

**STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> 2020**

**All meetings are cancelled due to the coronavirus CDALC email no7, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**All items on the Agenda were sent to the Councillors for consultation via email**

**Public can see the consultation emails**

**CONTACTED:**

Cllr D Craig Chairman

Cllr M Brewin, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr Mrs H Maddison, Cllr Mrs A Humble, Cllr W Wearmouth,

Cllr B Thompson, Cllr D Ellwood, Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes, Cllr Miss F Graham,

Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff

S Anderson Clerk

**10307**

**Apologies for Absence**

Not applicable

**10308**

**To receive any declarations of Interest from Members**

None received

**10309**

**Minutes of the meeting via email held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Minutes were moved as a true and correct record by Cllr Mrs Humble and Cllr Mrs Hawkes and will be signed by the chairman when a meeting can be held

**10310**

**Police and the Community**

Cllr Wearmouth caught a woman taking some stones off a stone wall at the top of Softley Bank. He reported it to the Police, and he would like to thank PC Geoff Moore for following it up and dealing with it. The woman admitted doing it and won't be doing it again. Well done Cllr Wearmouth

**10311**

**Matters Arising**

1. Frosterley Recycling – At the moment Frosterley Recycling is not open so the Parish Council has sent an email in support of the re-opening of the site. The council are using the 12 larger sites as a learning curb for developing a workable solution for the mobile service. At Frosterley DCC are concerned about how to implement social distancing measures on site, to keep both residents and site staff safe, whilst also thinking about how best to manage

potential queues onto the main road. Cllr Craig and Cllr Thompson mentioned that Middleton-in Teasdale recycling site is open and all measures are being implemented and all is fine. Another email to be sent to see if any progress has been made on re-opening Frosterley

2. Westgate Play Park – After the Risk Assessment was completed we agreed to have the work done that was advised in the report. We put it on hold due to the lock down but as there is now more movement allowed would it be a good idea to get S Makepeace to start on the required work before the play park restrictions are lifted. S Makepeace to start on the work when he can and to provide two quotes for the fencing
3. Daddry Shield Toilets – The toilets have been open here since April and are cleaned regularly. Additional cleaning will take place.

## **10312**

### **Correspondence Received**

1. An allotment tenant at Ireshopeburn is concerned about a tree from a neighbouring plot that is pushing the fence. He would like to cut a branch off the tree that is over on his plot and resting on the wire fencing. The tenant will cut the branch off
2. The Rural Services Network has recently produced a list of available funding schemes which may be of interest to the local community organisations
3. Household Waste Recycling Centres in County Durham will reopen during May in line with government guidance
4. Durham County Council Stakeholder Bulletin has been sent to all the councillors via email
5. Details have been sent of a temporary speed restriction, convoy vehicle and road closure notice for essential carriageway resurfacing works at Frosterley commencing 14<sup>th</sup> May for a scheduled eleven-day period
6. Members of the public are being reminded to social distance and follow the latest government guidance when visiting County Durham's parks, beaches and open spaces
7. County Durham's community centres and village halls are being given a helping hand to survive the coronavirus pandemic
8. Durham Community News has sent an update which has been sent to the councillors
9. CDALC held a zoom meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020 which Cllr Ellwood attended
10. An email has been received regarding an allotment the other side of the railway line. A councillor went down to make sure it didn't belong to the Parish Council and it has been established that it is privately owned.
11. Cllr Miss Graham reported to the clerk that a skip has appeared on the Riverside Walk. D Hunt has been contacted and no permission has been granted for the skip to be there and has been removed
12. Cllr Miss Graham asked if there had been anymore fly-tipping and concerns were raised that Frosterley recycling is not opening. D Hunt was contacted and since the last fly-tipping up at Shaftwell there has been no-more. The clerk will send an email requesting the Frosterley recycling to reopen. Cllr Miss Graham would like to know under the Freedom of Information Act how much fly-tipping has been removed in Stanhope Parish and how many prosecutions there has been in the last five years. A reply has been received that Neighbourhood Warden Investigations there were eleven and Clean & Green Reports there were twenty seven and over the five years there has been no prosecutions. Cllr Ellwood would like to know why there has been no prosecutions. Cllr Mrs Maddison sent an email about fly-tipping at Wolsingham which her family reported as the rubbish had names and addresses of a company in Newcastle who's rubbish it was. Also details of an employees address who lived south of Wolsingham. D Hunt kindly removed it and reported it to the environment

department in DCC. Cllr Mrs Maddison would like to know if there is any chance we can find out if a prosecution has taken place. She also commented how great Darren has been in these unprecedented times.

13. Almost £8.5 million has been allocated to repair roads and prevent potholes forming in County Durham. Durham County Council has been awarded the money from the Department for Transport's Pothole and Challenge Bid Funds.
14. Cllr Blackett reported to the clerk two nasty pot holes past Hawkwellhead both opposite each other. Clerk contacted the Highways Inspector which he had already raised a works order for.
15. Community venues across County Durham are being encouraged to apply for financial support to help them through the coronavirus pandemic
16. CDALC recommends that until such time as face to face meetings can be held ALL parish councils should give serious consideration to holding remote meetings. Cllr Ellwood would like to propose this is adopted at the next meeting in July, if enough councillors are in agreement.
17. Cllr Miss Carrick asked the clerk to contact DCC to see if there was any chance of getting the Dales Centre Toilets opened as visitors are asking for toilets. Under the Stone Bridge in Stanhope is being used as a toilet which is a Health concern. The toilets at the Dales Centre do not meet social distancing measures and remain closed.
18. We have had many complaints regarding the rubbish that has been left in the Market Place, Stanhope, the Riverside Walk and the riverbank and also at Bollihope. The bins were overflowing with fish and chip papers and all sorts of rubbish at the other sites. At Slitt Wood there was also a problem with comments on social media concerning the rubbish. An email has been sent off to DCC as to why the bins were not emptied and could additional bins be requested. The email was sent to Oliver Sherratt and Jimmy Bennett. Some bins have been placed at Bollihope on the roadside. Cllr Thompson sent an email off to Terry Collins. Mr Collins sent the email to Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change for him to respond. The Neighbourhood Warden has also been contacted and will look at the areas in due course. Cllr Miss Graham sent a small report as she had been monitoring the rubbish over the weekend. There had been a great improvement to the previous week and a thank you email was sent to D Hunt and his team of lads who have worked extremely hard. Cllr Thompson would like to thank the lads at ground level who empty the bins and pick up all manner of disgusting litter. No army can function without its foot soldiers and they done a great job.
19. A resident reported that the phone box in Stanhope needs a good clean. A request has been sent to BT to have it cleaned. The phone box will be cleaned inside and out
20. An update has been sent to all the councillors regarding the County Durham Plan consultation. Parish and Town Councils can make any representations between 26<sup>th</sup> May to 21<sup>st</sup> July
21. The owner of the Dene is going to have the climbing bolts removed so that no-one can climb there again.
22. DCC has provided information to schools on plans for phased reopening advising 15<sup>th</sup> June is a more realistic timeline for all schools to work towards
23. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like some bushes reducing in size in front of 27,29 and 31 Front Street, Ireshopeburn
24. A landowner at Frosterley has been in contact for the Frosterley Councillors details as some work has been carried out on some land he owns without permission

25. An allotment tenant number 4 on the Crosshill site would like permission to keep four hens.  
Permission granted for 4 hens
26. Outdoor markets in County Durham will reopen the first week of June
27. The roadside verges are due to start being cut in Weardale the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020
28. S Reed has sent a planning update and councils can still call applications to committee. The planning committee meeting will be ran through Microsoft Teams software and will be streamed live through YouTube. Local Councils will be able to speak giving 2 days to register instead of the present 24 hours. Email was sent to all the councillors
29. An open letter to all councillors from the chair of NALC has been sent to all councillors via email
30. S Ragg has sent details of Online County Training Partnership Courses – expression of interest. Cllr Mrs Hawkes is interested in the Councillors Foundation training session, names before 14<sup>th</sup> June

### **10313**

#### **Planning Matters**

##### **DM/20/01115/FPA**

Partial demolition of existing building and conversion  
Of remainder to 1 no holiday cottage  
Low Greenhead Farm  
Stanhope  
Mrs A Young

##### **DM/20/01133/VOC**

Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to permission DM/15/02344/FPA  
For design alteration  
4 Huntshieldsford  
St Johns Chapel  
Colling and Laver

##### **DM/20/00990/FPA**

Proposed extension and improve highway access  
Riggside  
St Johns Chapel  
L Moore

##### **DM/20/0129/TPO**

Remove leaning limb overhanging campsite to T11 Ash Tree, Crown clean and remove deadwood to T21 Sycamore Tree, trim to tidy H1 Leylandii beech tree, remove broken limb from crown to T30 Ash Tree, crown reduce and reshape up to 4m to T34 to T43 birch trees  
Westgate Camping Site  
Westgate  
Westgate Caravan and Camping Park

##### **Cragside Caravan Park**

###### **Eastgate**

The owner of the Caravan Park at Cragside has been seen putting a road down and taking trees out. The planning officer has been contacted. The enforcement officer has visited the site and the work is

connected with the hydro so that the turbine can be cleaned. No further works are to take place until it has been decided if the work is relevant and appropriate for the site.

Cllr Thompson has received word that the retrospective application for two hot tubs and associated buildings at Burnside, Rookhope as been approved after over one year of deliberation.

There are no words which he can put into print to express his dismay, disgust and utter contempt for the manner in which this matter has been handled. Buildings have been erected without any thought for planning permission, two (not just one) hot tubs have been installed without any consideration for local residents feelings, There have been a multitude of objections. There have been delaying tactics by the applicant (waiting for information), and a time span of over twelve months just beggars belief.

As the Councillor for Rookhope he will make contact with the residents over the next twenty four hours to apologise and indeed commiserate with them on our, and his own. abject failure to prosecute this matter to the end. Every planning application we object to must go to committee, where we can go and argue the case. With no exception.

#### **10314**

##### **Parish Council Website**

Nothing to report

#### **10315**

##### **Finance**

1. All Saints Church Eastgate PPC would like to apply for the Annual Churchyard Maintenance Grant of £300. Agreed
2. S Makepeace has sent a quote for a metal Broxap Garthdee Picnic Bench £599 delivery not included. Cost to fit with a flag base and fix seat down will be £280. Alternatively, the recycled plastic picnic benches are £399 plus delivery and the same costs to install. Most of the councillors thought the recycled plastic bench would be suitable
3. St Johns Chapel PCC would like to apply for the Annual Churchyard Maintenance Grant of £300 Agreed
4. The Barrington Hall would like to apply for the £500 Village Hall Grant money. Agreed
5. Citizens Advice County Durham would like Stanhope Parish Council to donate to support the work. A donation of £500 to be sent
6. Cowshill Village Hall would like to apply for the £500 Village Hall Grant Money. Agreed
7. St Thomas Heatherycleugh would like to apply for the Annual Churchyard Maintenance Grant of £300. Agreed
8. Wearhead Village Hall would like to apply for the £500 grant money. Agreed
9. St Andrews Church, Westgate would like to apply for the Annual Churchyard Maintenance Grant of £300. Agreed
10. Figures for the audit were sent to all the councillors. The paperwork has been sent to the Chairman for his signature and will be returned to the accountant

#### **10316**

##### **AAP Report**

Not applicable

#### **10317**

##### **CDALC Report**

Cllr Ellwood took part in the CDALC Executive ZOOM Meeting over a 3-hour period which mainly discussed protocol, standards in public service and DCC apparent negligence in the high number of covid19. deaths in care homes as documented in a recent BBC exposure.

Another subject that came up, was attendance at the small councils' meetings within the county. It was suggested this may be a good time for those parish councils that do not have representation on a regular basis or in fact never attend, could become involved in a virtual zoom meeting. The next meeting is to be in the afternoon July 23rd.

Can I ask if we could have a council member on this zoom meeting, if nothing else, to gain an understanding and insight into how other small councils work.

Also, the Question of internet banking was broached using BACS payments which could free up the need for two signatures on all cheques, Steve Ragg was going to look at the implications, protocol and procedures required for this to be implemented securely.

### **10318**

#### **Accounts for Payment**

S ANDERSON SALARY	£728.89
HM REV	£23.01
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00
S ANDERSON EXPENSES INK CATRIDGE	£54.99
ALL SAINTS CHURCH EASTGATE	£300.00
ST JOHNS CHAPEL PCC	£300.00
BARRINGTON HALL	£500.00
COWSHILL VILLAGE HALL	£500.00
ST THOMAS HEATHERYCLEUGH	£300.00
WEARHEAD VILLAGE HALL	£500.00
ST ANDREWS CHURCH, WESTGATE	£300.00
TOTAL	£3541.89

### **10319**

#### **New matters for discussion**

1. Cllr Mrs Thompson has concerns about the parking at Ireshopeburn Allotments. When there are too many cars parked there at once it is a narrow road which is used by heavy vehicles and the parked cars are making things difficult.
2. Cllr Brewin would like to thank the highways department workers who have done an excellent job on the roadworks in Frosterley. It has been noticed that caravanners at the site

opposite the Blackbull have started to return to the site. Is this still against government advice.

3. Cllr Mrs Humble commented that the Cowshill Notice Board has been erected and looks good
4. Cllr Blackett mentioned that the two potholes at Hawkwellhead have been filled in and re-surfaced. Potholes at the foot of Burnhope Access road have been filled in but it looks very unsightly a proper re-surfacing job on the short stretch of road 25m would have been better. The Notice Board at Cowshill looks very good
5. Cllr Miss Graham mentioned that there are potholes again outside the Methodist Chapel, Stanhope.
6. Cllr Miss Graham has spoken with the police with regards to camping and human waste around the riverside at Stanhope – very little we can do as government guidelines state people can visit. There are no resources anywhere to monitor people doing what they are doing with leaving rubbish and waste behind.
7. Can we ask about the Neighbourhood wardens presence again around the Dale in their vans.
8. The flower tubs need attention in the Market Place, Stanhope
9. For information only there has been 4 accidents over the weekend involving motorcycles in Teesdale and Weardale
10. Some signage is needed on the open fells around Stanhope regarding the lambs and ewes about and to slow down. There have been a few incidents where they have been knocked over and killed they don't stand a chance

**10320**

**Clerks business**

Cllr Miss Graham will inspect the allotments to make sure all are being cultivated

.....signed.....date