

NORTH STAINLEY WITH SLENGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

Councillors

- Glenys Bailey (Chair), Margaret Goddard (Vice-Chair), Ian Alston, David Bryant, Steve Taylor and Steve Tordoff have served as Councillors throughout the year.
- Dawn Levine was co-opted on to the Council at its September meeting following the resignation of James Stuart-Mills.

Meetings

- The Parish Council has met 9 times since the 2014 Annual Parish Council meeting.
- 5 of these meetings were ordinary ones when a full agenda of business was considered.
- 4 of these meetings were 'planning' meetings, convened to consider consultations on new applications or other urgent business.

Planning and Development

- A significant proportion of the Council's business this year has been related to proposals put forward by North Stainley Estate for the further development of North Stainley village. The Parish Council is aware of significant local interest in this issue.

James Staveley, of North Stainley Estate, has attended a number of Parish Council meetings throughout the year and has met with Councillors to present his proposals.

Representatives of the Parish Council have attended a number of meetings with community representatives and organisations in relation to the proposals. Councillors have also attended training sessions in relation to relevant legislation.

The Parish Council has agreed that it remains neutral on these proposals until it obtains a mandate from the parish public on how it wishes to be represented. It will obtain this mandate by carrying out a survey of residents once a planning application is submitted to Harrogate Borough Council.

- The Parish Council has monitored developments with Harrogate Borough Council's Local Plan carefully. It has responded to consultations carried out by the Borough Council and has kept residents informed by way of its regular newsletter.
- The Parish Council is currently consulting on possible sites to put forward for consideration as 'Local Green Spaces' a new designation created by the National Planning Policy Framework.
- The Parish Council is aware of Harrogate Borough Council's intention to place Tree Preservation Orders on a number of trees on Watermill Lane and has previously agreed that it objects to this proposal.
- The Parish Council has met with representatives of Hanson UK to discuss their plans to apply for an extension to their permission for extracting minerals at the Ripon Quarry near North Stainley.
- The Parish Council has considered 5 other planning applications during the year. Proposals ranged from an agricultural building, to a new roof, to extensions to dwellings and a ground source heat pump.

General

- After the Council agreed to terminate the previous caretaker's contract during 2014, DTMS Ltd from Fellbeck has been appointed until 31st March 2016. They are contracted to carry out 8 hours of maintenance type works in the parish each month.
- The grasscutting through the village was carried out by Farm & Land Services in 2014. A new contractor, local firm MHS Countryside Management, has been appointed for 2015.
- The Parish Council has been selected, and agreed that it wishes, to take part in North Yorkshire County Council's Vehicle Activated Sign scheme once again in 2015. This will be at a cost of £4,400 over 4 years, met through grant funding previously secured from Harrogate Borough Council. The signs were displayed for three rotations during 2013 and 2014 and thought to be effective.
- The Parish Council continues to manage the children's equipped play area on Watermill Lane.
- The Parish Council has bought and installed two life buoys near the ponds on Watermill Lane.
- The Parish Council has responded to consultations carried out by Harrogate Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council on a number of issues, including the future provision of libraries in the County.
- The Council has continued to support the work of Ripon Citizens Advice Bureau with a donation of £110.
- The Parish Council will work to meet the requirements of the new Transparency Code for Small Authorities by increasing the amount of information it displays on its website: www.northstainleyparishcouncil.btck.co.uk