

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 2nd February ,2022

PRESENT:

Cllr D Craig Chairman

Cllr L Blackett, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr Mrs A Humble, Cllr R Lawrie,
Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr P Turton, Cllr W Wearmouth

Also present:

Laura Dobson – Civil Contingency Unit DCC

Bill Stephenson – Environment Agency

Members of the public

R Mews and R Hodgson – Allotment Tenancy Agreement

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Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mrs A Hawkes

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To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

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Minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2021

Minutes were moved as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman
It is Guy Opperman MP that Cllr Wearmouth is working for and not the AONB

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Police and the Community

No police were in attendance

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Civil Contingencies Unit DCC

Cllr Craig welcomed Laura Dobson and Bill Stephenson to the meeting.

The CCU work on Emergency Plans with communities and B Stephenson from the Environment Agency works on flood resilience. Jointly they work closely with the emergency services. Laura sent a six-step guide and a template for the Emergency Plans. This plan would be different for every village and should identify a place of safety, it should be straight forward and identify vulnerable people. The plan needs to be tested to make sure that it works. Once the plan is activated then the Community Emergency Group can dish out tasks. The CCU are the public face of the plan and will help all of the way in producing the plan. Some of the councillors' concerns were:

- How do you get messages out if there are no phone signals/telephones or access to emails?
- Storm Desmond, Kielder reservoir was at 97% and was reduced to 84% does the same thing happen at Burnope/Tunstall Reservoirs.
- More people are needed to answer the emergency contact number at DCC
- Community Hubs should be identified where a generator should be and a soup kitchen.
- The trees on the river banks need cutting back on the River Wear.

Cllr Craig thanked L Dobson and B Stephenson for attending the meeting.

10568

Matters Arising

1. **DRAIN AT EASTGATE** - This was reported to DCC and it has been added to the ongoing work programme.
2. **DALES CENTRE, STANHOPE** – The booking form for 2022 has been filled in and sent off to the Dales Centre.
3. **THE QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE BEACONS** – Information has been received that the lighting of the beacons is now 9.45pm. We are being encouraged to plant 7 trees after the event at locations of our choice, each tree representing a decade in the Queen's seventy-year reign. Cllr Miss Carrick thought the planting of the trees was a lovely idea.
4. **UPDATE ON WEARDALE MINE WATER TREATMENT PROGRAMME** – An update has been sent on the work that the Coal Authority have been carrying out through the Water from Abandoned Metal Mines programme across Weardale. The email was sent to all of the councillors.
5. **PIPER FOR THE QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE** - Mr John Atkinson has confirmed that he will play at 9.35pm. We are very lucky to have John as he has been approached by other Parish Councils. The charge will be £50. Cllr Craig's granddaughter Georgia Elizabeth Bowman will play the cornet at 9.40pm.
6. **LAYBY AT HILL END, FROSTERLEY** - The layby does not belong to Durham County Council so is privately owned.
7. **ALLOTMENT TRAINING** – The clerk has attended two allotment training presentation courses and the third one is this week. The presentations have been sent to all of the councillors. Parish and Town Councils can become members of the National Allotment Society with a discount for councils who attended the training.
8. **DOG SIGNS AT DADDRY SHIELD BRIDGE** – The dog signs have been removed from Daddry Shield bridge. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to D Hunt
9. **COBBLES AT ST JOHNS CHAPEL** – Cllr Miss Carrick would like to know if the cobbles have been repaired. **Resolved;** Clerk to find out
10. **STONES ON THE ROAD ON SOFTLEY BANK** – A councillor would like to know if the stones on the road had been cleared at the quarry entrance. No reply had been received. **Resolved:** Clerk to find out
11. **TREE SURVEY** – Cllr Craig wondered if DCC had to do a tree survey like the Parish Council had to. No reply had been received **Resolved:** Clerk to chase up

10569

Correspondence Received

1. Mr Will Hopkins from Northern Power grid asked for the Parish Council to put his details in the Village Halls and Notice Board as he was dealing with land restoration and damages following Storm Arwen. A notice was sent via email to all of the councillors.
2. DCC's emails have been sent to all of the councillors.
3. CDALC has sent the following legislation should we ever need to exclude the press and public. This should be built into the agenda before the item that is to become part of the confidential discussion. **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s.1(2).**

A body may, by resolution, exclude the public from a meeting (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings; and where such a resolution is passed, this Act shall not require the meeting to be open to the public during proceedings to which the resolution applies.

4. An email has been received regarding Double Taxation. A presentation by Jeff Garfoot DCC Head of Corporate Finance and Commercial Services is to be arranged in February.
5. Northernpowergrid asked for our Unmetered Inventory Update which has not changed so we confirmed this by email. Due to industry changes the switch regime no longer exists and its replacement is no longer valid with the control code we are using. To process the inventory Npower need to adjust the switch regime and control code to a valid combination while trying to keep the wattage as close to the original value. The replacement switch regime to the one we are using is 200. The current control code is 9400010000100 with a wattage of 1. The proposed control code is 9100010002100 with a wattage of 0.39 which is slightly lower. We had to confirm if it was ok to proceed so the email was sent to all of the councillors. An email has been sent to Northernpower that they can proceed after contacting the chairman. The certificate has been received and the connection agreement also.
6. An email has been received from Frosterley School regarding a consultation document about the proposed federation of Frosterley, Butterknowle and Woodland Primary Schools. The consultation ends on Friday 18th February 2022. **Resolved:** Clerk to write thanking the school for including us in the consultation
7. A request has been received for a dog waste bin along the back road from Frosterley to Stanhope. At School Close, St Johns Chapel there are major dog fouling issues in this area so a bin has now been provided.
8. There are a block of six lights off from Stanhopeburn Caravan Park down to the school. This has been reported
9. On Saturday 23rd July 2022 Alzheimer's Society Trek26 are planning a 26 mile or 13 mile walk starting at Stanhope Showground. This has now been cancelled.
10. Cllrs from Pelton Division, DCC are currently looking as options with regards to a community asset within their ward. They thought it would be helpful to seek information about how

different Town and Parish Councils across the County support Community facilities/buildings within their respective areas.

11. All councillors have been sent the Weardale Museum Newsletter.
12. Cllr Mrs Humble would like to attend the courses on Village Greens, Common Land and Rights of Way.
13. Cllr Miss Carrick had a resident report a problem with two pieces of equipment in the Riverside Play Park, Stanhope. This was reported and DCC are aware of the issues. Also the resident reported that damage was being done to the Stone Bridge, Stanhope by the 44 tonne Artic wagons that were travelling over the bridge from Newlandside Quarry. This was reported to DCC. The bridge has been inspected and no intervention is justified at this time. There is minor damage to the downstream boundary wall and repairs have been ordered but this is a long-standing minor issue and not attributed to large vehicles. The bridge will be monitored.
14. Proposed plans have been sent for a telecommunications radio base station for the Shared Rural Network project on behalf of Three at Rookhope.
15. Cllr Wearmouth is trying to put something together for Eastgate regarding speeding. He sent some information from the House of Commons library in setting out or linking to relevant policy and guidance.

10570

Allotment Tenancy Agreement

R Mews attended the meeting to voice his concerns on a few points. The first was the size of the polytunnels and the greenhouses which were a bit small. The greenhouse would be better at 8ft x 10ft and the width of polytunnel needs to be larger. The rent is too much of an increase from £18 to £25 in one go and would be better going up every year. He felt that the number of hens was too low at six and not worth the tenants keeping them. He felt that between 12/15 hens would be acceptable. Cllr Mrs Humble commented on the different rents that were charged from £65, £35, £48 and that putting the rent up by £7 was not unreasonable.

R Hodgson attended the meeting to voice his concerns on a few points. He also disagreed with the rent increase. He mentioned new plots that were taken on that these need to be monitored on a month, three month and six-month basis. Cllr M Brewin agreed that this was a good idea and that he would be willing to give advice to anybody. A discussion took place on the giving away of eggs to extended family and immediate family and that R Hodgson agreed twelve to fifteen hens would be acceptable. Mr Hodgson asked that he would get a reply to his letter. Cllr Craig agreed that he would get a reply. One of the problems is that there is no communication between the councillors and the allotment tenants. It was mentioned that a representative from each of the allotment sites would be ideal where the tenants could voice their concerns to them and then the representative could bring the concerns to the Parish Council. R Hodgson mentioned that he keeps show birds and that you need cockerels. Cllr Brewin commented that the whole purpose of an allotment is to provide food and that you cannot justify cockerels. **Resolved:**

Cllr Shuttleworth proposed that the allotment rent be increased to £20, tenants allowed 15 hens and cockerels to be allowed, Cllr Craig seconded it. A vote took place and the majority were in favour of the proposal. The changes will be made to the Allotment Tenancy Agreement.

10571

County Councillor Update

Nothing to report. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff asked about Storm Arwen and why the County Council didn't put things into place sooner. Cllr Shuttleworth mentioned that had Northern Power Grid declared a major incident on Saturday instead of Wednesday then things would have happened sooner.

10572

Planning Matters

DM/21/04014/FPA

Erection of 3no caravan pitches
Betsdale Caravan Park
Frosterley

DM/21/04028/FPA

Erection of single storey sunroom extension
Greenhead Cottage
Stanhope

DM/21/03762/FPA

Erection of two single storey 2-bedroom semi-detached dwellings
School House
Crawleyside

DM/21/03982/FPA

Demolition of existing building and erection of a new portal framed steel building for
Agricultural purposes
Land to the south of
Rimney Law Farm
Rookhope

DM/21/04195/FPA & DM/21/04196/LB

Change of use from commercial to residential use with demolition of existing rear structures
And new two storey extension
Market Cottage
6 Market Place
Stanhope

DM/22/00036/TPO

Felling of T1 Beech & T2 Ash
Land to East of
5 Weardale House
Stanhope

DM/22/00081/TPO

T3 Sycamore crown thinned by 20%
T2 Ash pollard by 50%
Land north of 19 Kirk Rise
Frosterley

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

DM/21/03512/VOC

Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission
DM/20/03380/VOC to add double garages with solar panels to both plots

Land between 61&67
Hood Street
St Johns Chapel

DM/21/03344/FPA
Replace timber windows and doors with upvc equivalent
16 Kirk Rise
Frosterley

DM/21/03493/VOC
Variation of condition 2 of planning permission DM/20/00175/FPA
To revise site layout and reduce number of workshops to 6no
Site of former builder's yard
South of Shittlehopeburn Farm

DM/21/03525/FPA
New access to serve proposed work shops
South of Shittlehopeburn Farm

DM/21/03532/FPA
Retrospective change of use from residential (C3) to (F1)
Old Rectory
Stanhope
St Thomas Church PCC

DM/21/03596/VOC
Variation of condition (approved plans) and removal of condition 9
(Boundary fence) attached to ref DM/21/02242/FPA
Castle Lodge
Stanhope

DM/21/03597/VOC
Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to DM/21/02243/LB
Castle Lodge
Stanhope

DM/21/03704/LB
Replacement of external doors and reintroduction of fan light
Greenlaws
Lanehead

DM/21/03924/LB
New entrance steps and path
The Cottage
Swinhopeburn

DM/21/03609/FPA
Two storey extension to southern elevation. Single storey extension to western elevation
Spring House
East Lane

Stanhope

DM/21/03714/FPA

Single storey rear extension and porch to front

Hood Street

St Johns Chapel

DM/21/03872/FPA

Two storey side extension

High Hotts

Ireshopeburn

10573

Finance

1. An email has been received regarding the surface of Ashcroft Play Park. The surface is covered with a lot of loose gravel which can sometimes act as marbles underfoot. A few residents would like to assist with some of the work or fund it/part fund it through sponsored events. At the moment the area is not being used to its full potential. The email was sent to all of the councillors. Angelina Maddison would like to discuss funding options and a site meeting at the playpark. **Resolved:** A site meeting to be arranged with J English, J Emerson, Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr R Lawrie and Angelina Maddison to see what options are available.
2. It was agreed last year to have some of the childrens play equipment replaced and S Makepeace to replace it. The trampoline has a temporary repair on it and the rope swing is tatty. We allowed £5000 at Ashcroft for that repair work. Simon has been busy and was having difficulty in finding the correct part for the swing. He has now priced the gondalar swing seat at £671.82 plus vat and the trampoline at £2677 plus vat. Following the inspection of the play parks in general the areas are in good condition as long as the work is carried out that is mentioned in the report. **Resolved:** The prices for the play equipment were agreed by all of the councillors.
3. Play Park report sent to the councillors. **Resolved:** It was agreed for S Makepeace to do the work mentioned in the report.
4. Bank reconciliation figures for 31st Dec 2021 were emailed to the councillors. **Resolved:** Figures were agreed

10574

AAP Report

Cllr Mrs Humble mentioned the Tri-responder that has access to all three services first aid, PCSO and Fire service

10575

Accounts for Payment

JANUARY 2022

E-ON ASHCROFT PLAYGROUND - PAID

£12.62

S ANDERSON SALARY	- PAID	£791.66
HM REV & CUSTOMS	PAID	£7.54
S ANDERON HOME AS OFFICE	PAID	£35.00
TOTAL		£846.82

ACCOUNTS FOR RECEIPTS

ZURICH MUNICIPAL		£895.00
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FEBRUARY 2022

DCC HIRE OF MEETING ROOM FOR DEC		£45.00
JRB ENTERPRISE LTD DOG BAGS		£537.60
E.ON NEXT ASHCROFT PLAY GROUND PAID 18 TH JAN 2022		£89.38
BT CLERKS PHONE BILL PAID 24 TH JAN 2022		£77.66
WAVE PUBLIC CONV TOILETS DADDRY SHIELD		£43.60
WAVE OLD CEMETERY STANHOPE		£14.37
WAVE ALLOTMENTS WILLARD GROVE		£21.24
S ANDERSON SALARY		£791.66
HM REV & CUST		£7.54
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE		£35.00
S ANDERSON EXPENSES		£29.15
TOTAL		£1692.20

10576

New Matters for Discussion

1. Cllr Wearmouth mentioned the retaining wall on the topside of the road by the cement works needs repairing still. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC again
2. Cllr Brewin mentioned that Frosterley would like to hold a Street Party for the jubilee in the park. It is DCC that should be contacted.
3. Concerns were raised about a resident in Frosterley who is letting his four large dogs run off the lead and residents are feeling intimidated by them also the dog fouling is a problem too. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the neighbourhood warden.

4. Cllr Turton would like to report a lot of dog fouling near to Crosshill flats. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to the neighbourhood warden.
5. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like to report a broken footpath notice on footpath 70 near to Low Rigg at St Johns Chapel. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
6. There is a broken flag stone on the footpath outside of the Co-op at St John's Chapel. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
7. There are loose stones on the play park wall at St John's Chapel and there is no latch on the gate. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
8. During the recent gales there were many branches came off the tall trees at Ireshopeburn. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like these trees inspecting. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
9. The road leading down to West Blackdene there is a pot hole that needs repairing. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC

10577

Clerks Business

Clerk let the councillors know that she is doing Community Speed Watch in Stanhope

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at the Dales Centre, Stanhope commencing at 7pm

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