

# STANTON & STREATLAM PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024 in Stainton Village Hall

**Present** J Teasdale (JT) J Taylor (JMT) J Rowlandson (JR)  
B Toulson (BT) S Chapman (SC) (Clerk)

1. **Public Participation** None present
2. **Apologies** A Dobinson (AD) N B Hutchinson (NBH)
3. **Declarations of Interest** None
4. **Dispensations** None
5. **Approval of July Minutes** Proposed by JT seconded by JMT
6. **Progress or changes since last meeting**

6.1 The new gates have been installed in the play area and both the Parish Council and residents of Stainton agree that Mr Taube, the contractor, has made an excellent job of them. He has also been contracted to craft and install the replacement railings for the War Memorial Garden and they should be in place shortly. The wall repair has also been carried out and many positive comments on the standard of work have been made.

6.2 The environmental issue of rats at the eastern end of the village seems to have eased as there have been no further reports to the council from that area. However there had been a similar issue further into the village but this was not reported to the council and had apparently been dealt with by Environmental Services. It was suggested that the ongoing work on the new Northumbrian Water pipeline may have resulted in the vermin looking for a new location.

6.3 The Health & Safety Report commissioned through DCC has now been paid and a copy was forwarded to a resident who has expressed concern over some of the trees in the War Memorial Garden as requested but has not been commented on.

6.4 The soldier silhouettes still need to be removed from the trees in the Garden as the growth of the trees is adversely affecting them. It is hoped they can possibly be refurbished and reinstalled in the Garden but not attached to any of the trees.

6.5 A tree surgeon has been to look at the Scot's Pine in the Memorial Garden and has quoted £175.00 + VAT to carry out the necessary work on it. He was also asked to quote for a thorough pruning of the cherry tree on the village green and he quoted £300.00 + VAT for that one. Council agreed to the quote for the Pine as it was something that had been flagged up in the tree report and it was agreed that he also be asked to look at some other trees within the village boundaries and give a combined quote for them and the cherry tree. It was also reported that the Stainton signage was badly overgrown to the point that it was barely visible. DCC has previously been responsible for hedge trimming alongside roads but in view of the current financial constraints on council services it is not known when/if the hedging will be cut again.

6.6 DCC planning were asked for advice about replacing the bus shelter at Stainton Grove but said it would require a pre-planning application and based of information required for the village hall door, council would need to have decided on a supplier, got a quote and have knowledge of the materials of the new structure in order to complete the application form.

6.7 The play area wall needs repair and or repointing in a few areas. It was agreed to monitor this over the winter and get quotes in spring for the necessary work.

6.8 The village green is being eroded by vehicles driving over the edges of it. Evidence of the original boundaries of it need to be sourced to establish how much damage has been done.

## 7. Correspondence – Sent or received

7.1 Members of the council are invited to the unveiling ceremony of a memorial to Group Captain David Haward, OBE on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 1.00 pm. Councillor Taylor said he would already be attending and would be the councils representative.

- 7.2 Councillor Rutter of Woodland Parish Council has contacted all local councils to advise of the proposed application within Hamsterley Forest that would see the development of a Go Ape high ropes activity, a replacement Forestry England visitor centre with additional facilities and increased parking, 70 Forest Holidays lodges with associated infrastructure and a new Forestry England camping area. Cllr Rutter is looking for support in objecting to this project. At this time without councillors being able to see what is planned as application not yet submitted, it was agreed that council should wait until it is on the DCC's planning portal before making comment.
- 7.3 DCC have advised that a proposed reduction of the yearly LCTRS grant is presently under consideration and that major funding cuts are expected that will impact of DCC future spending.
- 7.4 The Parish Council's website provider has advised that there is funding available for Parish Councils adopting a .gov.uk domain name and that domain email accounts can also be set up so each councillor would have an official email address. Enquiries will be made to see what costs the council would incur to make this change.

## 8. Financial Report and payments for approval

Account balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 £22,275.93  
 (cheque no 100489, £30.00 for hall hire not yet presented by this date)

S and S Village Hall	Hall Hire	£30.00
I Chorlton	Weedkiller	£43.49
HMRC	Tax on Clerk's wage	£68.60
S Chapman	Clerk's wage (August & September)	£274.60
A R Toward	Grass cutting (3 cuts)	£375.00
E Taube	Supply & installation of new gates to play area	£2,460.00
N Hodgson	Repair and repointing of War Memorial Garden wall	£5,950.00
	Total Payments	£9,231.69
	<b>Remaining balance</b>	<b>£13,044.00</b>

## 9. Any other business

- 9.1 A 'Wedding' sign appeared at the junction of the A688 and Town Pasture Lane. It was at first thought to have been put there by Runa Farm but due to it's amateurish appearance is now believed to have been put up by someone to direct guests to their wedding and then forgot to remove it.
- 9.2 Issues have been reported to councillors regarding traffic from Runa Farm on Town Pasture Lane. The business closed the original entrance from the A67 onto the property so all traffic now enters and exits via Town Pasture Lane and this has caused some problems with cars unexpectedly coming out onto the lane when there are other vehicles already driving up or down. Cllr Rowlandson will look into whether any restrictions were imposed when the property changed its access route.
- 9.3 Some of the hedging belonging to Runa Farm and bordering the lane is overgrown to the extent that it is affecting driver's view of oncoming traffic which is an issue and the road is not wide enough for two vehicles to easily pass without driving on the verges. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Runa Farm management to request the hedge is cut back as it used to be when part of Jersey Farm.
- 9.4 The new door for the village hall does not require planning permission but the installation will be subject to DCC's Building Control.

Signed .....

Date .....