

STAINTON & STREATLAM PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on 25th July 2024 in Stainton Village Hall

Present J Teasdale (JT) J Taylor (JMT) J Rowlandson (JR)
 B Toulson (BT) A Dobinson (AD) N B Hutchinson (NBH)
 S Chapman (SC) (Clerk)

1. **Public Participation** T Smith Mr & Mrs Resident
 2. **Apologies** None – all councillors present
 3. **Declarations of Interest** None
 4. **Dispensations** None
 5. **Approval of May Minutes** Proposed by NBH, seconded by JT
 6. **Progress or changes since last meeting**

6.1 Pre- application for new door submitted and accepted for consideration.

6.2 Several remedial actions are required following the annual RoSPA safety inspection of the play area. Some of these can be carried out by councillors but others may require outside expertise. None of the issues are so severe as to cause closure of the facility. Councillor Taylor has said he will carry out as much of the work as he is able. (Replacement bushes and butterfly shackles for the swing chains and replacement bolts for the swing seats.) Any costs he incurs to do this will be reimbursed by the council. It was noted that there are nettles growing through the play area boundary fence and Mr Chorlton will be asked if he could spray the area to remove them.

6.3 We have received the quote and specifications as requested for replacement gates for the play area due to them being an ongoing issue flagged in the safety inspection. This is because they both are severely corroded and the latched gate could pose a finger entrapment risk. Mr E. T. quoted £2460.00 for the provision of new wrought iron gates and a replacement cage for the swing gate. This price to include all materials, removal of all waste materials and the completed installation of the new ironware. A lead time of one month was given for completion and Councillors agreed the price was fair and that he be asked to carry out the work.

6.4 Following a report from a village resident about the weed growth on the path at the foot of the triangle field, Mr Chorlton was asked to spray it to control the path becoming overgrown. This has now been done. The A688 grass verges from Stainton Grove towards Staindrop have now been trimmed – it is believed this was carried out by DCC.

7. Financial Report – Bank reconciliation, payments and invoices for approval

Balance of account as at 28th June was £25,323.59

Interim payments : - N Swinbank – mower £70.00 DCC – rubbish bin £576.00

Balance of account as at 25th July is £24,677.59 Cheques for approval at this time are: -

S & S Village Hall	Hall hire 25 th July	£30.00
I Chorlton	Bedding plants	£50.00
HMRC	PAYE (Clerk's wage) June/July	£68.60
Playsafety Ltd.	Play area Inspection	£98.40
S Chapman	Clerk's wage June/July	£274.60
I Chorlton	UTASS Herbicide Training	£375.00
A R Toward	Grass cutting (4 cuts)	£500.00
TOTAL		£1396.60
NEW ACCOUNT BALANCE		£23,280.99

We have not yet received an invoice from DCC for the tree survey so that will be chased up and paid as soon as it is received.

8. Environmental issue reported to Parish Council

Residents from the eastern end of the village have reported sightings of dead rats and evidence that live rats are gaining access to properties. Photographic proof of the dead rats has been submitted to this council and this has been reported to Environmental Health at DCC.

The dead rats are a concern due to the possibility of domestic animals, or even children, coming into contact with whatever poison has been laid for the rats. Following the initial reports of the dead rats, we have also been informed that a number of residents have also seen signs of rats in the attics of their properties.

Unfortunately we do not know how widespread the problem is therefore we would urge occupiers of any affected properties to contact the Environmental Health Department of DCC and raise the issue with them – one report from the council unfortunately carries less weight than a number of complaints from affected properties. A letter will be sent out to properties in the area that have reported issues with information on how to report the matter to DCC. (So far we have not heard of residents elsewhere in Stainton experiencing similar issues.) Hopefully multiple reports will result in the Environmental team sending someone out to investigate and/or provide advice and assistance to help resolve the problem.

9. New railings and repairs to the War Memorial Garden wall

Three quotes were received for the renovation of the Memorial Garden wall and these were £2,400.00 (G.A.) £4,465.00 (G & T) and £5,950.00.(N.H.) The quote from N.H. was chosen due to the quality of work shown on his website and several recommendations.

The quotes for the railings were £1,250.00 (VWI) £1,745.00 (E.T.) and £1,888.00 (N.H.) and the quote from E.T. was chosen based on work he has carried out in Barnard Castle.

1. Parking outside the play area

There have been instances recently of cars parking on the pavement immediately outside the play area while there are also cars parked on the other side of the road. This has resulted in some traffic issues when larger vehicles or those with trailers are trying to get through. It would be highly unlikely that DCC would even consider putting yellow lines there but the issue will be reported to them and our suggestion of a white line and Keep Clear sign – similar to the one outside the Village Hall.

2. Any Arising Issues

- 2.1 According to the tree report, the Scots Pine needs some attention to remove several branches and generally tidy it up. The cherry tree on the village green also needs some attention so a local tree surgeon will be asked to give a quote.
- 2.2 The soldier silhouettes behind the War Memorial were installed by the Village Hall Association so they will see to having them removed from the trees and safely relocated.
- 2.3 The grass cutting this year does not seem to be as good as it was last year, this will be reported to the grass cutter. The contract is due to go out for tender again for the 2025 season.
- 2.4 It has been noted that the play area wall requires some re-pointing.
- 2.5 Residents have reported a number of youths riding bikes around the village and several were also seen on top of the bus shelter. None of them were known to the resident who reported seeing them.
- 2.6 Once again there are issues with dog waste being left on the grassed area below Hesley Rise. This is unsanitary and un-neighbourly.
- 2.7 DCC will be contacted to see if planning permission is required to replace the bus shelter on Stainton Grove estate with a new one as the present one is becoming unsafe and the roof leaks.
- 2.8 A local resident has shown an interest in being co-opted onto the council and information on what it entails will be passed on to them.
- 2.9 Parking on the village green. This is resulting in the grassed area becoming smaller and smaller as vehicles pass over the edges. Village greens are protected by law so for the next meeting information will be sourced as to the registered area and measures may have to be taken to create a boundary to protect it from further erosion.
- 2.10 A village walk through of both Stainton and Stainton Grove should be arranged so councillors can identify any issues requiring attention. Date(s) to be arranged.

3. Date of next meeting Thursday September 26th 2024 at 7.00 pm