

**STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL APRIL 1<sup>ST</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, Cllrs Mrs S Thompson, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes, Cllr Miss F Graham,

Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff

S Anderson Clerk

**10208**

**Apologies for Absence**

Not applicable

**10209**

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

None received

**10210**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

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

**10211**

**Police and the Community**

Not applicable

**10212**

**Chloe Hillam – Neighbourhood Plan**

Chloe Hillam cancelled her attendance but will attend when our meetings recommence again. She sent some information that was sent to all the councillors. Cllr Mrs Hawkes is interested in a Neighbourhood Plan and would chair any meetings

What a neighbourhood plan can do:

- Guide the location, scale and type of new development through land allocations (i.e.. Identify sites for housing/retail etc.)
- Influence the 'look' (design) of new development
- Seek to bring vacant or derelict land back into use

- Protect and/or propose community facilities
- Protect important local green spaces
- Identify important local buildings and heritage assets
- Promote small scale renewable energy projects, for example identify sites for environmental improvements e.g. solar farm etc
- Supplement Local Plan policies with further locally specific detail
- Protect old buildings

What a neighbourhood plan can't do:

- It can't be used to block development *per se*
- It can't influence nationally significant infrastructure projects or minerals planning
- It needs to be in general conformity with local and national planning policies and other planning law – we can advise on this
- It must focus on planning matters; and
- It must not merely repeat existing local or national policy for the area.

Is Neighbourhood Planning right for you:

- **Firstly** : Establish the 'local issues' and area of focus, decide if they can be tackled through the planning process
- **Secondly**: Consider whether 'local policy'/ National Planning Policy Framework address these issues or whether there are relevant gaps.
- **Thirdly**: Consider if any gaps identified could be met by a Village Design Statement or Parish Plan.

## 10213

### Matters Arising

1. **BURTREEFORD CEMETERY, COWSHILL** - Bereavement Services have been contacted about the cutting back of the hedge in the cemetery.
2. **STANHOPE SCHOOL TREES** – The school are now aware that the trees on Cowgarth Hill have not been cut back. This will be arranged to do as soon as possible
3. **PARKING IN WESTGATE** – The Police have been up to Westgate and there were no issues with the parking. Parking is the responsibility of the Neighbourhood Wardens so our concerns have been passed onto them. The locations will be monitored and if there are any obstructions at the time then appropriate action can be taken. DCC have also been written too. The reply from DCC stated that if there are no waiting restrictions on the road, they have no powers to take action and the matter referred to the Police **Resolved**: Cllr Craig would like a NO PARKING sign, one visit is not enough. Clerk to contact DCC
4. **FOOTPATH 34 BEHIND CHURCH** - The footpath officer has inspected the path and noted some cracks and can be patched up. These have been referred through to the contractor and will hopefully be repaired next month.
5. **NO STOPPING SIGN AT WEARHEAD** – This has been reported and acknowledged
6. **BLOCKED DRAINS AT WEARHEAD AND STANHOPE** – These have been passed onto the gully maintenance team
7. **POT HOLES AT BONDISLE AND WEST TERRACE, STANHOPE** – These will be repaired

8. **FOOTPATH BELOW ROYAL OAK COTTAGES** – This has been added to the ongoing work programme
9. **ROTTEN PLANK ON FOOTBRIDGE AT BURNHOPE RESERVOIR** – The footbridge is not on a public right of way and comes under the responsibility of Northumbrian Water. A letter has been sent to NW to report the bridge
10. **PARKING SIGN AT KIRK RISE, FROSTERLEY** – The site has been visited regarding the no parking sign attached to the access gate of a small field. This has been checked out with other colleagues and it isn't something that they can enforce. If we have any further queries then we need contact the planning department
11. **MANHOLE COVER, STANHOPE** – This has been resolved and closed
12. **STUDENT SUPPORT FUND, WOLSINGHAM** - Cllr Mrs Savory has sent a lovely thank you card to the councillors for their kind donation
13. **WESTGATE PLAY PARK RISK ASSESMENT** – All councillors have been sent the risk assessment. The corrective actions required can be phased in over a reasonable time frame, with the most costly , the fencing around the play equipment, and the filling in of gaps and ground levelling along the matting edging, bringing the most benefits to risk reduction.  
**Resolved:** Councillors agreed to have the work done that was itemised in the Risk Assessment. The clerk and the chairman have decided to wait until the lockdown measures have been relaxed before the work commences. The work will be done before the Play Park is opened again. A quote is needed for two types of fencing around the play equipment
14. **FROSTERLEY PLAY PARK** – The play equipment hasn't been repaired yet **Resolved:** Clerk to chase up

## 10214

### Correspondence Received

1. Cllr Mrs Thompson contacted the clerk to report that the fence was down in the Crosshill Nursing Home car park. The fence borders the cemetery in Stanhope this has been reported to DCC
2. A report has been received that part of the wall above the gate at Ireshopeburn allotments has fallen down. Cllr Craig authorised the clerk to contact S Makepeace to have the wall repaired
3. The Weardale Practice has sent an email that in light of the escalating pandemic and increasing staff absences (due to self-isolation following latest guidance) they have taken steps to secure the service that they offer. The majority of appointments have been converted to telephone consultations, for patient safety only bringing patients into the practice where it is necessary to do so. The branch surgeries at Wolsingham and St Johns Chapel have been temporarily closed to ensure there are staff at the main site. Cllr Craig would like it noting that both surgeries must re-open when they are allowed too.
4. CDALC have kept us up to date with the Coronavirus. One important email is that the Council should consider delegating decision making to the clerk to ensure that the Council can keep ticking over , even if meetings cannot be held. If wished, councils can agree that the officer will consult with chairman and/or vice-chairman in the decision making but councils must acknowledge that it is the officer that is the decision maker. This is because a councillor cannot make a unilateral decision for the council, but the clerk can – if granted delegated responsibility by the council. **Resolved:** It was proposed by Cllr Ellwood that the council empowers the clerk/RFO to do anything expedient and necessary to ensure the continuous business of the council, and to deal with mandatory undertakings in order to prevent the authority from incurring liability during the period that the delegation is applicable. Councillors agreed to this via email and records will be kept of the agreement

5. There is currently three DCC consultations going on at the minute. Advocacy service for young people ending 24<sup>th</sup> March, Road Safety strategy ending 29<sup>th</sup> March and Licensing of privately rented homes in some areas ending 24<sup>th</sup> May
6. An enquiry has come in via the website concerning the influx of people holidaying at this time of isolation. Spreading the coronavirus and emptying the shelves of the local shops that are vital for the residents of Stanhope. All caravan sites are now closed
7. Cllr Wearmouth contacted the clerk to report a missing Give Way sign at the Rookhope junction to the A689. This has been reported to the Traffic Section
8. Cllr Brewin contacted the clerk to report that the big gates are off at the pedestrian entrance to the park in Frosterley. D Hunt to inspect it
9. Email no 7 from CDALC has arrived that we can no longer hold a meeting so we can make decisions by email where councillors have voted can be evidenced. The Annual Council meeting is also cancelled so the chairman will stay in post until they resign or a meeting can be held. Play Areas are closed and DCC have closed the ones we are responsible for with gate ties and notices have been put up. There are conflicting views on allotments so have been advised to watch the Allotment Society Website for any decisions. Cheques can be signed in adhering to government guidelines on social distancing. All correspondence will be sent by email to all the councillors and replies will be kept.
10. Cllr Ellwood spoke to a second home owner on Crawleyside that as it was not essential travel should they be there.
11. A resident has reported campervans and tents at Bollihope Burn, Frosterley to the police. She wondered if some deterrent signage could be put up. This email was forwarded onto DCC and Cllr Shuttleworth has also requested some signage
12. The new gate into Stanhope Dene has been damaged and the post is now leaning. The damage has been done by a large vehicle which they have damaged as there is broken glass on the road. The owner of the Dene has been informed and he has reported it to the Police. Any information would be appreciated
13. A helpline, webpage and support network have been set up to help people in County Durham who are struggling during the Coronavirus pandemic
14. Park and ride services in Durham City are to close temporarily as the nation responds to the Governments plea to stay at home
15. NALC have had a call with the health and wellbeing team at the LGA last week and a link has been sent to local councils which may be of interest in terms of local councils attending workshops or possibly jointly collaboration with principal authorities in some health initiatives, prevention matters
16. The County All Party Parliamentary Group and the County Councils Network are undertaking an independent inquiry into the decline of rural bus services in county and rural areas. The email was sent to all the councillors for any comments
17. The SAAA has produced two leaflets recently concerning the Public Rights and AGAR completion.
18. CDALC email number 9 has been sent to all the councillors
19. Dales Centre is closed until further notice
20. DCC announces 1.4 million funding pot for hard working community groups. Community and voluntary groups can now access an additional £1.4 million of funding to help provide much-needed support during the Coronavirus pandemic. DCC is giving each of its 14 area action partnerships an extra £100,000 to allocate to groups who are working hard to provide support at a grass roots level across the county.

## 10215

### Planning Matters

DM/20/00471/FPA

Erection of general purpose Agricultural Building

High House Farm

Huntshildford

St Johns Chapel

R Raine

DM/20/00646/FPA

Single storey extension

3 Allerton Court

Stanhope

T Craig

DM/20/00545/FPA

Proposed garage including erection of vehicular access

59 Hood Street

St Johns Chapel

Mr D Marsh

DM/20/00764/FPA

Provision of general purpose agricultural building

Land to the North of West of

Railway Terrace

Stanhope

Mrs D Foster

## 10216

### Parish Council Website

Nothing to report

## 10217

### Finance

1. The Trustees of the Museum at High House Chapel would like to know if Stanhope Parish Council might consider supporting their development project leading to the saving and expanding of the rural Museum which had been located in the Manse adjoining the grade 2 listed High House Methodist Chapel, Ireshopeburn. The Museum are now in the final phase of purchasing the property and are embarking on raising funds for essential restoration, adaptations, the expansion of the present museum into the Chapel and the creation of The Weardale Heritage Centre. The email was sent to all councillors . Subject to relevant Planning and Highways approval, agreement had been reached whereby some land at the Adventure Centre would be used as a mutually beneficial car park for both the centre and the museum. Recently notice has been received to put on hold any further progress relating to the car park arrangement. The core priority of the project is to restore High House Chapel as part of the Cultural Built Heritage of Weardale. **Resolved:** The budget for 2020-21 has been set and there is no provision for any donation. Clerk to write to the Trustees explaining this and to invite them to send an update for September 2020 meeting. Councillors can then

assess their funding requirements, and make as appropriate a provision in the 2021/22 budget. After things get going again some of the clubs and societies may need some support

2. MAZARS have postponed sending the AGAR 2019/2020 for up to three weeks. After the completion of the accounts and AGAR at the close of financial year 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, they must be certified by the responsible financial officer (Clerk), considered and approved by full council by no later than 29<sup>th</sup> June, published before 1<sup>st</sup> July to comply with the public rights period ( which must include the first 10 working days of July), with any external auditor report and certificate published by 30<sup>th</sup> September. This timeframe is statutory and can only be altered by Government.
3. DCC has sent a Small Business and the retail, hospitality & Leisure Grant Fund application form to fill in. This has been sent off

#### **10218**

##### **AAP Report**

Nothing to report as no meeting was held

#### **10219**

##### **CDALC Report**

Nothing to report as no meeting was held

#### **10220**

##### **Accounts for Payment**

George F White Allotments at Ireshopeburn	£20.00
DCC Rates for the Old Cemetery, Stanhope	£169.79
DCC – Rookhope Play Park	£7500.00
JRB Enterprise Ltd	£537.60
CASA Safety Training Services Ltd Risk Assessment Westgate	£90.00
DCC hire of meeting room	£60.00
S Anderson Salary	£729.09
HM Rev	£22.81
S Anderson Expenses	£32.83
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£9197.12</b>

#### **RECEIPTS**

ALLOTMENT RENT	£1909.00
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**10221**

**New matters for discussion**

- 1. Cllr Mrs Humble would like to report a water trough to the west of Ridgmont in Cowshill (on the low road) requires cleaning out as it is overflowing **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
- 2. It is a good opportunity for a A689 roadside litter pick from Frosterley to Killhope Top **Resolved:** Clerk to ask D Hunt

**10222**

**Clerks Business**

At the recent rent collection a few matters were mentioned: -

Two women tenants from Crosshill were hoping that the councillors would bring forward the time for lighting a bonfire. At the moment it is 7pm and they mentioned that it is late by the time the fire is lit and then put out. **Resolved:** The rules are to remain the same clerk to contact them

A tenant at Ireshopeburn reported that there are moles in the allotments and that he would like permission to set a barrel trap. He said that it might have to be set on the outside wall of the allotments. **Resolved:** This was agreed

There has been a complaint about the number of hens on a plot at the Old Hall Site, Stanhope. Apparently, the tenant is selling eggs which isn't allowed. Dog bags have been thrown onto a bonfire heap but not burnt and there is rubbish and some dead hens behind the sheds. Cllr Ellwood has visited the site along with the other allotment sites **Resolved:** The tenant has been spoken to and the plots will be tidied up

Next meeting will be cancelled on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020 but councillors will be sent all information again via email

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