

## STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017

### PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs Alison Humble Chairman

Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr B Thompson, Cllr D Craig, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr D Elwood,  
Cllr Mrs H Maddison (took the minutes), Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Mrs S Thompson,  
Cllr Mrs K Hutchinson

Also present:

Mrs J Urwin and Mrs J Heatherington

**9783**

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Miss F Graham

**9784**

#### **To receive any declarations of Interest from Members**

None received

**9785**

#### **Minutes of the meeting held on July 5<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Minutes were moved as a true and correct record

**9786**

#### **Police and the Community**

No Police were in attendance. **Resolved:** Clerk to invite the Police to the October meeting

**9787**

#### **Mrs J Urwin and Mrs J Heatherington Ambulance Update**

Cllr Mrs Humble welcomed Mrs Urwin and Mrs Heatherington to the meeting. Changes to the Ambulance crew have had an effect on the service now provided, one paramedic and one Emergency Care Assistant instead of two paramedics; an Emergency Care Assistant cannot drive an ambulance. When a paramedic calls in sick there is often no cover, the Emergency Care Assistant will be sent elsewhere. The impalement incident shows up the weakness in system in the skill mix of the crew. The CCG do not understand the requirements of rural areas. The Dale lost double paramedic crew and money that was ring fenced for this service has been used elsewhere. Response time figures are now grouped together, Weardale, Teasdale and Bishop Auckland. **Resolved:** Clerk to request response times for January to June 2017 for Weardale through the Freedom of Information Act

Families are able to request a recording of 999 calls. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to J Hodgson and ask for the recording if possible

Cllr Mrs Humble thanked the ladies for attending

9788

**Matters Arising**

1. **WESTGATE FORD** – Work will commence on the Ford by the end of July
2. **FLOOD WARNING** – We are now registered for flood warnings. Mr Watson has sent some briefing notes on Flood Warden Groups which gives more information. Graham and Anna are willing to come back to Stanhope to answer any questions. Cllr Mrs Hutchinson would like a reminder sent to Graham Watson as he was going to contact her. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact Mr Watson from the Environment Agency
3. **NORTH EAST AMBULANCE** - Darren Green, Clinical Services Manager and Phil Blance, Clinical Operations Manager have confirmed that they will be attending 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 Parish Council meeting
4. **STANHOPE TOWN HALL** – C Pearce has sent an update on the Town Hall. A resident from Stanhope came forward with a plan to turn the building into an arts centre with studios for artisans/micro businesses on the ground floor and a public space on the first floor where workshops for the community and tourists could take place. It was decided that purchasing the building would give them more freedom than the lease route. The group are aware that if the building is offered for sale on the open market, it is possible that they may not submit the best offer for the building or a strong enough case for DCC to accept less than best either, meaning that they would not secure it. Before the final decision to declare the building surplus we have been contacted to confirm that under these new circumstances we still have no interest in the building. The email was received on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and we had ten days to let DCC know. The chairman was contacted and the decision was made that the Parish Council would not be interested in the Town Hall
5. **KENNETHS BRIDGE, FROSTERLEY** – It will be next year before any work commences on Kenneth’s Bridge as work is still required to identify a robust solution . DCC have just received the results of an hydraulic assessment along the length of the river and a scoping assessment which includes identification of options to manage the landslip sites and bank erosion at Kenneth’s Bridge. This study has identified a number of initial options to resolve the issues at a number of sites on the river including Kenneth’s Footbridge but additional studies will be required to develop a full understanding of the complex and inter-linked issues between all three erosion sites, and to develop remedial measures. Additional studies identified include: Feasibility assessment and outline/detailed design options, Further hydraulic modelling and/or hydromorphological modelling will be required to further understand and determine the benefits of each option, Any proposed changes to the existing channel geometry will require a detailed environmental assessment before implementation, including topographical survey, geotechnical investigation, ecology and aquatic surveys, detailed geomorphological assessment, sediment transport and channel migration modelling, Any options with the potential to affect the river will require Flood Risk Assessment and Water Framework Directive Assessment, Ground investigation will be required at Kenneths Bridge comprising exploratory boreholes at the location of the proposed replacement bridge abutment to determine geotechnical properties of the soils for foundation design. Mr Newman appreciates that the timescale for a permanent solution may not be as soon as people had hoped but DCC need to fully understand what is happening along this length of river to all DCC to develop long lasting proposals at each of the sites. The Frosterley Councillors commented that the foundations are fine, it is the super structure of bridge which needs replacing. **Resolved:** Clerk to write and request that the bridge is replaced
6. **EASTGATE COMMUNITY BLOOM GROUP** – Andrew Jackson is the point of contact who will contact Mr Natrass

7. **STREET LIGHT AT IRESHOPEBURN** – This will be repaired within ten working days
8. **HOLE AT THE BOTTOM OF MARTIN STREET, STANHOPE** – This has been repaired
9. **ROAD MARKINGS BY THE SWIMMING POOL** – DCC has added this onto their future schemes to be looked at but this is a lengthy process as consultations would need to be carried out and the legal Traffic Regulation Order amended.
10. **FOOTBRIDGE AND FENCE IN THE DENE, STANHOPE** – M Murden will look at these the next time he is up the dale and will get back to me
11. **OPERATION SPRUCE UP IN STANHOPE** – Operation Spruce Up is a fourteen month environmental programme which will spruce up front streets in selected towns and villages across County Durham. C Hindmarch has done a walkabout with Steve Johnson and Darren Hunt to identify issues that can be looked at. He will meet up with Cllr Miss J Carrick and Cllr Ellwood work will hopefully commence middle to the end of August. A update was given and the work will be monitored
12. **LIGHT AT EAST BLACKDENE** – Cllr Mrs Sutcliff met the engineer again and the light has now been repaired . The job was an hour hoist and operative with materials relating to a 55w Son lamp and a 1pt pec approx £100
13. **PARISH OF OLD HEATHERYCLEUGH CHURCHYARD, COPT HILL, COWSHILL** - A copy of an Order in Council dated 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017 has been received giving notice of a Representation made by the Secretary of State for Justice that burials should be discontinued in the Old Heatherycleugh Churchyard
14. **NUMBER PLATES ON MOTORCYCLES** – There is currently Operation Bramble in Weardale relating to speeding vehicles. Part of this operation will be to identify possible other minor traffic offences including number plates. With increased patrols throughout this operation by traffic, officers deploying the speed matrix, speed camera van etc. alongside more routine patrols by local officers all identified number plate offences will be dealt with. Force policy indicates that the most reasonable process is for the identified offending person and vehicle to be given Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme Form which gives the owner of the machine fourteen days to take the machine to an approved MOT garage with a correct number plate to get it authorised for use. If not then the offending persons are summonsed to court. There will be no specific operation regarding this matter and this issue will be dealt with when offences are identified by officers on patrol
15. **SHOOTING BOX** – A discussion took place on a recent email received from M Watson Savills. The request should have gone through the clerk and not direct to Cllr Ellwood
16. **PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE** – Northgate will create a Councillors page and include the contact numbers. Michael would like to know if we have any content for the pages yet and are all these pages included in the menu needed.
17. **RIVERSIDE PLAY AREA** – Cllr Miss Carrick would like a site meeting with Barrie Alderson DCC to discuss the suitability of the play equipment for all ages. **Resolved:** Clerk to arrange for a Wednesday
18. **LITTER SIGNS** – Cllr Thompson asked if D Hunt could be contacted regarding the litter penalty signs to make sure they are still being displayed in the Dale. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
19. **DALES CENTRE HIRE** – This will be put on the agenda for November to discuss the costs of the meeting room hire. Alternative venues were discussed
20. **GRASS VERGE OPPOSITE BUTTS HEAD** – There is still no reply on this request. **Resolved:** Clerk to chase up again

**9789**

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

1. An allotment holder at Crosshill is tidying up a plot that he has just taken on and has found a lot of rubbish that needs removing, an old bath, oil drum and bags of rubbish. S Makepeace has been asked to put a quote in
2. A thank you letter has been received from former Cllr R Mews who was overwhelmed with the painting. The letter was read out
3. Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner is available now. The key objectives were to tackle crime and keep communities safe, support victims and the vulnerable, and inspire confidence in policing and the criminal justice system. The report shows that 73% of people surveyed had confidence in policing, but 87% of victims were satisfied with the whole experience from the support they received. The report also describes the outcomes of assessments by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary whereby Durham Constabulary is currently the best police force in the country for the third year running.
4. During the recent training course at Barnard Castle reference was made to the introduction of Universal Credit. A conference is being held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at The Durham Centre, Belmont Industrial Estate, Durham from 9.30am – 3.30pm. Bookings should be made no later than Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Cllr Ellwood commented this would affect people in our Parish
5. A letter has been received from a resident who would like to serve on the Parish Council.  
**Resolved:** Clerk to acknowledge receipt of the application

**9790**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

DM/17/02195/FPA

Two storey extension rear

New openings to southern and western elevations

Brown House Barn

Hill End

Frosterley

Mr & Mrs Wooton

DM/17/02196/FPA

Single storey rear extension

4 Britton Hall

Westgate

Mr & Mrs M Forster

DM/17/02287/PNT

Installation of back-up Power Generator

EE Ltd

Ireshopeburn Transmitting Station

Ireshopeburn

DM/17/02436/FPA

3no Detached dwellings

Site of former builder yard

South of Shittlehopeburn Farm

Stanhope

Mr G Gibson

DM/17/02442/TPO

Crown, reduce and reshape by 2-3 metres and crown thin by 10% of sycamore covered by TPO

Norlands

Cowshill

Yasmin Hussan

## **PLANNING APPROVALS**

DM/17/01294/FPA + DM/17/01295/LB

Alterations to form two self contained family annexes

Frosterley House

57 Front Street

Frosterley

Mr Geoff Mee

DM/17/01382/FPA

Alterations to part of garage into workshop and garden room

Horn Hall

Stanhope

Mr J De Muschamp

DM/17/01448/FPA

New helicopter pad and access path

Moor Rigg

Bollihope

Arago Ltd

DM/17/01542/FPA

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

Stanhope Station

Extension to Fire Station

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

## **PLANNING WITHDRAWALS**

DM/17/01569/FPA

Shed

72 Bondisle Way

Stanhope

Mr R Cassidy

## 9791

### FINANCE

1. Westgate Village Hall would like to apply for the grant money of £500 from the Parish Council. **Resolved:** Clerk to send £500
2. Scottish Widows Bank plc is part of the Lloyds Banking Group and Scottish Widows uses a separate banking license. Later on this year the products and services offered will be brought together so this will mean transferring our accounts to Lloyds Bank plc. We will not see any changes all account numbers will stay the same
3. The renewal documents have been received from Zurich Insurance there are no changes to last year, £1248.86. **Resolved:** Clerk to send cheque
4. The Bank Reconciliation figures for the end of June were handed around. **Resolved:** Agreed
5. Rookhope Village Hall would like to apply for the Village Hall £500 grant money **Resolved:** Clerk to send £500
6. Stanhope Methodist Church would like to apply for grant money. **Resolved:** Clerk to send £500

## 9792

### AAP REPORT

Cllr Thompson attended the Board meeting in July and there are changes to the allocation of the small grants fund, twenty five thousand for the small grants and twenty thousand for capital grants. An extraordinary meeting will be held and Cllr Craig or Cllr Thompson will attend

## 9793

### ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Paul Dobson Website Photographs	£500.00
Zurich Municipal Insurance (includes Insurance Prem Tax)	£1248.86
T Johnson 2 cuts Ashcroft Play Area	£100.00
BT Phone bill clerks	£122.20
JRB Enterprise Ltd	£537.60
S Anderson salary	£536.52
HM Revenue PAYE	£115.00
S Anderson expenses	£37.44
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
Westgate Village Hall grant money	£500.00
Rookhope Village Hall grant money	£500.00

Npower Ashcroft Play Area	£53.43
NWG Willard Grove	£50.45
NWG Old Cemetery	£12.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£4348.53</b>

**9794**

**NEW MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

- Cllr Craig congratulated the Turf Turners Tug of War Club who will be representing England
- Cllr Thompson mentioned that the roads are still being dug up in Rookhope and that the work has started on the Church.
- Cllr Thompson has had a site meeting where the new bungalows are being built and has requested that Rookhope residents that receive first chance of them
- The snow poles need painting between Rookhope and Allenheads. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
- Cllr Mrs Thompson would like to report a broken kerb just before 31 Front Street, Ireshopeburn. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
- A date is needed when work will commence on the footpath at High Barns. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
- Cllr Ellwood attended the recent training course at Barnard Castle which was well attended and was very interesting and well worth attending
- Cllr Miss Carrick would like to report a pot hole opposite the fish and chip shop. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
- The signs at the Tanning and Vapour Shop do they have planning permission for these. **Resolved:** Clerk to enquire
- Cllr Mrs Humble would like the Ragwort pulled out from the 40mph sign at the West End of Stanhope to Golden Lands. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
- Some self seeded sycamores need removing at the junction at Cowshill War Memorial west on the A689 to the railings
- Some rubbish has been left at Killhope after the installation of a telegraph pole and equipment for the mobile phone reception. **Resolved:** Clerk to report
- An update is required on the repair work to Cowshill War Memorial. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC

**9795**

**Clerks Business**

The clerks Contract of Employment was discussed and updated

MEETING CLOSED AT 9pm

Date of next meeting Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Dales Centre, Stanhope commencing at 7pm

.....Signed.....Date