

STANTON & STREATLAM PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on 27th March 2025 in Stainton Village Hall

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

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

6.1 The website provider was asked if it we could have the figures to show how often the website was visited. PC were advised that software (costing £60) could be added to give information.

6.2 Mr Taube has been approached for a design and quote to provide a metal bench for the War Memorial Garden with a 'Lest We Forget' inscription.

6.3 No information received about the progress of the Hamsterly Forest project.

6.4 Dog waste on the footpaths etc is still an ongoing issue within the village.

6.5 PC will try to set up a Facebook page to provide information to residents.

6.6 Action still needed to remove the compost heap in the Memorial Garden.

6.7 Grass cutting – Mr Chorlton made a start on this years trimming by strimming the grass below Hesley Rise so that the daffodil display was more visible. The Grass-cutting contract for the coming season was awarded to Mr Toward who quoted £135 per cut.

6.8 Several minor items were flagged up in the last play area safety inspection. Mr Chorlton and Mr Taube will be asked if they can recommend a local handyman that we could employ to correct these issues.

6.9 Agreement between PC and Village Hall Association regarding the village hall.
When the association applied to TAP for funding towards the cost of the new front door TAP required assurances from the PC that there were no plans for them to sell or otherwise dispose of the building. Funders require confirmation that any financial investment would ensure long-term viability and not merely improve a property and make it more saleable. With this in mind Ms Ward (representing TAP) suggested the council and the association clarify the agreement and look into entering a more formal arrangement.

This could potentially be in the form of a long-term lease between the PC and village hall association possibly with a yearly 'peppercorn' rent payment. It would also be good practise to have at least one councillor on the Village Hall committee to represent the PC and liaise between the two organisations.

SC to contact Ms Ward for further advice.

7. **Correspondence** – Sent/received

HMRC – Acknowledgement of VAT refund claim submitted.

Annual invoice for provision of the PC website.

8. Financial Report – Current account balance £9,675.75

8.1 Payments for approval

Village Hall	Hall hire	£30.00
HMRC	Tax on Clerk's wage Feb/Mar	£77.00
Town & Parish Council Websites	Website provision	£190.00
S Chapman	Clerk's wage Feb/Mar	£308.50

9. Parish walk-through

Councillors agreed to a walk-through on Saturday April 5th of both Stainton Grove and Stainton in order to assess any potential issues that could be addressed by the council. A meeting time was set for 10.00 am at the bus shelter on Stainton Grove estate and then the group would move on to Stainton.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 It was agreed that only companies that could both supply and install a bus shelter should be asked for quotes so that the work and structure would have a guarantee.

10.2 It has become very noticeable that The Green has now been severely eroded over some time by having vehicles driven over its outer edges. The Green is not owned by the PC although it is responsible for grass cutting and pruning the tree and maintaining the bench and planters that stand there. The clerk will contact DCC in the first instance to see what the definitive boundaries are and if restoration of the grassed area is considered necessary, the current land-owner will be approached to see if he is happy for the PC to act on this.

10.3 The subject of rats occurred in a conversation a resident had with a councillor but this was not brought up as a complaint. There was an issue with a report concerning rats last year and the PC advised residents that their first course of action should be to contact Environmental Health at DCC for advice and or help.

Rats could be more visible at this time as weather improves and there may be more food sources available to them. The PC will post a list of useful contact info onto the noticeboards at Stainton and Stainton Grove, covering issues like Planning, Refuse and Recycling, Environmental Health etc., that may be helpful to residents.

10.4 May Elections – The PC is allowed up to eight councillors for the size of the electorate. If more than this number apply to be councillors an election needs to be held, if the number putting themselves up as councillors is eight or less than those people would be elected unopposed so no formal election would be required.

Dates for meetings in 2025

July 24 th	September 25 th	November 27 th
7.00 pm in the Village Hall Parish Council Meeting	7.00 pm in the Village Hall Parish Council Meeting	7.00 pm in the Village Hall Parish Council Meeting