

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting via ZOOM of the Council held on 3rd February 2021

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Mrs A Humble, Cllr D Ellwood, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr B Thompson,

Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr Miss F Graham, Cllr Mrs H Maddison, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes, Cllr Mrs S Thompson

Cllr D Craig – Chairman

Susan Anderson – Clerk

Also Present: Insp Ed Turner

10405

Apologies for Absence

Cllr W Wearmouth, Cllr M Brewin

10406

To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received.

10407

Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd December 2020

Minutes were moved as a true and correct record and will be signed by the chairman when a face-to-face meeting can be held.

10408

Police and the Community

Insp Ed Turner attended the Parish Council meeting via zoom.

Policing covid has had an impact on crime reduction of all crime types in Weardale and Teasdale. The Rural Watch Group are the eyes and ears of the dale. Cllr Ellwood mentioned that the traffic leaving Bondisle at 4 o'clock is speeding and overtaking carelessly on the bad bends heading down to Frosterley. Insp Turner commented that he would send a police officer down to the company. Cllr Miss Graham asked if the people received any fines that were out at the top of Crawleyside when the first snow came. The log would have to be checked but it is a judgement call. The Health Secretary has made it clear to encourage more enforcement for people travelling out of the area. Registration numbers could be taken and rang into the police. The councillors pointed out the large road closed sign has not been used this year. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff is concerned about the number of off-road vehicles that travel up the road on a Sunday. If they are using green lanes then they aren't doing anything illegal. Cllr Mrs Humble said the route was probably travelling from Teasdale down to Burnhope Reservoir, St Johns Chapel, Sidehead into Middlehope then Slaley Forest. On one of the roads they had gone into a field to turn and knocked some stones off a wall. They must be breaching covid rules. If the registration numbers can be got then if they are in breach then tickets can be given. Cllr Blackett mentioned the no 30mph signs on the lamp posts but if the lamp posts are 100 yards apart then the road should be a 30mph. This would apply from Westgate to Cowshill. Cllr Mrs Hawkes mentioned Crawleyside where the speed limit goes from 30-40-60-30 and there are also

street lights. Insp Turner will look at this. Cllr Craig mentioned the motorbikes in the summer months, the van could be deployed between the villages.

10409

Rural Community Speed Watch Van

Insp Turner had some good news that all the funding has been secured for the Rural Community Speed Watch Van. Speeding complaints are received regularly and there are three types, real speeding which is over the limit, inappropriate speed and perception of speeding. The new van will be able to be deployed to capture the speed of vehicles and data will be collected. Cllr Mrs Maddison enquired if the police are short staffed how often would the van be deployed. Insp Turner would like to see Community Support where volunteers will be able to take the vehicle out after training and risk assessments are done. It will be several months before we get the van and Insp Turner would like the Parish Council to come and see it.

10410

Matters Arising

1. **CORONATION CROSSING WATER ON THE ROAD** - J Hodges has inspected the area which he has passed onto the drainage team. This could take a while to get the problem resolved.
2. **PENNINE JOURNEY RUNNING EVENTS** – Mr Marchant is pleased that the running events have our support in principle. He will send us the maps of the proposed routes in due course and all being well he is looking at holding an event in late 2021.
3. **STANHOPE BARRINGTON ADMISSIONS POLICY** – A reply has been received from the Acting Head Teacher regarding the changes to the Admissions Policy. This is purely due to the fact that the school has moved to the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust. The pupil admission number has been 24 for the past few years which was approved by the Board of Governors. The email was sent to the councillor.
4. **FOOTPATHS ST JOHN'S CHAPEL** – The footpath officer has inspected the broken step on footpath 12 and he will get a repair in the system for the contractor to carry out. The old railway stile is in an acceptable state, although it could do with one bottom step being fixed in. As its not the property or responsibility of DCC it cannot be removed, it will be up to the land owner. There is a suitable bypass quite close in the field. Footpath 25 is still closed due to other demands on a limited budget. It is on a larger jobs list with possible funding. There are also concerns regarding the ongoing flooding that caused the damage in the first place. This is being monitored to ensure that works done would not wash away and cause issues to the residents by being deposited on their property.
5. **ASHES QUARRY BRIDGES** – The bridges are still closed, but the main issue is that the bridges are privately owned. The estimated costs is quite prohibitive so the landowner has been contacted with a view to putting in a diversion around them.

10411

Correspondence Received

1. An email has been received from Cllr J Shuttleworth regarding a track leading from Hylton Terrace down to the main road. DCC have said that they are not responsible for maintaining the track. To the best of our knowledge SPC did not tarmac the track and put a stone post railing fence up and is not responsible for maintaining the tarmac. From time to time the grass has been strimmed.
2. The planter at Westgate has fallen to pieces and has been removed by DCC. D Hunt will arrange for a new one to be put there.

3. Cllr Thompson sent details to all of the councillors of the WAAP Board meeting held on 17th December 2020.
4. Cllr Miss Graham was sent an email regarding the proposed closure of Wolsingham Sixth Form. The email was sent to all of the councillors for information purposes.
5. Culture Durham are carrying out an audit of plaques, blue or otherwise which commemorate place or people of interest in County Durham. The email was sent to the councillors.
6. We have been sent details of a licensing application in our area. Last date for representations is 2nd February 2021.
7. An email has been received regarding Double Taxation and CDALC would like a decision on or before 31st January 2021. The issue of Double Taxation is a complex one and members should ensure that they are fully acquainted with the issues prior to making a decision. A summary has been sent which has been forwarded to all the councillors.
8. Durham Constabulary hopes to build a single 48-cell custody facility at DurhamGate, near Spennymoor. The new centre will provide a safe and modern custody suite which is urgently needed to replace the four ageing custody suites in use at Durham, Bishop Auckland, Darlington and Peterlee. The email has been sent to all of the councillors.
9. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff reported to the clerk that there was a light out at Island House, East Blackdene. This was reported to DCC and an order sent to have the light repaired as the light is the responsibility of the Parish Council.
10. The water tap at Willard Grove Allotments was leaking and a tenant kindly repaired the washer and has turned the water tap off for the time being.
11. We have received notification of a temporary closure of footpath no10 in Westgate Ward. The closure is necessary to enable footbridge refurbishment works to be undertaken which will probably take some 4 weeks to complete.
12. All CDALC emails have been sent to the councillors along with the DCC updates.
13. We have had a report that there seems to be a few rats about at Bondisle Allotments and that some in general the plots need a tidy up. Cllr Miss Graham and the clerk will inspect the plots.
14. A complaint has been received about the noise from cockerels on the Crosshill Allotment Site. It is starting around 3am and continues for hours. The resident would like to know is there any reason why cockerels are allowed to be kept on the allotments close to residential properties and what our intentions are to deal with this ongoing matter. The councillors commented that these are countryside noises. The addition in the rules that when the cockerels die they should not be replaced but the tenants will not be asked to kill the cockerels. **Resolved:** Clerk to write
15. We have received a temporary road closure on C78 Scutterhill Bank, Westgate. The road closure will be on Monday 15th February 2021 to enable telecom cabling works.
16. The Chairman of Weardale Ski Club has sent an email to seek the views of the councillors with possible improvements to access and safety on the road up to the ski club. The road has extensive ditches which in winter get covered in snow causing problems when cars get stuck in the ditches. Some suggestions are a provision of a grit box, identification of safe passing places along the road and signage to highlight these and improvement to an area 200m before the ski club parking. DCC own the verges but the club would like our support in this initiative. The Ski Club are happy to contribute towards some of the costs of work involved and a site visit could be arranged if the council felt that would be informative. The councillors said that the Ski Club should keep in contact with DCC as it is their verges. Two of the councillors thought that the improvements would be a good idea. **Resolved:** Clerk to write
17. In previous elections nomination papers have come to the clerk but this time if councillors wish they can ask for their own papers. What would our councillors like to do? The

councillors will send for their own forms apart from the chairmans. **Resolved:** The clerk will ask for Cllr Craigs forms.

10412

Planning Matters

DM/20/03536/FPA - DM/20/03537/LB

Erection of temporary events tipi and use of site/land for private events/functions including ancillary storage units, guest parking, signage, lighting and security CCTV (Full plans application)

Stanhope Castle

Stanhope

An objection has been sent with concerns regarding noise, parking, more information on the size and capacity of the tipi's

DM/20/03680/FPA

Retention of turning head and recladding of existing farm building

Sunny Bank Farm

St Johns Chapel

DM/20/03746/FPA

Alteration of windows on the front (northern) elevation

15 Hood Street

St Johns Chapel

DM/20/03819/LB & DM/20/03820/AD

Replacement illuminated and non-illuminated signs

Bonny Moorhen

Stanhope

DM/21/00053/FPA

Prior approval for erection of building for storage of farm equipment and machinery

Pinfold House

Daddy House

DM/20/03626/MIN

Extraction of crystal specimens and ancillary works

Eastgate Quarry

DM/21/00167/LB

Internal alterations (retrospective)

61 Front Street

Frosterley

DM/20/02182/FPA

St Michaels and All Saints Church, Frosterley

Cllr Brewin contacted the clerk as notification had been received about revised plans.

An objection letter was sent as relatives are very upset and concerned that some of the land could be used as a garden and they still visit the graves of their families.

PLANNING APPROVALS

DM/20/02707/FPA

Single storey extension

22 Graham Street

Stanhope

DM/20/03264/VOC

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission DM/20/00879/FPA

To amend design

Land at Crawley Edge

Crawleyside

DM/20/01682/FPA

Single storey rear and side extensions

Old Coach House

Cowshill

DM/20/02412/FPA

Double garage and log store

The Forge

New House

Ireshopeburn

DM/20/03006/FPA

Two storey extension

Laneside Farm

Wearhead

10413

Finance

1. The bank reconciliation figures for the end of December have been sent to all of the councillors which were approved.

10414**AAP Report**

Cllr Thompson will send the information to the councillors when he receives the email. Cllr Ellwood mentioned that the Community Centre had put an application in but then withdrew it. The AAP would help if help is needed.

10415**CDALC**

Nothing to report

10416**Accounts for Payment**

S ANDERSON SALARY FOR DEC	£839.30 REC JAN
HM REV & CUST	£102.84 REC JAN
S ANDERON HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00 REC JAN
TOTAL	£977.14
JRB ENTERPRISE DOG BAGS	£537.60
BT CLERKS PHONE BILL	£87.80
DCC HIGHWAYS WORKER 1/4/20 TO 31/1/21	£15,196.79
E-ON NEXT ASHCROFT PLAY AREA	£28.88 PAID
MAZARS	£360.00
WAVE DADDY SHIELD TOILETS	£34.44
WAVE OLD CEMETERY, STANHOPE	£13.08
S ANDERSON SALARY FOR JAN	£737.63
HM REV	£38.56
S ANDERSON EXPENSES	£85.75
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00
TOTAL	£17,155.53

10417**New Matter for Discussion**

1. Cllr Blackett would like to report some potholes in the road from Tollgate Cottage to Lanehead. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC

2. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff reported the damaged wall at Coronation Crossing which is still damaged. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
3. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like to report a strip of lights out from Whitshill to the Weardale Museum on the main A689. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
4. Cllr Miss Carrick has had a complaint that there is water gathering on the road from Heather view to the Gas Works which is freezing on the road. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
5. Cllr Mrs Humble would like the gully sucker up at Cowshill Bridge, Lanehead Bridge, Burtreeford and Burtreeford Cemetery as the drains are blocked. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
6. Cllr Mrs Maddison has had a report that the down pipe drain by the Village Hall, Frosterley is blocked and needs cleaning out. **Resolved:** Clerk to report it to DCC
7. Cllr Ellwood mentioned that Richard Holden MP is having a good go to keep Wolsingham Sixth Form.
8. Cllr Mrs Hawkes mentioned the NALC email regarding climate change and that the Parish Council should maybe look at how we could contribute. DCC refuse to pick up recycling garden waste up the dale . It was suggested to write to DCC to see if they would re-consider the decision. It was decided to wait until after the elections in May.

10418

Clerks Business

The clerk is attending the election training on 9th Feb via Zoom, Cllr Mrs Hawkes is also attending.

The allotment rents are due the end of February but with restrictions we won't be able to book the church hall. The best payment method will be by cheque.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.30PM

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM ON 3RD MARCH 2021 COMMENCING AT 7PM.

.....SIGNED.....DATE