

STAINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 21 May 2018 in Crosscrake Primary School at 7:30pm

(Held in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972)

Present: Councillors Julie Knowles (Chair), John Stott, Geoff Wilson and Sarah Kitching; County Cllr. Brenda Gray; District Cllrs. Tom Harvey and Brian Cooper; the Clerk and 9 members of the public.

1. Apologies were received from District Cllr. Roger Bingham and PCSO Martin Boak.

2. Minutes: Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2017 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Presentation by Canal & River Trust

Representatives from the Trust and their contractors gave a very informative presentation with regard to the work on Stainton Aqueduct which was expected to commence in June 2018 and possibly be completed in February 2019. They explained that emergency works had been carried out at Christmas 2015 on the south face which had been damaged beyond repair. Further emergency works had been done in May 2016 using their own funds. The Trust had now obtained funds from the Rural Payments Agency and the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable re-instatement as before using old stone as much as possible and had obtained the necessary approvals from the Environment Agency. The site will be closed to the public and footpaths will be closed with an alternative route on the other side of the canal. Updates on work progress will be in the car park. Various questions were answered before the Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation and for taking the time to give the parish the very useful information.

4. Chair's Report

Cllr. Julie Knowles presented her report with regard to the activities of the Parish Council during 2017/18. She thanked everyone who had supported her throughout the year including the previous Clerk, Karen Wells, and the new Clerk, Malcolm Richardson, who had changed and updated the website giving the increased detail now required. The council had £5518.77 in the bank at the end of the year compared to £5279.15 at the beginning; there had been 9 planning applications in total; there had been some progress in having highways work completed; and progress had been made with regard to superfast broadband in the village. (A full copy of the report can be obtained from the Clerk).

5. Police Report: No report had been received from the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

6. District Councillors' Report

Two of the three new district councillors, Tom Harvey and Brian Cooper, attended the meeting and the other, Roger Bingham, had given his apologies. It was explained that it was expected that just one district councillor would attend future meetings and that it was hoped that there would be continuity.

7. County Councillor's Report

County Cllr. Brenda Gray reported that Cumbria County Council was continuing to modernise and streamline the working practices of the council so that it could make the best possible use of an ever-decreasing budget. Half of the budget was spent on social care and staff costs; the local committee had decided to spend more on dealing with drainage problems but there were also pothole issues which required funds; and no local recycling goes to landfill.

8. Report from Crosscrake School

Linda Fletcher, the Headteacher, presented her report with regard to the continued growth and development of the school. The curriculum is dynamic and adapted to the needs of the children, who continue to enjoy learning and perform well. The school continued to benefit from the committed team of staff and governors and a fantastic church team who led worship on Tuesdays. There had been many visits and events over the year. (A full copy of the report can be obtained from the Clerk)

9. Report from Stainton Institute

The chair of the Institute committee gave a report on the progress made in 2017/18. The heating system in the hall was now up and running; the new sign had been erected; a number of successful fund-raising events had been held; donations of over £1000 and grants totalling £11791 had been received. The committee would like to thank parishioners for their support and the Chair expressed his appreciation of the work done by the committee.

10. Public Participation

A parishioner expressed his regret at the increase in the council tax 2018/19 including the increase in the parish element. This part of the increase was explained and accepted.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Malcolm Richardson (Clerk to the Council)

