

STANTON & STREATLAM PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on 24th March 2022 in Stainton Village Hall

Present

N B Hutchinson (NBH)
J Taylor (JMT)

J Rowlandson (JR)
B Toulson (BT)

J Teasdale (JT)
S Chapman (SC) (Clerk)

1. **Public Participation** None
2. **Apologies** A Dobinson (AD)
3. **Declarations of Interest** None
4. **Dispensations** None
5. **Minutes of February meeting** Proposed by JT, seconded by NBH.
6. **Matters arising from last meeting**
 - i. A request for a new salt bin has been submitted to DCC who will assess the suggested location and need.
 - ii. Reactive speed signage in village - it was suggested that in the first instance DCC be asked to carry out a traffic survey to establish need. A suitable location for the installation would need to be found and landowner approval granted. It was further suggested that residents should be asked if there was anyone willing to volunteer to take part in a community Speedwatch scheme.
 - iii. The new model code of conduct, as amended for the village, was adopted, effective as of the meeting.
 - iv. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Councillors proposed that two trees be planted to commemorate this occasion, one to honour the Queen and one in memory of Prince Phillip. These will be flowering trees and it is suggested that one be located on the green by the bus shelter and the other in the Memorial Park.
 - v. Memorial plaque for John Brown – the Council would like to put a plaque on the bench in the play area in his memory as for many years he was the Council's Playground Officer. To avoid causing any offence, NBH will ask his wife to approve this before we do anything. The Village Hall Committee are also looking to do something similar in the Hall's yard as he was a long time supporter of the hall and it's committee.
 - vi. Noticeboard for the bus shelter at Stainton Grove, this has been delivered and we are waiting for our contractor to put it up. It can hold up to 6 x A4 sheets, has a painted (green) aluminium frame and stainless steel back.
 - vii. Newsletter – ideally this could be issued a couple of times a year – this time before the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council so that residents are aware of these meetings. (May 19th at 7pm) It can also advise of future meeting dates, let people know what the Precept is used for and that for a second year there has been a 0% increase. People could be asked to come along to these meetings if they have ideas for improvements they would like the Parish

Council to implement to benefit the village. Any remaining space could potentially advertise Village hall events and activities.

- viii. Street sweeping – when the street cleaning wagon visits the village it can only sweep one side of the road due to the number of vehicles parked on the other side. This unfortunately means that stones, dust and leaves etc remain in the gutter on that side. The Clerk will contact DCC to see if it is possible to get advance notice that the sweeper wagon is coming so residents can be asked to park on the opposite side of the road for one day to get the other side swept.
- ix. The Council had a report about damage to the fence that surrounds the land that Wm Smiths bought at Stainton Grove. However that is private land and although there is a right of way through the area (Smiths put gated access to the field to enable it to be used) it was felt that this was not an issue for the Council to pursue.
- x. Following complaints of dog fouling and poo bags in trees a request has been submitted to DCC for the provision of a dog waste bin on the small road leading from the Oval onto Town Pasture Lane. (Gypsy Lane)
- xi. Tree with possible TPO. Following a report that a tree with a TPO had caused some structural damage to a neighbour's property after a branch fell off. The relevant DCC site was searched and it does not appear that there any protected trees within the village nor are there any areas covered by a conservation order. Should any tree have a TPO placed on it, unless it was owned by the Council or actually on land that the Council had responsibility for then the Council is not liable for any action regarding it.

7. Correspondence

- i. CDALC have advised that as yet we are still no longer allowed to hold remote meetings but NALC is still pursuing this option as in particularly bad weather remote meetings would be the ideal solution. It would also enable councillors to join a meeting even if they were physically unable to attend. CDALC will advise if there are any changes to these rules.
- ii. CDALC issued a guidance letter about 'Double Taxation' this would for example, apply if a county council was levying a charge on the council tax for a service that was being provided by a parish council who were also claiming a percentage of their precept in order to provide that service. This is not an issue affecting Stainton and Streatlam Parish Council.
- iii. Rising energy bills – CDALC sent out a link to the DCC site with a tip sheet of ways to reduce energy use, i.e. change to LED bulbs, turn the thermostat down a degree etc. This info to be posted on the community noticeboard.

8. Financial Report

As of 24th March the balance of account was £19,015.64

Invoices and payments to be made are as follows.

	ITEM	£		ITEM	£
1	Noticeboard	£285.60	2	Parish Councils Websites	£165.00
3	Hall hire - March	£20.00	4	Clerk's wage including arrears	£320.74
5	HMRC – PAYE	£80.00	6	Payroll software	£70.80

9 Any Other Business

- i. A resident has complained about trees overhanging the road on the stretch that joins the A688, heading towards Staindrop, however it is unlikely that DCC will take any action at this time as it is nesting season and pruning and cutbacks are discouraged until end of season which is about September.
- ii. Dog fouling is once again an issue where some people are bagging it up then throwing it into peoples drives and gardens. This is antisocial and a health hazard so we will get some dog poo posters and try to shame people into taking the mess back to the dog waste bins.
- iii. The Council had a request from the Meet Committee for a donation towards this event. As a rule the Council does not make donations to charities as the only funds the Parish Council holds comes from the Precept – and this comes from residents council tax. The Council thinks this would be improper use of these funds so the request was refused with an explanation as to why.
- iv. The village hall will be celebrating the upcoming Queen's Jubilee by holding events in the hall and schoolyard. Their committee asked if the council would make a contribution to these celebrations and as this is something to benefit the village it was agreed.
- v. Mr Wood has been contacted and he is prepared to remove the dying cherry tree from the play area as soon as convenient.

Date and time of next Meeting

Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 19th May at 7.00pm

An opportunity for residents of the parish of Stainton and Streatlam to hear what the Parish Council and any other community groups within the area, have done for the parish in the preceding year. Also it is an opportunity for electors to have a say on anything they consider valuable or of interest to the people of the parish.

Annual Meeting of Stainton and Streatlam Parish Council

This meeting will follow on from the Parish Meeting and residents are welcome to stay if they wish.

Chairman

Date