

# NORTH STAINLEY WITH SLENGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

### Councillors

The following have served as Councillors throughout the past year: Glenys Bailey (Chair), Margaret Goddard (Vice-Chair), Ian Alston, David Bryant, James Stuart-Mills and Steve Tordoff.

Steven Taylor of Roseberry Green was co-opted on to the Council at its meeting in July 2013.

### Meetings

The Parish Council has met 7 times since the 2013 Annual Parish Council Meeting.

These comprised of 6 'ordinary' meetings and a further one to consider consultations on planning applications and other urgent items of business.

### Planning and Development

- A large proportion of the Council's time during the past year has been devoted to ongoing communications with North Stainley Estate about proposals for further development in North Stainley, including the possible provision of a new school. A well attended Parish Council meeting was held in July 2013 at which James Staveley of North Stainley Estate outlined his initial proposals for a development scheme.  
The Parish Council has investigated whether a Neighbourhood Plan would be appropriate in this case and continues to monitor developments. The Parish Council has agreed that it will retain a neutral position on proposals, until the time is right for it to conduct its own survey of residents to obtain a mandate on how to proceed.  
The Parish Council has recently forwarded a petition, signed by residents concerned about the derelict appearance of the shop and garage site, to North Stainley Estate.
- The Parish Council has responded to consultations carried out by North Yorkshire County Council on the Minerals & Waste Joint Plan and by Harrogate Borough Council on the Local Development Framework / Local Plan.
- The Parish Council has considered 11 planning applications during the year, with proposals ranging from a horse manege, to solar panels, to extensions to properties and works to protected trees.

### General

- In September 2013 the Parish Council was invited to take part in North Yorkshire County Council's Temporary Vehicle Activated Sign scheme. This means that a 'flashing sign' will be sited at different locations in the village three times over the next few months. The cost of participating in the scheme has been met through funding from Harrogate Borough Council.  
The Parish Council was delighted to be able to take part in the scheme, having campaigned for additional traffic calming measures in North Stainley for a number of years.
- Farm & Land Services Ltd from Knaresborough took up the post of parish caretaker in April 2013, carrying out 8 hours work in the parish each month. The Parish Council has been pleased with their standard of work in areas such as litter picking, footpath clearance and tree works.
- The caretaker carried out regular maintenance on some of the communal areas of North Stainley which were transferred in to the Parish Council's ownership during 2013, including the areas around the village ponds. The Parish Council is continuing to monitor the specification for this area. It should be noted that the Parish Council is not responsible for the invasive weeds in the water.
- Farm & Land Services Ltd is also the Parish Council's grasscutting contractor, carrying out 16 cuts per year of the verges and some communal areas through North Stainley.
- The Parish Council has corresponded with Highways North Yorkshire about a number of road faults in the parish. The majority of these have been resolved through the Tour de France works programme.
- The Parish Council maintains the playground on Watermill Lane, with works this year having included a replacement swing seat and mole control. The spinner had to be removed as it reached the end of its working life. The site is inspected on a regular basis by the parish caretaker.
- The Parish Council has supported the work of the Oil Club and Community First Responders as well as Ripon Citizens Advice Bureau.
- The Parish Council responded to consultations by North Yorkshire County Council on proposals to reduce costs by cutting bus subsidies, which in turn has led to reduced service levels with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.
- The Parish Council continues to receive regular updates on the work of North Stainley Sport & Recreation Trust for whom it is custodian Trustee.
- The Parish Council has also received regular updates on proposals for when the Tour de France Grand Depart comes through North Stainley later in 2014.
- The Parish Council is corresponding with Harrogate Borough Council about the future of the litterbin on Watermill Lane.