

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 5th April 2017

PRESENT:

Cllr D Craig (Chairman)

Cllr L Blackett, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr Miss F Graham, Cllr F Harrison,
Cllr Mrs A Humble (took the minutes)
Cllr Mrs K Hutchinson, Cllr Mrs H Maddison, Cllr R Mews, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr B Thompson,
Cllr Mrs S Thompson

Also present A Maddison WAAP

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Apologies for Absence

All councillors were present

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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 March 2017

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

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Police and the Community

No one present

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A Maddison – WAAP

Chair welcomed Angelina to the meeting

AM outlined the WAAPs' 4 priorities for the forthcoming year

- Support to groups in Weardale via the Small Grants Fund
- Culture, Tourism and Heritage
- Health & Well Being
- Children, Young People & Families

Cllr Brewin asked what would happen to the Well Being for Life course when the current programme finished in October 2017. AM explained the programme would go out to commission, however she expects the current programme will be drastically reduced. The Dales rural isolation means that some replacement programme is likely.

AM then mentioned the Young Peoples programme which has been very successful, it employs an Activities Co-ordinator. The WAAP is working with others to ensure something is in place after October 2017.

Currently in Year 3 of the apprenticeship scheme. The scheme attracted 11 applicants of which 6 were interviewed, who were all strong candidates, and from which 2 were appointed. The programme has been adapted to include more culture.

AM mentioned "Inspired Facilities" from Sport England has money for Skate Parks. Children from out of the Dale are travelling to various parks in County Durham.

Cllr Blackett asked what plans the WAAP had to create employment in the Dale.

AM replied that tourism is the biggest employer. They are trying to support the cultural element to bring in more tourists. There is a need to capture tourists to ensure they stay longer and therefore spend more money while they are in the Dale.

Cllr Hutchinson mentioned the railway from Stanhope to Eastgate and suggested it would be ideal as a combined footpath, bridleway and cycle path. AM replied that the WAAP have in the past discussed this idea with Sustrans but it was not on their priority list.

Cllrs thought it was unlikely that a rail service would now happen, given the deterioration of the line and the removal of the turning circle. AM agreed to set up another meeting with Sustrans to progress the idea.. It was agreed that this could be a massive asset to the Dale.

Durham County News AM explained that the parish council can request articles/events to be included. In the recent edition apart from Killhope Museum there had been no mention of Weardale.

The WAAP work with Weardale House to support luncheon clubs. If a Cllr knew where further clubs are needed then AM would be happy to help.

Cllr Craig thanked AM for attending the meeting

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Matters Arising

1. **MOLES IN THE CEMETERY AND THE PLAY AREA** – The moles in the cemetery will be caught and a closed notice has been put up in the play park at Ireshopeburn until the mole has been caught
2. **ROADSIDE TRAILER FROSTERELY** – The highways inspector will inspect the area and will report back to P Anderson who will advise us what he intends to do. Councillors are unhappy that there has been no progress on the movement of the trailer or the grass verge.
Resolved: Clerk to chase up and request an answer in time for the May meeting
3. **ASHES QUARRY LANDSLIP** – Mr Anderson will write to the landowner voicing DCC's and the Parish Councils concerns and what proposed action will be taken
4. **PARISH WEBSITE** - The design has been converted into the development site and the homepage has been created. Northgate will wait to hear from us with the photos and the descriptions for the villages
5. **BONDISLE ALLOTMENT TREE REMOVAL** - The tenant arranged a site meeting with Cllr Mews concerning the removal of the tree which was on his plot. In future councillors must check the position of the tree and inspect before giving permission to fell. He reminded

Councillors that it may be necessary to ask a qualified tree surgeon to inspect depending upon the size and position of the tree

6. **GRASS VERGE BY NEWTOWN HOUSE AND HALL ROAD** - J Hodges has asked D Gillett to re-Top Soil and Seed the damaged areas. Unfortunately to prevent vehicle over-run is very difficult and would require large lengths of verge fenced off which is not only impractical but very costly. The area will be monitored and any problems will be dealt with as they arise. The councillors discussed this problem. **Resolved:** It was decided to ask J Hodges to tarmac the small areas of grass by Newtown House, bottom of the Hall Road and at the Mill
7. **FLOWERS ON THE GREEN, FROSTERLEY AND FLOWER TUBS AT COWSHILL** - Both requests have been noted by D Gillett
8. **WEARDALE WAY BETWEEN HUNTSHILDFORD AND BRIDGEND** – This is down to get repaired this financial year, with flood damage funds that have managed to get secured. There is no timescale on this though. Mr Murden will inspect the steps. Footpath 25 between High Barns and Middle Blackdene is still waiting funding to carry out repairs, due to other priorities.
9. **PRE-APPLICATION – COWSHILL WAR MEMORIAL** – The form has been acknowledged and will undergo a preliminary assessment which could take 8-10 weeks. No works to commence until the War Memorials Trust give the go-ahead. The overall response is positive and Mr Dunn is pleased that funding for the creation of steps appears to be feasible. Any historic photographs of the memorial may be useful if railings are to be replicated. Mr Dunn is leaving shortly and the responsibility for DCC war memorials will be taken on by the Design and Conservation Team managed by Principal Design and Conservation Officer, David Sparkes.
10. **THE OLD SCHOOL, WESTGATE** – A letter has been sent to the owners who have bought the property but the owner of the property now has no forwarding address for them. A letter has been sent to the Old School in the hope that the new keepers will receive it.
11. **CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** – Cllr Thompson contacted Wolsingham PC regarding the cost of installing, removing and purchase of Christmas Lights. Each decoration costs around £200 and the best time to purchase these is in the spring or the early summer. The storage of the decorations would need to be considered. There is time to obtain grant funding from the WAAP if the parish Council was able to put forward a proposition. **Resolved:** Cllr Mrs Maddison will find out how much interest there is from businesses in Stanhope via the Weardale Gazette
12. **PARKING AT EASTGATE** – The parking services team are unable to offer a solution preventing parking on the side of the road which would encourage parking within the nearby car park. The verge damage is evident and typical of verge damage at many other locations across the County. The verge damage does not present a highways defect which could be considered as a hazard to road users. The Council receive more requests for the installation of bollards and fencing to protect areas from parking/overrun than they are able to fund. Due to the limited width of the verge there is no suitable solution in preventing parking at this location. The verge will be reseeded
13. **ROOKHOPE CHURCH WALL** – The new owner will hopefully have a digger onsite within the next month to move the electricity cable underground and is planning to replace the wall at the same time.

14. **KENNETHS BRIDGE, FROSTERLEY** – Mr Reed from DCC has sent an update that following issues with land access last year notice was served on the adjacent landowner in October allowing DCC to remove debris from the site and complete topographical survey work to allow the scheme design to be progressed, which was completed in November. The Environmental Agency have raised concerns with the continuous changes to the river channel as a result of erosion, transportation and deposition of river sediments. They require a geomorphological survey which is in the process of being done to help ensure the replacement footbridge is resilient to future flood events. We have been sent assurances that DCC remain fully committed to replacing the footbridge
15. **ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY KENNETHS BRIDGE** – DCC are currently going through the necessary steps to complete an application. Once a completed Flood Risk Activity Permit application has been received the Environment Agency are required to determine it within two months. This application will be treated as a priority when it is received.
16. **COMMUNITY HIGHWAYS WORKER** - J Bennett has been contacted and he has asked the finance team to send the invoice based on eight months
17. **ASHES QUARRY BRIDGE** – Cllr Harrison reported that marine ply was in place on the bridge
18. **GRAVEYARD ROOKHOPE** – The graveyard at Rookhope remains very untidy and Cllr Thompson would like S Makepeace to go in and tidy it up if possible. **Resolved:** Clerk to chase D Gillett and Bereavement Services for a date for their work to begin
19. **SKATE PARK MEETING** – Cllr Miss Graham attended the recent skate park meeting at Wolsingham and briefed the councillors. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact S Ragg to enquire if we can support a project outside of the Parish
20. **BANK FOOT, ROOKHOPE** – Cllr Thompson investigated a complaint about the recent ditching works. A DCC environmental consultant is involved in a three way legal dispute
21. **BACK ROAD TO EASTGATE** - Cllr Mrs Hutchinson has received more complaints about the back road which is slipping away and is extremely dangerous. **Resolved:** Clerk to write again and explain the urgency

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Correspondence Received

1. A tenant from Willard Grove Allotments would like to erect a new greenhouse 6ft by 4ft. **Resolved:** The tenant to provide a plan of the allotment showing where it is to be situated and a summary of the materials to be used
2. A tenant from Ireshopeburn has complained about dog fouling in the allotments. Cllr Mrs Thompson will have a word
3. The UK Government is committed to providing every home and business across the country with access to a basic broadband service. If you can't get a broadband speed of at least 2Mb per second, you could qualify for a subsidised connection to boost your internet speed. The site is basicbroadbandchecker.culture.gov.uk
4. From 1st June 2017 the new Public Space Protection Order will mean it will become a fineable offence in County Durham allowing a dog to stray, failing to put a dog on a lead when asked by a authorised officer and allowing dogs into fenced off designated play areas. Trained staff and Durham Constabulary staff will be able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for £100 (£60 if paid within ten working days) for breach of the Public Space Protection Order. Failure to pay will lead to prosecution, with a maximum fine of £1000. The

order will not apply to anyone who is registered as blind, is disabled or who uses a trained assistance dog. If we want to add any fenced off play areas to the list of parks which will be subject to this PSPO then we can contact Ian Hoults. This must be done by 30th April 2017.

Resolved: Cllrs agreed all play areas to be included

5. Cllr Mrs Maddison has had a resident report that the council have sprayed with a weed killer the wall edge of the grass verge on the left hand side as you leave Frosterley heading to Stanhope. Concerns are for the daffodils and the large areas they are killing off. The email has been forwarded onto D Gillett for his comments. No reply has been received from D Gillett. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Gillett and to forward some photographs of Cowshill as well
6. DCC have sent the business rates for the Old Cemetery, Stanhope which is zero
7. G Watson from the Environmental Agency is a Flood Resilience Officer who job is to engage with communities who may be at risk of flooding and then assisting and enabling those communities to plan and prepare for adverse weather events and flooding. Stanhope is one of those communities and Mr Watson is interested in visiting the Parish Council to establish if he can provide any support or practical assistance. **Resolved:** Clerk to invite to a meeting
8. Our Grounds Maintenance Contract expires on 31st March 2017. A new contract has been sent which needs to be signed and returned by 17th April 2017.

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PLANNING MATTERS

DM/17/00698/PNT

Installation of 1x15m high telegraph pole, 2xantennas, 2xtransmission dishes (300mm),2x cabinets, 1x satellite Dish (1200mm) and associated ancillary equipment

Road verge on A689 of

Killhope South of Clough House

Lanehead

DL13 1AT

EE Ltd

DM/17/00755/PNT

Installation of 1 x 15m high telegraph pole, 2 x antennas, 2 x transmission dishes (300mm) 2x cabinets, 1 x satellite dish (1200mm) and associated ancillary equipment

Land to the East of

Fell House Cottage

Rookhope

EE UK Ltd

DM/17/00902/FPA

Silage Clamp (original application no DM/17/00280/PNA)

Harehope Farm

White Kirkley

Frosterley

Mr & Mrs J Dobson

PLANNING PERMISSION

DM/16/03862/FPA

Storage Building
Thorny Brow
Rookhope
G Hogarth

DM/16/03975/FPA

Conversion of redundant buildings into one dwelling house
Agricultural Building to
South of Chapel House
Wearhead
James Rutherford

DM/16/01842/CLU

Certificate of lawful use for 2 no. static caravan pitches for holiday use and associated decking structure to southern caravan
Gate House Cottage
Briar Hill
Ireshopeburn
A Dawson

DM/17/00119/FPA

Agricultural building
Chapel House
Rookhope
D Lowes

DM/16/04082/FPA

Replacement sunroom (Amended description as dormer windows removed from application)
15 East Blackdene
St John's Chapel
J Widdaker

DM/17/00085/FPA

Proposed front porch and insertion of first floor window to north gable elevation
Alvera House
10 Lanehill
Ireshopeburn
Mr & Mrs Pidd

DM/17/00435/FPA

Single storey extension to south elevation
Kiln Cottage
Crawleyside
H Vaux

DM/17/00476/FPA
Proposed double garage
Butane House
Stanhope
M Young

DM/17/00478FPA
Single storey extension to south
Steward Shield Meadows
Meadow Edge
Stanhope
R Collingwood

DM/17/00511/FPA
Single storey rear extension
Ivy Dene
Eastgate

DM/17/00430/FPA
Single storey side extension and porch to front
Stone Carrs
Westgate

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FINANCE

1. The Children's Foundation would like any form of donation to help support their work. Due to previous support they can continue work with the Clown Doctors in the Great North Children's Hospital. Hold Star Awards Ceremony at the Biscuit Factory and continue Therapeutic Horticulture Project in Southlands School, North Tyneside. They are raising funds to expand the Therapeutic Horticulture project into SEN schools in Sunderland and Durham, aiming to purchase two additional Vpods for South Tyneside District Hospital and Bishop Auckland Urgent Care Centre.
2. We need to have the countersignatures for the cheques updated as some councillors may not be standing again. It may be wise to have another three councillors on the signature list.
Resolved: We will have to wait until after the elections
3. We have received the Annual Return which needs to be at BDO for 29th May 2017 an extension has been agreed to 7th June meeting but the dates would need changing to 12th June -21st June 2017

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AAP REPORT

Cllr Thompson reported that very little was happening while in purdh. The public representatives have stood down and interviews will be held next week to appoint the new representatives

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ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

DCC HIRE OF MEETING ROOM FOR FEB

£30.00

N DAWSON ALLOTMENT RENT	£20.00
SAVILLS ALLOTMENT RENT	£50.00
DCC LIGHT REPAIR AT EAST BLACKDENE	£247.37
MAKEPEACE MOTORS FROSTERLEY SEAT, WAR MEMORIAL	£1029.60
MAKEPEACE MOTORS FENCING COWSHILL , CRAWLEYSIDE PLAY PARKS (WAAP GRANT MONEY CLLR SHUTTLEWORTH)	£5232.00
DCC LIGHT REPAIR AT EAST BLACKDENE	£544.22
S ANDERSON SALARY FOR MARCH	£572.52
HM REV – PAYE	£59.80
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00
S ANDERSON EXPENSES	£96.67
TOTAL	£7917.18

Accounts were approved

Clerk to check which lights were repaired at East Blackdene and advise Cllr Mrs Sutcliff

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NEW MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Cllr Mrs Hutchinson would like to report that the seat opposite the Cross Keys is in need of repair. **Resolved:** Clerk to report
2. The grass verge between the entrance to Church field and Station Road Head requires tidying up as cars are pulling in to take phone calls **Resolved:** Clerk to report
3. Cllr Miss Graham would like a “keep clear” sign on the turning point at the bottom of Ashcroft similar to the one at Coronation Avenue. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
4. Cllr Miss Graham commented that the flower tubs and displays were very good in Stanhope
5. An allotment tenant at Crosshill had a fire and the new tenant was unaware of the fire policy, he immediately put the fire out
6. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff would like the play park at Daddry Shield power washing. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact S Makepeace
7. We need to check that the toilets at Daddry Shield are now open. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the contractor
8. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like the roadside branches cut back at Whits Hill, St Johns Chapel. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
9. The seat on Newhouse Bank needs replacing. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
10. Cllr Mrs Thompson had received a complaint about wagons turning and churning up the grass verge at Anita’s Way, Ireshopeburn. She explained very little can be done about it
11. Cllr Blackett mentioned that a number of people in the Dale have been unable to have the electric smart meters installed as either there is no mobile reception or it is too weak
12. Cllr Miss Carrick would like the area tidying up where the garages were taken down at Ashcroft. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact Dale and Valley

- 13. Cllr Mrs Maddison would like to know will the equipment be replaced in Frosterley Play Park and if so when. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DDC
- 14. The footpath at the rear of the Church which runs parallel to the railway some tree roots have disturbed the tarmac. **Resolved;** Clerk to contact DC
- 15. Cllr Craig would like to report that the roadside gullies still have not been cleaned .**Resolved:** Clerk to ask Simon to do this
- 16. The litter pick stopped at the New Park Farm but needs to go a further mile up the road. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
- 17. Cllr Thompson advised the Council that electrical works are planned to start in Rookhope on 17th April. There will be a couple of months of disruption but it will be worth it.
- 18. The Chairman thanked Cllr Mews and Cllr Harrison for their services over the years as they are not seeking re-election. Cllr Mews commented that he had been a Councillor for thirty four years

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CLERKS BUSINESS

The new date for the Annual parish Meeting and the May Council meeting is 10th May 2017 which commences at 6.30pm followed by the council meeting at 7pm. Paul Dobson will be there from 6.30pm taking photographs for the website

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.15pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 10TH MAY 2017 DALES CENTRE, STANHOPE COMMENCING AT 6.30PM

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