

# STANTON & STREATLAM PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in Stainton Village Hall

**Present** J Teasdale (JT)  
S Chapman (SC) (Clerk)

A Dobinson(AD)  
J Rowlandson (JR)

B Toulson (BT)

1. **Public Participation** None present
2. **Apologies** N B Hutchinson (NBH) J M Taylor (JMT)
3. **Declarations of Interest** None
4. **Dispensations** None
5. **Approval of January Minutes** Proposed by BT seconded by JT
6. **Progress or changes since last meeting (27<sup>th</sup> March 2025)**
  - 6.1 The Parish Council now has a Facebook page to post updates on council local actions. It will be able to link into the Village Hall page to increase coverage as there is already an established following.
  - 6.2 The Go-Fibre telephone pole that was installed opposite Hesley Rise has been removed. It is believed this is due to residents on that service being able to get connections to the rear of the houses rather than to the front. L; ...
  - 6.3
  - 6.4 As the amount of compost in the corner of the War Memorial Garden is quite substantial, Councillors feel it will require a tractor-trailer combination to remove it in one go.
  - 6.5 Mr Taube and Mr Chorlton to be asked if they have any recommendations for someone to carry out minor repairs/adjustments in the play area.
  - 6.6 Village Walk through – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April

| STANTON GROVE |  | STANTON VILLAGE |  |
|---------------|--|-----------------|--|
| 1             | <b>Bus Shelter</b> A tree at rear of the shelter may be damaging the footpath as it is cracked.  | 1               | <b>STANTON sign</b> on the road into the village from Bishop Auckland is very overgrown and not easy to see.   |
| 2             | <b>Dog waste</b> is also an issue here. There are at least four bins on the estate for the disposal of dog waste but there are still owners who do not pick up after their dog.  | 2               | <b>Play area</b> – the concrete/cement? Hard surface in the play area under the encroaching grass, is uneven and cracked. Suggest this be left as is for the present but flagged for future action.  |
| 3             | <b>Military Memories of Stainton Grove – Heritage trail</b><br>At least two of the five locations with display panels have shrubbery that is seriously overgrown so that the panel is no longer visible. On some of the others it was noted that some of the plants are dead.<br>Suggest eventual removal of all shrubs and replace with either chippings or bark mulch. | 3               | <b>VILLAGE GREEN</b> – the border of the Green has been seriously eroded by vehicles driving over them. It's been going on for some time now and those parts are now extremely compacted. Options for remedial or protective actions are:-<br>A Leave as it currently is but put a border around to protect the remaining Green<br>B Re-establish original boundary and install a protective border. |
| 4             | <b>Alan's Bench</b> – in need of a good clean but otherwise in reasonable condition.   | 4               | <b>Entrance/exit of the Quarry</b> is sometimes difficult because of parked vehicles right up to the entryway. Look at possibility of yellow lines on either side of that road.  |
| 5             | It was noted that there are three picnic benches in and around the play area but they belong to DCC.   | 5               | <b>Speed Signs</b> Once again it was noted that the speed signs at the western end of the village are so faded that the 30 sign is not visible – report again to DCC.  |

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 6 | <b>Bus shelter</b> – sourcing a replacement, still ongoing. | 6 | <b>Damage</b> - when on way back through village it was noticed that the railing outside the play area has been damaged again. Something has given it a good swipe and it's quite badly bent – will report to DCC. |
|---|---|---|--|

## 7. Correspondence (JR apologised for late arrival)

- 7.1 Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP) has been discontinued. It is being replaced by a Local Network (LNG) with its first meeting scheduled for September 2025. They are currently looking for two parish councillors to join their panel.
- 7.2 The insurance quote from our current insurance company has come in and has increased from £405 to £542. As this is quite a lot a comparative quote was looked for and one company came back with £464 but as this was an online quote it may not exactly match the cover currently in place. A call will be made to specify the cover required and see if that alters the price. Also the company that covers the village hall will be approached for a quote for comparison.
- 7.3 The Pensions Regulator has been notified that the council does not have any employees that need to be enrolled into a pension scheme. This re-declaration is valid for three years.

## 8. Financial Report –

8.1 The current balance of account is £18,207.89 including the 2025-26 Precept.

8.2 Invoices for approval

|   |                                |                      |        |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | S Chapman                      | Postage stamps       | 26.80  |
| 2 | S & S Village Hall Association | Hall Hire            | 30.00  |
| 3 | S Chapman                      | Printing – 12 months | 53.88  |
| 4 | CDALC                          | Annual subscription  | 89.63  |
| 5 | S Chapman                      | Payroll software     | 100.80 |
| 6 | Teesdale Mercury               | Payment for Advert   | 139.20 |
| 7 | A R Toward                     | Grass-cutting        | 270.00 |

8.3 Mr Taube has provided council with a picture of the bench he would make for the Memorial Garden at a cost of £1090.00. The bench would be placed onto a concrete plinth topped with Indian stone. This would cost £370.00. Councillors approved these quotes and Mr Taube will be notified.

## 9. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25

- 9.1 The Accounting Statements, prepared and signed by the RFO, Exemption Certificate and Internal Audit report were presented to Councillors.
- 9.2 The Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25 was received and approved.
- 9.3 The Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 was approved.
- 9.4 The Accounting Statements 2024/25 were approved.
- 9.5 The Certificate of Exemption 2024/25 was approved.
- 9.6 The Chair and RFO signed the Annual Governance Statement and the Certificate of Exemption and the Chair signed the Accounting Statements.
- 9.7 Commencement date for Public Rights (examination of accounts) to begin is set to start on Monday June 9<sup>th</sup> and run for 30 working days. This period will include the first 10 working days of July so the inspection period will end on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July. Inspection to be by prior appointment only.
- 9.8 All relevant information and documentation is to be published on the Parish Council's website on or before June 30<sup>th</sup> 2025.

## 10. Any other matters arising

- 10.1 Councillors reported issues with Town Pasture Lane which is now the only entry into and exit from Runa Farm wedding venue. This has inevitably led to an increase in traffic on the single track road and has resulted in some deep ruts on both sides where vehicles have to pull as far over as possible in order to pass something travelling in the other direction as there are limited passing places. There is potential for damage to vehicles put into this position and it was suggested that both Runa Farm and DCC be contacted and asked to carry out some remedial work to fill the ruts and make it easier for vehicles to pass safely. It was also noted that due to the hedging at the junction of Runa Farm entrance and Town Pasture Lane that traffic exiting the venue had very limited visibility to see any vehicles already on the lane
- 10.2 Following on from an administrative error made regarding the recent election, all current councillors agreed they would like to stand again. It was also suggested that a Stainton grove resident who had shown some interest in the Parish Council be given some information about what it would entail and see if they were interested in becoming a councillor.

### Dates for future meetings in 2025

| July 24 <sup>th</sup>                                 | September 25 <sup>th</sup>                            | November 27 <sup>th</sup>                             |
|---|---|---|
| 7.00 pm in the Village Hall<br>Parish Council Meeting | 7.00 pm in the Village Hall<br>Parish Council Meeting | 7.00 pm in the Village Hall<br>Parish Council Meeting |