

# STANTON & STREATLAM PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 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** No members of the public in attendance
2. **Apologies** A Dobinson (AD) N B Hutchinson (NBH)
3. **Declarations of Interest** None
4. **Dispensations** None
5. **Approval of November Minutes** Proposed by JT, seconded by BT
6. **Progress or changes since last meeting**

- 6.1 Play area resurfacing due to start in early April.
- 6.2 Memorial garden railings and wall – N H will be visiting site next week to measure up and supply quote. He will be asked to quote for both the wall repair and for the new railings. Still awaiting confirmation from Valley Wrought Iron that his quote is for a double rail with 3 barley twist supports on each section.
- 6.3 The DCC Arborist will be carrying out the tree survey in April – date to be confirmed.
- 6.4 The official portrait of King Charles has been ordered and delivery expected next month.
- 6.5 IC is booked onto the Herbicide Course that is being run at UTASS in May. He will need to complete a registration document and get the necessary PPE but the Parish Council will cover that cost and reimburse him.
- 6.6 The faded speed signs at the far end of the village have been reported to DCC.
- 6.7 The sewer stacks at both ends of the village to be checked and Northumbrian Water notified that the top is missing.

## 7. Correspondence received/sent

- 7.1 Barclays – information update request completed and returned to them.
- 7.2 HMRC – telephone confirmation that the VAT refund submission has been received.
- 7.3 UTASS – Herbicide course information and registration form.
- 7.4 Peter Andrews (Park That Bike) – info re bike stands – to pass to Village Hall
- 7.5 North Star Housing – request for assistance to get an additional dog waste bin at the Town Pasture Lane/ The Oval junction and a rubbish bin by the estate bus shelter. (JR to find who to contact at DCC for a direct request.)

## 8. Financial Report

The Balance of Account as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 was £23,154.01

£323.08 has been claimed for VAT payments made in 2023.

Invoices presented and approved for payment at this meeting but dated for 2024-2025 financial year so 2023-2024 accounts can be finalised for examination by the internal auditor prior to AGAR submission.

Village Hall	Room hire, 2 hr at £15 per hr	£30.00
HMRC	Tax on Clerk's wage (Feb/Mar)	£68.40
PC Website Host	Yearly renewal/maintenance fee	£190.00
S Chapman	Paper, ink, stamps	£102.31
S Chapman	Payroll software	£102.31
S Chapman	Clerk's wage (Feb/Mar)	£274.00

9. **Risk Assessment Register** – accepted and agreed to be reviewed every two years unless any significant changes occur.

**10. Village Hall Replacement Door** – The wooden main door into the village hall is no longer fit for purpose. In bad weather it is letting in water and the wood swells making it difficult to open and close. A pre-planning application has to be put in to see if a full planning application is needed to replace it with a composite wood effect door. As the village hall is technically owned by the Parish Council but controlled by the village hall association for the benefit of the village, the Council will submit the initial application on behalf of the association.

**11. Planning Application for new Agricultural Building** – An application has been put in for an agricultural building at Manor Farm. The proposed building appears to be very large and will be quite prominent at the proposed location. Councillors felt it would be less obtrusive if it was sited a little further back so that its frontage lined up with the present farm buildings. Concern was also expressed as to how high the new build would be and if it would be higher than the existing buildings as this information did not seem to appear in the application.

Additionally there seemed to be some confusion about the building being located on agricultural land as the application form said it was not and it was signed for as not being part of an agricultural holding – it's a farm field on a farm so the Council would query that certificate A was correct. A letter to be sent to planning raising these concerns.

**12. Matters arising (at discretion of the Chair)**

12.1 Payments that may be due for payment before the meeting in May.

- Bounceback for the play area resurfacing
- CDALC – yearly subscription due in April

12.2 There is still no bus timetable available for buses heading to Bishop Auckland and Darlington. An up to date one to be requested for inclusion on the Stainton bus shelter.

12.3 Some residents had asked councillors if there was any progress on the solar farm application but at this time no decision has been made. A recent letter from CPRE was opposed to the planning application – this letter to be forwarded to councillors.

12.4 The issue of mud on the path from Stainton Grove, up Stainton Bank towards Stainton has been commented on. Unfortunately at that particular point there is a field entrance and due to the weather conditions recently mud is being tracked out and across the path. Hopefully this issue will resolve itself as weather improves.

12.5 The draft newsletter to be given to councillors for approval before mass printing.

12.6 The wooden bus shelter on Stainton Grove estate is in a state of disrepair with the felting so badly damaged that the roof is leaking. Mr Fright to be asked to inspect and give a quote for repair and repainting.

12.7 A local author is writing a book about the history of Streatlam Castle and has requested information about the castle and the Bowes-Lyon connection. JT thought there would probably be several village residents who may have information and possibly relevant photographs. The author would also like to come and speak to the council about this.

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING-23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 7.00pm in the village hall.**

**ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - to follow the Parish Meeting.**

Chairman ..... Date .....

**Dates of future meetings in 2024**

July 25<sup>th</sup>

September 26<sup>th</sup>

November 28<sup>th</sup>