

STAINTON & STREATLAM PARISH COUNCIL

Remote Meeting held on 26th November 2020

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

1. **Apologies;** None, all councillors present.
2. **Public present;** None on this occasion.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** - (in Agenda items) - None received.
4. **Dispensations - None**
5. **Minutes of last meeting:-** (29th Oct 2020) Proposed by JT, seconded by JB.
6. **Matters arising from last meeting**
 - 6.1 The Playground Ahead warning sign has been replaced.
 - 6.2 The remedial work requested on the new playground installation has now been completed by Sovereign's sub-contractors. The replacement parts were delivered a day prior to the work being carried out and once completed the area was left in a tidy state.
 - 6.3 The tree pruning by Powergrid seems to have been completed.
 - 6.4 It was agreed that a small token of appreciation should accompany the letter of thanks to Mr Ian Chorlton for his sterling efforts in keeping the village footpaths in a clean and tidy condition.
 - 6.5 The village hall committee have not reported any progress on their refurbishment project.

7. **Financial Report** - Payments for approval -:

7.1 Clerk's wage (October) £114.90

7.2 HMRC (October) £28.80

Balance of account on 30th of October was £15,816.98

Two previous cheques have been cancelled as the wrong figures were mistakenly entered and the bank may not honour them when alterations have been made.

8. **Correspondence**

8.1 Email from Sovereign to ask if we were happy with the work carried out to resolve issues flagged up by our 2020 RoSPA inspection and a response to this can be sent to confirm the work was satisfactory.

8.2 Paperwork and application for the 2021/2022 precept. At this time the council has no firm plans for any capital projects and in view of impending Council Tax increases it was agreed that the precept should remain the same as for the previous year with no percentage increase. It is hoped that this would

ease the financial burden imposed by rises in the Council Tax and the Police and Unity authority charges.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 A complaint has been made that the rubber matting under the swings is quite slippery and therefore potentially hazardous. When this was an issue in the past we have asked our grass cutting contractor to power wash the area. Mr Stamp will be asked to carry out the work. Replacement of these tiles will be looked into and could possibly be something to progress in 2021.

9.2 Remembrance Sunday. This was a very low key event this year due to the current restrictions on gatherings. It was brought to residents attention via social media and a number of villagers did turn out to show their respect. There was a short reading, a recording of the final guns falling silent was played then the Last Post. This was followed by a two minutes silence then the Rouse was played. Councillor Teasdale laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council and a second wreath was laid by Councillor Hutchinson on behalf of Durham County Council after she and Councillor Rowlandson had attended the Remembrance service at the Bowes Museum.

9.3 With regards to a proposal to build a 100+ homes housing estate on a site on the outskirts of Barnard Castle on the A67, councillors were agreed that they opposed the proposal. Objections related to the fact that the development was not part of the County Durham Plan; It was in an area of high landscape value; There was potential to disturb or destroy the habitat of native wildlife; It would increase pressure on the already stretched infrastructure of the town with respect to medical & dental services, schools and traffic and parking management. A letter detailing the objections to be sent to the DCC planning department.

9.4 A complaint has been received that the footpath alongside the junction with the A688 is overgrown with nettles and overhanging trees are making it difficult to use. This, along with relevant photos to be reported to HAL.

9.5 Dog fouling on the village footpaths seems to be on the increase and has been flagged up on social media. More people seem to be walking dogs through the village – not all of them are residents so perhaps the problem is that they don't feel the need to pick up after their pet when they're not in their own locality. The local dog warden to be contacted and asked if they can possibly visit the village to see the extent of the problem and maybe even catch the irresponsible owners. It may be time to put up some new "No

such thing as the Dog Poo Fairy” posters to remind owners to bag it and bin it.

Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday 17th December 2020 at 7.00pm

Details and Zoom invitation to be published on the Parish Council site.

Thursday 17th December 2020
Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm

Chairman

Date.....