stops**

- 9.1 The road sign advising motorists that they are approaching a playground was damaged and has now been removed. This needs to be reinstated as there is a blind corner approaching the play area. HAL to be contacted.
- 9.2 CDALC have issued some guidance regarding signage for play areas during the Covid-19 restrictions. The Clerk to put this information into poster form to be laminated and displayed in the play area.
- 9.3 There have been instances of fly-tipping of household waste in the bus stop waste bin.
- 9.4 Reports have been received that the lay-by on the A688, at the bottom of the road from the village, is being used as a toilet area and amounts of miscellaneous litter left there. The wooden bus shelter at Stainton Grove is also being used as a toilet and the surrounding area is very overgrown and littered. This will also be reported to HAL for action.

## **10 Any Other Business**

- 10.1 The village hall committee are planning to refurbish the kitchen and redevelop the rear of the hall to make it more accessible. They have requested that the Parish Council put forward the planning application for this project once the plans have been drawn up. Funding for this has been applied for and they are awaiting final confirmation. As the hall is owned by the Council, this request was approved.
- 10.2 Several residents have reported sightings of rats but this seems to currently be a national problem. Individual households can contact DCC and for a fee a pest control operative will attend.
- 10.3 There are reports of rubbish being burnt in the quarry but DCC have indicated that this is allowed. Various wagons have been seen going in and out with miscellaneous loads.

- 10.4 Northern Powergrid have surveyed the trees throughout the village to see which ones are too close to power lines and pose a risk of possible power outages. There are a number that need to be cut back before they grow high enough to touch the lines and this work is expected to begin sometime in September. The Memorial Park is included in the scope of these works due to the height of some of the trees in there. This is work that will be carried out at no charge to residents.
- 10.5 The Barnard Castle Truck Show is due to take place on Bank holiday weekend. Considering the country has been in lockdown and many businesses have only recently reopened Council members thought it strange that this was being allowed to bring so many visitors into the area from elsewhere. Good for local businesses but perhaps unwise from a health point of view. An email to be sent to Ms Amanda Healy of DCC's public health dept to ask what control measures had been agreed with the organisers to safeguard visitors and residents.
- 10.6 It was agreed that this remote meeting had served it's purpose and would be a suitable means of carrying out future business.

Therefore the date of the next meeting will be Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm.

<p><b>24<sup>th</sup> September 2020</b></p> <p><b>Parish Council Meeting      7.00pm</b></p>
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Chairman .....

Date.....