

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 4th April 2018

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs A Humble Chairman

Cllr B Thompson, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr D Ellwood, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff,

Cllr Mrs K Hutchinson, Cllr A Fishburn, Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr Mrs H Maddison, Cllr M Brewin

S Anderson Clerk

Also Present

Laura Pidcock MP, Charlotte Warris Case Worker

9877

Apologies for Absence

Cllr D Craig, Cllr Miss Graham

9878

To receive any declarations of Interest from Members

Cllr Mrs Hutchinson

9879

Minutes of the meeting held on March 7th 2018

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

9880

Police and the Community

No Police were in attendance

9881

Laura Pidcock MP

Cllr Mrs Humble welcomed the MP to the meeting and Laura apologised that it had taken so long for her to meet the councillors. Over the past ten months she has been involved with the St Johns Chapel Dispensary and at the moment the delivery service is working well with no complaints. Concerns were raised about the length of time you have to wait for an appointment at St Johns Chapel and the staffing levels at the surgery. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the surgery and ask what the level of service is now to three years ago and also to forward the figures of the response times of the ambulance to the MP

She has been involved in rural crime, lack of services, provision of care and transport and will be attending all the Weardale Shows. One of the main issues she is involved with is the suspension of the 6th Form at Wolsingham School. Laura says it's the school funding formula that doesn't work for rural schools with small pupil numbers. After the Area Schools review has taken place then a public meeting can take place. Any information from parents regarding the effects of the suspension will

have can be forwarded to Laura to help in her building a case. Information such as travelling times, costs for parents, impact on parents getting the children to the buses if working, quality of teachers and teaching, house prices and the dale becoming a retirement area, retained firemen. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to Damian Hinds on the funding formula and the wider effect it will have on the dale

9882

Matters Arising

- 1. PARISH NOTICE BOARD** – The PCC have given us permission to erect a Parish Notice Board next to the existing one that the Church Hall uses. Their board is sticking a bit when they open it so who ever we get to put ours up the PCC would like them to solve the problem of theirs. The Planning Department has been contacted to see if we need permission from them. The brochure has been sent for but as yet it has not arrived. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact them again
- 2. WOLSINGHAM SCHOOL FOI REQUEST** – The information came through and it was sent to all councillors on email and the three councillors that are not on email it was printed off and sent out. Cllr Miss Graham sent concerns about matters in the 18th Jan minutes of the governor’s minutes and the briefness of them. She would like the actual expenditure compared to the budgets from Wolsingham school from years 2013/2014, 2015/2016, 2017/2018 under the FOI. **Resolved:** Cllr Mrs Humble to contact Miss Graham clerk to write to DCC
- 3. MR DELL COAL AUTHORITY** – Mr Dell will be attending the June meeting to give more information on the project that he is involved with
- 4. POT HOLES AT BONDISLE WAY, PARAGON STREET AND ASHCROFT** – All have been identified that further action is required
- 5. COWSHILL WAR MEMORIAL** - Mr Betts is in the process of chasing up the quotation that was requested for the works to Cowshill War Memorial and will provide us with a rough estimate of costs as soon as possible
- 6. SMIDDY BURN BRIDGE SHOOTING BOX STANHOPE** – Cllr Mrs Hutchinson declared an interest and took no part in the discussion. A resident attended the DCC Planning Committee to object to the replacement of the bridge. Cllr Shuttleworth tabled a suitable amendment that it should be REPAIRED and this was supported by some members but not enough and the chairman had the casting vote so the application was approved. The resident is determined to continue the fight and would hope that Stanhope Parish Council will continue to challenge the decision. Information has been provided on the Commons Act 2006 Part 3 Sections 38 and 39. The full email was read out at the meeting. Cllr Ellwood queried the protocol when the chairman has the casting vote, clerk to ask the question to the planning authority **Resolved:** The councillors agreed that the clerk should write to the Planning Inspectorate as the correct procedure has not been followed as stated in the Commons Act 2006 Part 3 Sections 38 and 39. Clerk to clarify with the Planning authority on the casting vote
- 7. GRASS VERGE, BOTTOM OF PARAGON STREET, STANHOPE** - The team has visited the location and resolved the issue
- 8. MAZZARS TRAINING EVENT** – Cllr Mrs Humble and the clerk attended the training event at County Hall. There will not be much difference to when BDO did the external audit. The variance figure has increased from 10% to 15% and an explanation is needed for reserves where the balances are high. Cllr Mrs Humble commented that Mazzars would look favourably on smaller councils if reserves are earmarked
- 9. HORSLEY LODGES EASTGATE** – Cllrs Mrs Hutchinson declared an interest. We have received a letter from the designer of the Horsley Lodges which has been forwarded to all councillors as requested. The letter was read out **Received and noted**

10. **WEARDALE HOSPITAL REFERENCE GROUP** – The minutes have been sent from the meeting and a background to the purpose of the meeting had been given. The chair of the meeting had met with Cllr Shuttleworth and Cllr Mrs Savory who were told that there was no pre-determined view on closure. The chair had been asked to undertake a piece of work around community hospitals to identify whether they were fit for purpose, to help identify any problems and to help CDDFT close a financial gap. It was apparent from the discussion held that the occupancy issues highlighted last year are no longer prevalent, nor are there issues relating to safe staffing. There are no outstanding estate issues with the site. It was acknowledged there may be an issue around gap in provision for extra care/supported housing in the area and DCC will look at this in line. The chair will apprise Chief Officers of the position with a view to ceasing any further activity on a review of the hospital. There will be no further meetings at this time
11. **PRIMARY SCHOOL FUNDING** -Mr Hodgson reassures the Parish Council that the carry-forward budgets of the primary schools in Weardale are not being considered as a way of reducing the deficit of Wolsingham Secondary School. Where through careful expenditure and good housekeeping, the primaries have accrued surpluses, it is for those schools to determine how the money should be spent, and in Mr Hodgson's view it should be spent on the primary-aged children in those schools. The reassurance that schools would remain adequately funded is not in Mr Hodgson's scope to influence. School funding is set by the Department for Education and the introduction of a National Funding Formula from 2020 means that even local decision-making, ratified by the Schools Form, will cease beyond that date. Mr Hodgson is happy to attend a Parish Council meeting or will continue to answer questions as they come up either by email or letter
12. **WARSHIP WEEK PICTURE** – Cllr Miss Carrick would like a letter to go to DCC saying that the councillors are not happy that the picture has been lost. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC
13. **STREET NAME PLATES** – Cllr Miss Carrick brought a list of street names that need painting and also Cllr Thomson has the Hogarth Terrace plate. **Resolved:** It was agreed to have the street names painted clerk to contact S Makepeace
14. **FROSTERLEY CEMETERY MOUND OF SOIL** – The mound still has not been removed
Resolved: Clerk to contact DCC again
15. **AIR AMBULANCE** – No reply as yet on the criteria for attending a remote accident. **Resolved:** Clerk to chase up
16. **LITTER PICK** – The litter pick has not taken place yet **Resolved:** Clerk to write again
17. **POT HOLES, BONDISLE** - Some of the pot holes have been filled in but not all of them
Resolved: Clerk to contact DCC

9883

Correspondence Received

1. C Davison has enjoyed her time in Weardale and would like to think that she has supported a few groups and individuals over the years. She would like to thank the Parish Councillors and wishes us all the very best
2. Wolsingham Parish Council have invited us to attend a Consultation Day 21st April 2018 between 10.00am and 4pm at the St Annes Centre, Wolsingham to explore and assess the level of interest for a Skate Park at Wolsingham. A brief Survey Monkey is available from 28th March to 28th April to take on -line
3. Cllr Craig mentioned that a resident had been in touch that there is no memorial plaque on the seven trees in Ireshopeburn that had been planted in memory of the men that went off to war. He feels that we should provide a plaque otherwise they will be forgotten about. Cllr Blackett is trying to find out if there are any records **Resolved:** The councillors agreed in principle to a plaque after the information has been checked

4. Cllr Craig would like a poo bag dispenser off the main road between Bridge End and Windyside **Resolved:** It was agreed to purchase a dog poo bag dispenser

9884

General Data Protection

1. All councillors have been sent the general information on the data protection. The action plan has been sent out to all councillors. We are waiting to hear from S Ragg on the Data Protection Officer
2. The only personal data we hold is for the clerk
3. The only contract is for the clerk
4. The only data we hold is for the allotment holders which is name, address and some telephone numbers. The details are kept in the allotment books and the waiting list is kept on the laptop.
5. N/A we don't use personal data for any reason
6. All councillors have been sent a Document Retention Policy the Privacy Notices need printing off. The data to be destroyed must be put through a cross shredder. **Resolved:** It was agreed by all the councillors to adopt the Document Retention Policy and to purchase a cross shredder
7. N/A
8. N/A
9. Councillors and clerk must be careful on data breaches should as emails and attachments, wrong people being copied in to emails and attachments, lost memory sticks which contain personal data, malware (ensure up to date anti-virus software is in place) equipment theft. **Resolved:** Clerk to check that Microsoft anti-virus is secure enough
10. And 11. To be discussed at the May meeting

9885

Constitution and Standing Orders

All councillors have received a copy of the Standing Orders which will be going onto the Parish Councils Website. **Resolved:** It was agreed to adopt the Standing Orders

9886

Parish Council Website

A meeting took place between Cllr Mrs Humble, Cllr Mrs H Maddison, Cllr D Ellwood and the clerk. Changes have been made and all amendments have been sent to Northgate. We need to get the website up and running as it is one of audit conditions. S Ragg is going to send us the Financial Regulations that need to go on after being adopted by the Parish Council. The website will be an agenda item every month

9887

Planning Matters

DM/18/00078/FPA

Rear single storey extension

Coach House

Eastgate

Mr W Glass

DM/18/00689/FA

Replace timber windows and doors with upvc

7 Kirk Rise

Frosterley

Dr Guy Cooper

Cllr Miss Carrick and Cllr A Fishburn declared an interest
DM/18/00860/FPA
Renewal of shop front
49A Front Street
Stanhope
Mrs D Wright

DM/18/00906/FPA
Single and two storey extensions
Gardiners Engineers
Unit 1
The Batts
Frosterley
G Gardiner & Son Ltd

Cllr Mrs Hutchinson declared an interest and left the room
DM/18/00878/FPA
Proposed extension to existing caravan park
White House and Hagg Bridge Caravan Park
Eastgate
Mrs K Hutchinson

The councillors would like to know if the lodges are short term or long term residential holiday lets as not enough information has been provided, the occupancy restrictions and will checks be maintained. The plan only shows one side of road. The councillors would like to know what the planning policy is for caravans, chalets and lodges. An objection to the application is to be sent and for the application to go to committee.

9888

Finance

1. A meeting took place on Friday 9th March with Barrie Alderson DCC , Cllr Miss Graham, Cllr Miss Carrick and the clerk. Mr Alderson provided two play park equipment brochures. The play equipment that was looked at was the Hurricane Swing, Pick Up Sticks, Climber Unit and Four picnic tables. Any equipment chosen would be adopted by DCC and they would maintain it. **Resolved:** It was agreed in principle for the Clerk to progress this joint project with the WAAP
2. S Ragg has sent details of a revived initiative aiming to bring back the historic Durham Womens Gala as a free family event. The organisers are hoping to hold this on 30th June in Wharton park, Durham. The organisers need to raise £10,000 and are looking for donations from Parish Councils

9889

AAP Report

The Board meeting and AGM will take place shortly

9890

CDALC Report

Cllr Ellwood is to contact the clerks of the Parish Councils that he represents to ask if he can speak briefly to see if there any concerns that he can raise at the CDALC meetings

9891**Accounts for Payment**

County Durham Association of Local Councils	£27.00
DCC Fe0b meeting 2.5 hours	£50.00
DCC Mar meeting 2.5 hours	£50.00
S Anderson Salary	£661.70
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
S Anderson Expenses	£253.85
TOTAL	£1077.55

ACCOUNTS FOR RECEIPTS FOR APRIL

VAT Refund	£1174.65
------------	----------

9892**New Matters for Discussion**

1. Cllr Mrs Maddison has had reports that cars are speeding off the fell at Hill End, Frosterley when it is a 30mph stretch of road. She would like red tarmac putting down with SLOW on. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
2. Cllr Mrs Maddison would like to know if the Lime Trees have had some of the branches cut back and the left turn into Westfield a vehicle has gone over the kerb and the grass is all churned up. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
3. Cllr Brewin would like to report the trailer is on the grass verge again at Willow Green. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
4. Cllr Ellwood would like to report some pot holes at the entrance to the chapel along the back lane, Stanhope **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
5. Cllr Blackett would like a new dog bag dispenser as the lock is broken on the one near to Wearhead School. **Resolved:** It was agreed to purchase a new dispenser
6. Cllr Blackett mentioned the closure of High House Chapel and the museum. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to Mr Heatherington to ask that we are kept up to date as to what is happening
7. Cllr Mrs Hutchinson would like the road leading up to the church re-surfaced after the underground wiring has been completed **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC
8. The road needs resurfacing from Station road head, Eastgate to Hagg Bridge **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
9. There are two gullies at Hagg Bridge that are full of gravel and need cleaning out **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
10. The bridge at Eastgate still has not been repaired after it was hit by a wagon months ago. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC again

11. Cllr Mrs Hutchinson enquired if the Parish Council will be issuing the grants for the Village Halls again this year along with the Church yard maintenance grants. **Resolved:** Both grants will be issued on application £500 for the Village Hall and £300 for the Church yard maintenance grant
12. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff explained that someone got stuck in the toilets at St Johns Chapel and there is now no lock on one of the doors. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
13. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like to report that there is a curb crumbling on Front Street, Ireshopeburn and needs attention. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
14. Cllr Miss Carrick would like a salt bin at Cowgarth Hill, Stanhope as the nearest is at the Community Centre **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC
15. A resident has reported that a drain is blocked by the Lime Trees, Stanhope and that they all need cleaning out **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
16. Cllr Mrs Humble would like the gully sucker right up the dale to Killhope and the road from Cowshill to Allenheads **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
17. There is a blocked ditch on the low road in Cowshill, its between the top of Burtree Bank and Ridgmont (the Bungalow). It has stopped overflowing, so they should be able to see what the problem is. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
18. There are some pot holes near the entrance to Killhope Wheel **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
19. In the layby on Burtree Bank, Cowshill the surface has been lifted during snow clearance and needs levelling out. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC

9893

Clerks Business

An allotment tenant at Ireshopeburn is giving up one of his plots so we have one vacancy

The allotment rents have been collected apart from the few last-minute payers

Meeting Closed at 9.35pm

Date of next meeting 2nd May 2018 6.30pm Annual Meeting, AGM 6.45pm Parish Council meeting

7pm at Dales Centre, Stanhope

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