

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT:

Cllr D Craig Chairman

Cllr L Blackett, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes, Cllr Mrs A Humble, Cllr R Lawrie,

Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr P Turton

S Anderson Clerk

Also present:

Angelina Maddison – WAAP

Residents of Crawleyside – Planning Application DM/21/04016/FPA

10578

Apologies for Absence

Cllr W Wearmouth

10579

To receive any declarations of Interest from Members

None received

10580

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2022

Minutes were moved as a true and correct record and were signed by the chairman

10581

Police and the Community

No Police were in attendance

10582

Planning Matters

DM/21/04016/FPA

2 no, 4 bedroom detached dwellings with off-road parking and amenity space

Site between

Hope Cottage and Prospect House

Crawleyside

A site meeting took place on 13th Feb with Cllr Miss Carrick and Cllr P Turton. An extension of the date for comments and a site meeting had been asked for. The planning officer has recommended that the application be withdrawn. Many residents from Crawleyside attended the meeting to voice their concerns on this application. The main points were the access along a single track, the construction phase, surface water, connection to amenities, snow, geography, wildlife, AONB, not in keeping with the other stone-built properties, could set a precedence and there is a PROW. A resident mentioned the track / unadopted road and the House of Commons 2018 that people with house frontages are responsible for the track and its repairs. The land concerned has no property with it so no access is allowed. If the application is approved then the residents will regulate access.

Resolved: It was agreed that the Parish Council would object to this application and write to the planners.

DM/22/00287/FPA – DM/22/00288/LB

Creation of 2 new ground floor windows, alterations to first floor windows and door

Whitstones Cottage

Wearhead

DM/22/00014/OUT

Restoration of adundant house and outbuildings to form 1 no resident dwelling

Building South East of

High Saugh Shields

Daddy Shield

DM/22/00300/FPA

Single storey extension

High Pinfold Cottage

Daddy Shield

DM/22/00290/FPA

Replacement windows and doors

Market Place

St Johns Chapel

DM/22/00475/FPA

Lattice tower with antennas and dishes, equipment cabinets, meter cabinet and ancillary development thereto to eb installed on Land at Fell House Cottage

Land to the East of

Fell House Cottage

Rookhope

DM/22/00460/FPA

Change of use and siting of 8 no static caravans and associated landscaping

Stanhopeburn Caravan Park

Crawleyside Bank

Stanhope

This application has come in again and as far as the Parish Council is concerned nothing has changed from the previous application. **Resolved:** Clerk to object to the planners with the same points as the last time.

DM/22/00362/FPA

Erection of detached double garage

6 Allerton Court

Stanhope

10583

Angelina Maddison WAAP – Ashcroft Play Park

Cllr Craig welcomed Angelina to the meeting. The minutes from the WAAP were handed around.

There are three options for the MUGA:

1. Gold Star 3G Pitch which is artificial turf. This needs maintaining and the surface is very sort after where people will travel to use it.
2. Wet pore rubber in different formats.
3. Tarmac

The outdoor play team came out and their opinion was that

1. They like the idea but with a 3G pitch you would need it well monitored but it could be feasible. The playground is classed as remote.
2. The wet pore surface is successful but at Chester-Le-Street some of the surface is lifting.
3. Tarmac this is the way forward

Costings

A specialist consultancy company are to look at the site free of charge to get their opinion on the way forward. The WAAP through Towns & Villages have a pot of funding totalling £210,000 to be spent over three years. Elected members also have money to spend and external funding from Sport England can be applied for. The lights at the park will also be checked to see if they are fit for purpose. The small play equipment could be looked at after the MUGA has been completed. There is part of the MUGA surface where water collects and it has sunk slightly, this will be looked at. The councillors also mentioned the other play parks that the Parish Council are responsible for and Angelina will look at these. Cllr Miss Carrick would like to see all the play areas as good as the Riverside, Stanhope and Rookhope.

10584

Matters Arising

1. **SOFTLEY BANK, STANHOPE** – The quarry are now responsible for the cleaning of the road on Softley Bank. They have their own sweeper and highways have stipulated how often it has to be cleaned.
2. **ASHCROFT PLAY PARK METER BOX** – A report had been received that the meter box was laid on the ground at the top of Ashcroft. NPG was contacted and they came out and turned the electric off. S Makepeace put some safety barriers around the box. We have permission from Believe Housing to rebuild a small wall to attach the meter box to. Once this has been built then we can contact NPG to reconnect the electricity supply. If the meter box does not

work then we will have to contact the supplier which is E-On. D Coates the electrician who knows how to set the complicated timers has had a look at the box. He has mentioned that one of the lights is turned slightly with the wind and is shining wrong but everything is working.

3. **ASHCROFT PLAY PARK** – A site meeting took place on Friday 11th Feb 2022 to discuss the options for a new surface for the Multi Use Games
4. **RAILWAY BRIDGE AT WEST BLACKDENE** – Cllr Mrs Thompson would like to report the light by the railway bridge at West Blackdene that the black cable has snapped the bracket off the pole and the wires are loose.
5. **DOG FOULING CROSSHILL STANHOPE** – The area at Crosshill has been cleansed and the dog fouling was reported to the Neighbourhood Warden
6. **WALL AT EASTGATE** – The wall at Eastgate has been inspected and has been passed onto Highways who are going to deal with it.
7. **TREES AT IRESHOPEBURN** – The trees have been inspected and will be monitored to keep a check on them.
8. **COBBLES AT ST JOHNS CHAPEL AND FLAG STONE** – The flag stone on the footpath will be repaired and the cobbles are going to be re-cemented.
9. **RIVERSIDE PLAY PARK** – James Young who deals with the playgrounds knows about the two pieces of equipment that need attention. These will be repaired shortly.
10. **IRESHOPEBURN PLAY PARK** – The gate and the wall have been reported to DCC and a job has been raised for the repairs.
11. **WEARDALE FLOWER AND GARDEN CLUB** – As promised the Weardale Flower and Garden club have sent the programme for 2022 as we gave a donation last year to them to cover the printing of the programme.
12. **CIVIL CONTINGENCIES UNIT**- It was felt that there should be one plan with the Parish Council overseeing it. The resilience plan must be kept up to date. Some villages are dealing with a resilience plan on their own which is fine. Concerns were raised regarding GDPR especially vulnerable people and holding their data. The Parish Council needs to discuss what is our role. **Resolved:** It was agreed to invite the Weardale Resilience Group to the next Parish Council meeting.

10585

Correspondence Received

1. The work on the upgrade of the electrical connection for the Christmas Tree Lights on The Green, Frosterley is due to take place in June/July. The ground should be dry and create a minimal amount of mess. They will make sure everything is left tidy and we will be informed of the date when DCC will start the work.
2. A resident from a farm at Eastgate would like a roadside fence inspecting. The highways inspector has the contact number.
3. Cllr Mrs Thompson reported a large tree has come down in the river by the bridge at West Blackdene. Also there is no fencing near to Ireshopeburn play park so that the area now goes straight down to the river.
4. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff rang to ask Simon to tidy the area around by the toilets at St Johns Chapel as the grass is covered with twigs and branches.
5. Westgate Village Hall Committee would like permission to use the playground at Westgate to hold a Village Tea Party on Saturday 4th June 2022 for the Queens Platinum Jubilee. The village hall insurance will cover the event and the Safety Advisory Group have been informed. **Resolved:** The councillors agreed to the request.

10586

Allotment Tenancy Agreement - Approval, Replies to comments

As agreed last meeting the rent would increase to £20 and half a plot would be £10 from 2023. Following the suggestion that the increase was too much in one go and should go up each year it was decided to put into the tenancy agreement the following (one years' notice will still be given).

From 2024 the rent increase will be £22 and £11 for a half plot.

From 2025 the rent increase will be £25 and £13 for a half plot.

Item 3 – the date to be extended to 20th April

9.12 to add - as a last resort

10.2 to add - Guidance from the RSPCA for the keeping of hens must be followed

10.3 to add - existing

10.4 to add - no new applications for cockerels will be accepted

Resolved: All amendments were agreed

Replies to comments from the letters received:

First letter: All issues mentioned have been dealt with

Second letter: The contractor followed the recommendations that were given in the health and safety report. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned that there is another well that no-one knows where it is. Clerk to ask where it is. The issue of the hens and the cockerels has been dealt with.

Third letter: A second notice can be put on the top gate. All tenants pay the rent. We must be sympathetic to the tenant and the councillors will be doing regular inspections. Compensation is relating to fruit bushes which would not be paid. You would be able to dig up all fruit bushes that you planted if you had to leave the plot. No ponds allowed.

Fourth letter: The keeper of hens should be responsible for following the guidance from DEFRA. Rent issue dealt with, hen and cockerel issue dealt with, some signage will be looked at.

10587

Platinum Jubilee

Cllr Craig to have a site meeting. It was suggested that maybe we get someone to put a drone up and put the event on youtube. Also, Cllr Craig mentioned we could ask the Lord Lieutenant or her deputy. **Resolved:** Clerk to get a quote from P Dobson for the drone and to send an invite to the Lord Lieutenant.

10588

County Councillor Update

No update

10589

Finance

1. The gondalar swing has been ordered but a full unit had to ordered at £1953.54. The trampoline will be repaired with the rubber links which are £113.40 for two. The sizes for new trampolines are different now than what is there. Someone has melted a plastic bottle on the trampoline but S Makepeace will try and scrap it off. The clerk asked permission to pay the invoice if it was received in March. **Resolved:** Agreed by all of the councillors

10590

AAP Report

Cllr Mrs Humble mentioned that Weardale is very lucky to have Angelina Maddison and her team.

10591**Accounts for Payment**

County Durham & Cleveland County Training Partnership	£30.00
DCC parish election cost 6 th May 2021	£841.81
DCC Community Highways 1/4/21 to 31/3/22	£15,424.74
E-ON Next Ashcroft Play Park	£21.16
DCC Hire of Meeting Room FEB 2022	£45.00
S Anderson salary	£791.66
HM Rev	£7.54
S Anderson expenses	£140.61
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
Wearhead Village Hall / cheque not paid in out of date	£500.0
TOTAL	£17,837.52

Accounts for Receipts

HMRC VAT Refund	£2097.78
Zurich refund on reduced value of new laptop	£2.77
Allotment rent	£18.00
Allotment rent	£36.00
NorthernPowerGrid Ashcroft	£140.00
NorthernPowerGrid Public Lighting	£560.00
TOTAL	£2854.55

10592**New matters for discussion**

1. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff mentioned the problem with parked cars at Hood Street, St John's Chapel and if it was worth mentioning it to the police again. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the Police
2. Cllr Blakett mentioned that there are pot holes in the roads in numerous places. The Community Highways Worker is reporting them to J Hodges.
3. Cllr Turton said that the Scamps sign is still up on the road side. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
4. Cllr Turton would like to report that there is more dog muck along by Crosshill. Cllr Brewin mentioned that in Frosterley residents are sending photos direct to the Neighbourhood Warden. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
5. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like to report that there is a block of lights out from the Ranch to Whitshill. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
6. Cllr Miss Carrick has had a report about the state of the churchyard in Stanhope. The area behind the church is untended and apparently is being left for the bees. It doesn't look good for people looking for headstones. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the vicar

7. Since the river was in the flood there is now a pile of stones piled between the stepping stones which need clearing away. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the Environment Agency

10593

Clerks Business

1. The allotment rents will be collected on Monday 14th March 2022 at St Thomas Church Hall between 1.30pm until 3.30pm.
2. We were sad to hear that Gordon Rutherford from Stanhope had passed away. He was a true kind gentleman who will be missed by everyone who knew him. A sympathy card was sent to Diane from the Parish Council.

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.15PM

DATE OF NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL 2022 AT THE DALES CENTRE COMMENCING AT 7PM

-----Signed.....Date