

## STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in Eastgate Village Hall, Eastgate on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023

### PRESENT:

Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr Mrs S Smart, Cllr D Craig, Cllr Mrs C Burdis, Cllr R Lawrie, Cllr M Brewin,

Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr P Turton

Cllr Miss J Carrick – Chairman

Susan Anderson – Clerk

Also present Cllr Mrs A Savory

### 10758

#### Apologies for Absence

Cllr L Blackett, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes, Cllr E Buchanan

### 10759

#### To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

### 10760

#### Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

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

### 10761

#### Planning Matters

#### DM/23/00629/FPA

Erection of a wooden seasonal shed/summer house on grassed area to front of the property

4 West Haswicks

Westgate

#### DM/23/00666/FPA – DM/23/00667/LB

Formation of a new entrance and internal remodelling to improve accessibility and internal circulation

40-42 Front Street

Stanhope

#### DM/23/00685/FPA

Change of use of land to allow the siting of 9no. holiday lodges with associated infrastructure works, landscaping, and widening of existing access to Graham Street.

Land South of Fair View

High Street

Stanhope

Some letters of objection have been received from some residents concerning the above application, they were sent to all of the councillors.

Both County Councillors are calling this application into Committee but it could well be withdrawn. Both elected members agree that it is totally in the wrong spot and it is very important that individual emails and letters are sent in to the planning department.

A meeting was held in the Church Hall on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April which had been organised by a resident. The meeting was very well attended with over fifty residents and business owners there. Concerns raised were the access, safety and the parking on Graham Street. Access is currently just a footpath gate and they are proposing a single-track access. The traffic situation can be dangerous on Graham Street and extra traffic will make access to and from Graham Street very dangerous and congestion can build up on the street if a vehicle is wanting to leave the site. Winter months Graham Street is treacherous. Loosing car parking spaces pushing the cars up onto High Street and Front Street which already have car parking problems. An application for a balcony was refused on Graham Street due to the fact it would be looking into properties. The height of the lodges are some 15m higher due to the lie of the land. Could emergency vehicles get into the proposed site? Lodges not in keeping with the stone houses, impact on the conservation area. The conservation area is there for a reason. In 2014 there was a pre-application but it was never put in formerly as it was not suitable for houses so the same should apply for the cabins. There could be possible noise and light disturbance from hot tubs, barbeques and music. If chalets not used then an application could go in for change of use. Safety issues, privacy overlooking into the houses on Front Street and Graham Street, wildlife habitats newts, bats, hedgehogs and owls. Used to be the Historic Village Green with old garden walls. Boundary problems. Fairfield House had been declined planning permission for two bungalows in their grounds. The development will address the current identified shortfall of visitor/tourist accommodation there is no evidence of this except a statement from Visit Durham.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the Parish Council would object to this application on the grounds of access, it is in a conservation area and the levels are all wrong. Clerk to ask for the application to go to Committee

DM/23/00704/FPA

Change of use and extension of existing barn to accommodate rescue cats and pigs with staff facilities and overnight accommodation and conversion and extension of storage outbuilding to house rescue ferrets.

Far Place

Sidehead

Westgate

DM/23/00783/FPA

Demolition of a portion of drystone wall and installation of access and gate

Land south of Layfields Barn

Lanehead

## 10762

### Matters Arising

1. **FROSTERLEY CAR PARK-** Parking Services have provided feedback stating that they have looked at the car park and there are no restrictions in place, therefore DCC would be unable to enforce people parking overnight.
2. **ASHCROFT MUGA** – A meeting took place at the WAAP office where we joined Surfacing Standards via Teams. We gave Mr Bennett written confirmation to proceed with the specifications up to the planning process. The specifications are needed to get the

landowners approval, once that is agreed then the funding will be released. Mr Bennett will send us a delivery programme highlighting timescales involved from now to project competition which we have now received. A date is to be arranged for the electrical surveyor to visit the site to inspect the lighting columns, this took place last Thursday. When our electrician opened the electrical cabinet, the lock had been damaged so had to be sawn off. We have asked Believe Housing for permission to cross their ground to the MUGA but as yet there has been no reply.

3. **PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN FOR THE WEBSITE** – The photographs that were taken will be put onto the website with the councillors telephone numbers.
4. **PLANTERS FOR FROSTERLEY** – Cllr Craig does have some planters if Cllr Brewin would like them.
5. **SPEED CHECKS AT EASTGATE** – The data was taken from 27<sup>th</sup> Feb to 3<sup>rd</sup> March. It showed the average speed was 42.6 so possibly some signage and lineage will be used.
6. **TOILETS AT ST JOHNS CHAPEL** – The toilets have been cleaned but still look like they need a freshen up. **Resolved:** Cllr Shuttleworth will arrange to have the toilets painted

## 10763

### Correspondence Received

1. One of the water taps in Bondisle Allotments was leaking. D Hunt turned the stop tap off to stop the water leaking everywhere.
2. An email has been received from Weardale renewables who intend to generate clean sustainable energy for the benefit of our community. Over the last 18 months they have been building working relationships. They have an agreement in place to use Tunstall Reservoir as a hydroelectric production site, DCC and Wolsingham PC are currently looking at the proposals for several EV charging points that would use renewable energy to provide the electricity. Their objectives are the isolated, elderly and those with SEN's. They want to work with the community to provide equipment that can store two- or three-days' worth of power that can be used by village halls and community buildings in the event of a power blackout. They believe their work will be a great benefit to Weardale and they would like ourselves to be involved in the process of helping residents and local businesses. **Resolved:** Clerk to invite to the May meeting
3. Presentations from the Civility and Respect were sent to the councillors.
4. The Community Engagement Consultation ends on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April the email has been sent to all of the councillors.
5. A resident has noticed that some of the metal tree guards around the Lime Trees in Stanhope need removing as they are damaging the trees. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
6. An allotment tenant would like permission for a poly tunnel on the Old Hall Allotment site in Stanhope, it will be 10ft x 20ft. **Resolved:** Cllrs agreed the poly tunnel

## 10764

### Social Media

Cllr Craig commented that there is no need for facebook as we do have a website. Back-chat and negative comments could be a problem. Cllr Turton commented that it could be used more as an advert page and comments would not be allowed. Cllr Miss Carrick commented that if it was agreed then the clerk would be running it. Cllr Shuttleworth also commented that there was no need for it. Cllr Mrs Savory suggested that the discussion should be deferred to the May meeting to give more councillors the chance to comment. **Resolved:** Clerk to put onto the May agenda

**10765**

**Civility and Respect**

Cllr Ms Hawkes asked for this to be put onto the agenda. **Resolved:** This to be deferred to the May meeting

**10766**

**County Councillor Update**

Nothing to report.

The AGM will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and the biggest thing that is happening is the planning application for the nine lodges in Stanhope.

**10767**

**Finance**

1. We have received the 2022/23 Annual Governance and Accountability Return. The deadline date for the return is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
2. At the December meeting the Parish Council agreed £5000 from the Community/Play Park Account at Scottish Widows, in addition to the £10,000 for the Ashcroft MUGA. The AAP have sent an email confirming that they still have the play areas project in abeyance and would like to look at all the play areas in Weardale.
3. Cllr Shuttleworth declared an interest. The annual Village Hall and the annual Churchyard Maintenance grants should be put onto Standing Order with Barclays Bank closing.

**Resolved:** This was agreed

**10768**

**AAP Report**

Cllr Mrs Savory and Cllr Lawrie declared an interest. The AAP are under review and the consultation is on the website. The AAP is very important to all ages and groups and are broad and diverse. The Weardale AAP is active and it would be a worry if they were centralised.

**10769**

**CDALC Report**

No report was available

**10770**

**Accounts for Payment**

<b>DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL OLD CEMETERY STANHOPE</b>	<b>£199.60</b>
<b>E-ON NEXT ASHCROFT PLAYAREA PAID 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023</b>	<b>£37.14</b>
<b>OLIVERS TREE SERVICES LTD</b>	<b>£276.00</b>
<b>JRB ENTERPRISE LTD</b>	<b>£597.60</b>
<b>EASTGATE VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION MARCH MEETING</b>	<b>£30.00</b>
<b>S ANDERSON SALARY</b>	<b>£861.04</b>
<b>HM REV &amp; CUSTOMS</b>	<b>£14.22</b>
<b>S ANDERSON EXPENSES</b>	<b>£170.67</b>

<b>S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE</b>	<b>£35.00</b>
<b>CDALC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE 2023/24</b>	<b>£651.91</b>
<b>DAVID COATES ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR</b>	<b>£110.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,983.18</b>

### **ACCOUNTS FOR RECEIPTS**

<b>ALLOTMENT RENT</b>	<b>£1,915.00</b>
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#### **10771**

##### **New Matters for Discussion**

1. Cllr Mrs Savory wished everyone a Happy Easter with good quality time. Cllr Mrs Savory and Cllr Shuttleworth left the meeting for a prior engagement.
2. Cllr Craig mentioned that there had been an accident outside of his farm. He was concerned that the driver had not been breathalysed and thought that it was procedure for the Police to do this. Also, Ed Turner was going to find out why in Cumberland there was a 40mph speed limit and not in our valley. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the Police
3. Cllr Lawrie mentioned the dog dirt at Westgate which Cllr Craig was aware of. A resident had reported it to the Street Warden and nothing had been done so Cllr Shuttleworth was approached and there are now signs in the playing field and more are needed further down the footpath.
4. Cllr Lawrie mentioned the parking by the electric points in front of the hub but as it is on private ground little could be done.
5. Cllr Turton reported the railings up from Smiths Field on the lefthand side that the ground underneath has slipped away. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC along with a photograph
6. Cllr Brewin has had a request that at the traffic lights past the Black Bull at Frosterley could there be something manual attached to them so that a cyclist could use. Cars register when they approach the lights but a bike doesn't register so the lights do not change to green. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
7. Cllr Mrs Thompson enquired was the car parking in the Dales Centre for residents only. Some of the bays are marked for the tenants of the business units but are not for residents to park in. She commented that sometimes they are empty so if not in use could other people park in them. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the Dales Centre
8. The swimming pool was mentioned and that at the moment they are not sure who owns the land as the owners are debating.
9. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned that DCC are considering two fast charge charging points on Front Street, Stanhope in front of the hairdressers. Apparently, some of the shops were consulted and that there had been a meeting in the Church Hall. It would mean losing some car park spaces on Front Street. There are enough charging points in Stanhope now.
10. The play equipment at the Riverside Play Park still has not been repaired. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
11. Cllr Miss Carrick would like more toilets in Stanhope as the Riverside Toilets are not open all the time and the Dales Centre Toilets do not open until 10am. A portaloos would help solve the problem. Cllr Mrs Burdis also said that Bollihope could do with a portaloos in the summer months. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC

**10772**  
**Clerks Business**  
Nothing to report

**MEETING CLOSED AT 8.03PM**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2023 AT EASTGATE VILLAGE HALL**

**COMMENCING AT**

**ANNUAL MEETING 6.30PM**

**AGM MEETING 6.45PM**

**MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7PM**

-----SIGNED-----DATE