

# STANTON & STREATLAM PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 in Stainton Village Hall

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

1. **Public Participation** No members of the public in attendance
2. **Apologies** J Taylor (JMT) A Dobinson (AD)
3. **Declarations of Interest** None
4. **Dispensations** None
5. **Approval of September Minutes** Proposed by JT, seconded by NBH
6. **Progress or changes since last meeting**
  - 6.1 The two new noticeboards have been passed to the village hall committee so they can arrange installation.
  - 6.2 The commemorative trees to be purchased and planted before the next meeting. The Queen's tree to be located at the front of the Memorial Park approx. 3 – 4 feet behind the wall ( to allow for the renovation project) and 3 – 4 feet from the path leading to the memorial itself. The tree to commemorate the life of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh to be planted at a suitable location on the bus shelter green. The planting to be done on a weekend and publicised on social media and noticeboards. A commemorative plaque will be purchased to mark the tree on the green (we already have the plaque for the tree in the Memorial park.)
  - 6.3 Council members agreed that the poured rubber chippings surface was preferable to the rougher shredded rubber mix and thought the mottled compound to be better than a plain colour or several block colours. The companies approached will be asked to quote for refurbishment including the disposal of the existing rubber tiles and a quote for refurbishment and just lifting the tiles for the council to dispose of. At time of quotes we would expect to be advised of length of guarantee and expected lifespan of product.
  - 6.4 Councillor Rowlandson confirmed that after speaking to Sue Porter at DCC that Streatlam farm has an allowance of 28 days for events on site – these days include the setting up and clearing of site. Any requirement for additional days would require submission of a planning request. Cllr Rowlandson has details of the current planned activities and these will be forwarded to the clerk.
  - 6.5 As we are not aware of any current residents of the village having photos of the Memorial Park prior to the removal of its railings we will contact the Teesdale Mercury and ask if they can ask their readers if anyone can assist or if they have any photos in their archives that we can take a copy of.

- 6.6 Grass-cutting - We received two tenders for the grass-cutting 2023 season. Our contractor for the past three years, Mr Toward quoted £125 per cut which is what was paid in the 2022 season. The second tender was from Mr Fright of The Wallnut. His quote was £185 per cut, excluding VAT. His quote was well laid out and he had included aerial photos of the site. His quote also included prices for the following two seasons (£185 ex-VAT). Councillors thought the quote was well put together but in this instance and in view of the upcoming refurbishment of the Memorial Park wall and railings and the resurfacing of the play area and these works as yet being an unknown cost, it was decided to retain Mr Toward for the 2023 cutting season. Throughout the year there is the possibility of other works arising, tree pruning etc and Mr Fright will be asked if we could contact him for quotes for these additional jobs. The grass cutting will be reviewed again for the 2024 season.
- 6.7 Dog Fouling - This is still an ongoing issue but we have not heard anything further from DCC re warning posters etc. Councillors reported that dog walkers were not cleaning up after their dogs once they had passed the village boundaries.
- 6.8 Parking - This has been flagged up to DCC on their online portal as requested but as yet have not been responded to other than an acknowledgement email. This issue to be included in the village newsletter.
- 6.9 Uncovered wagons – this was initially flagged to Claire Teasdale at DCC to get information about who should be contacted at the Quarry to report the issue. Tractors and trailers have also been seen entering the site and when these exit they should also be covered to avoid debris and dust left on the road and to reduce the possibility of potential damage to vehicles as they pass. A letter to be sent to the Quarry reminding them of the need to have covers on loaded vehicles leaving site.
7. Financial Report - Balance of account as at 23<sup>rd</sup> March was £21,209.69 VAT has been reclaimed for 2020, 2021 & 2022 for the sum of £301.33. This figure is low due to 2020 & 2021 being very quiet seasons because of the Covid pandemic and many events and works being shut down. The claim was submitted online and will be paid directly into our account when processed.

Cheques for approval and signature at this time are,

Clerk's wage	£274.00
HMRC	£68.60
Hall hire	£15.00

8. Matters arising (at discretion of Chair)
- 8.1 Councillor Dobinson has reported that the double gates to the play area at Stainton Grove are being left open and unleashed dogs are getting in (the area is a designated no dog zone) Can DCC be contacted to see if the gates (used for mower access etc.) can be kept locked if not in active use.

- 8.2 It has been noticed that there seem to be far fewer daffodils growing in the grass below Hesley Rise. New bulbs will be planted at appropriate time and these will be in memory of the late Mrs Jean Stout and her husband.
- 8.3 Dogs have been seen running loose in fields near West Farm where sheep and lambs are grazing. While there did not appear to be an instance of sheep worrying it is still not good to have unleashed dogs in a field with livestock. This also poses the potential issue of animals inadvertently eating dog waste which can seriously impact their health.

### **Date and time of next meeting**

#### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00 pm where parish residents are invited to attend to raise any items or issues they would like to report on that impacts on village life or that they would like considered.

This will be followed by the

### **ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF STANTON AND STREATLAM PARISH COUNCIL.**

Signed .....

Date .....

#### **Future meeting dates for 2023**

**27<sup>th</sup> July**

**28<sup>th</sup> September**

**23<sup>rd</sup> November**