

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 4th August 2021

PRESENT:

Cllr D Craig Chairman

Cllr L Blackett, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes, Cllr Mrs A Humble,
Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr W Wearmouth, Cllr P Turton

Also present:

R Lawrie

Susan Anderson Clerk

10492

Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Shuttleworth, S Thompson

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To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

10494

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2021

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

10495

Police and the Community

An update was sent from the Police which was sent to the councillors

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Welcome new Councillor for Stanhope Rural

Cllr Craig welcomed Paul Turton as the Ward Councillor for Stanhope Rural

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Co-Option of Councillors for Stanhope Urban and St John's Chapel Wards

Richard Lawrie was co-opted onto Stanhope Parish Council as Ward Councillor for Stanhope Urban and Sandra Thompson was co-opted onto the Parish Council as Ward Councillor for St John's Chapel.

10498

Matters Arising

1. **Daddry Shield Play park trees** – The resident who complained about the trees in the play park is not happy that they are not going to be cut back. The matter will be taken further.
2. **Footpath sweeping** – D Hunt has arranged for the footpath sweeper to sweep the Riverside Walk, Front Street, High Street, Church Lane and The Butts.
3. **Dog Bin** - The dog bin at Cornriggs will be fitted shortly and the one on Cross Street there are plenty of bins in that vicinity.
4. **Bondisle Allotments** – An email has been sent to Complete Weed Control that the Parish Council agreed last meeting to have the five-year treatment plan put in place. The reply from the solicitor was sent to all of the councillors. Cllr Mrs Humble and Cllr Mrs Hawkes replied that the Parish Council should commit to treat the JKW asap. A site meeting has been arranged for Friday 6th August with the property owner and CWC. A decision is needed as to whether the Parish Council pays for the treatment of the neighbouring property. **Resolved:** It was agreed for the Parish Council to pay for the treatment to the neighbouring property.
5. **Crosshill Nursing Home** – A lovely thank you card has been sent from the residents of Crosshill for the raffle hamper.
6. **Frosterley Vacancy** – We still have one vacancy on the Parish Council as ward councillor for Frosterley. **Resolved:** A vacancy notice to be put onto the website and also in Frosterley Village Hall.
7. **Westgate Allotments** – An email has been received from the tenant at Westgate regarding the gradual reduction of hens. The email has been sent to the councillors. **Resolved:** Receive and note
8. **Stanhope GP's** – Cllr Mrs Hawkes spoke to one of the GP's as there has been a significant number of complaints and unhappiness about the services from Parishioners to Councillors. Two issues were discussed Access and Branch Surgeries. The length of time waiting for the telephone to be answered and the surgery are working on this by increasing the reception staff at busy and peak times. There are more telephone consultations so that patients could get prescriptions within an hour or two. Many telephone appointments convert to face-to-face appointments where Covid safe and clinically necessary. It is recognised it was more difficult for older people and those living up the dale so a new member of staff has been appointed to liaise specifically with elderly more vulnerable patients. E-consultations are proving popular with younger people. Routine appointments were typically 2 weeks or more. The opening of the Branch Surgeries will depend on the pandemic and how it pans out.
9. **Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries** – Cllr Wearmouth drafted a reply which was emailed off.
10. **Willard Grove Allotments** – A councillor inspected the bottom plot and the pile of rubbish was still on plot. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the tenant.
11. **Speeding and Speed Limits** – Cllr Craig mentioned that he had spoken to Insp Turner who thought that 40 – 50mph was a sensible speed. Cllr Wearmouth would like a 30mph in Eastgate and Daddry Shield and Crawleyside need looking at. At Frosterley School entrance the speed limit should be 20mph. Cllr Blackett mentioned the conflict on the speed awareness course. Where there are street lights it's a 30mph but up the dale where there are street lights this doesn't apply and it is a 60mph. **Resolved:** Clerk to invite Insp Turner to the September meeting.

12. **Beacons 70th Anniversary** – A discussion is needed on this. **Resolved:** Clerk to put 70th Anniversary Beacons onto the September Agenda
13. **Playground Work** – A councillor enquired if the work had been started on the play parks. **Resolved:** Clerk to chase up
14. **School Hedge** – Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned the school hedge at Cowgarth Hill and that Angelina Maddison from the AAP suggested that the school contacts her. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the school.
15. **Allotment tenancy agreement** – It was mentioned that the tenancy agreement needs revisiting as agreed in April. The new agreement should state the number of hens. **Resolved:** Clerk to put on the agenda for October.

10499

Correspondence Received

1. It has been reported that there are tree branches growing across the river by the bridge next to Unthank. This is where children can play and paddle in the river but the branches are now right across the river. They are growing from the riverside wall. **Resolved:** Cllr Miss Carrick will have a look at this.
2. A report has been received that there are a small flock of sheep in Shittleburn wood and a resident from Stanhope is concerned that they are spoiling the wild flowers and the footpath. He would like the Parish Council to write to the farmers or landowners to repair the fences so that the sheep cannot get into the wood. **Resolved:** Clerk to write that this is not a Parish Council issue.
3. A resident from St Johns Chapel has enquired if the Parish Council have heard anything about a planning application for a caravan site at West Blackdene next to the riverside.
4. Residents on High Street have complained that leaves and rubbish are being blown out of Fairfield House grounds with a blower onto High Street. This has been reported to D Hunt who will monitor the area.
5. An email has been received that an employee of Castlebank Butchers put bags of bread buns and bread into the bin outside of the shop. This has been reported to D Hunt. Darren has arranged for the Neighbourhood Warden to visit the premises.
6. Lumiere Durham 2021 are requesting to meet regarding possible sponsorship as this year arrangements are being made to provide light installations in following areas, Bollihope Common in our area. A zoom meeting can be arranged to find out more about the possible installation. A decision is needed before 31st July.
7. CDALC sent information for a cemetery/churchyard course via zoom so the clerk is going to do this.
8. A representative is needed on the CDALC Executive Committee for the Weardale Area. We can have three members from our council and the same from the other councils Muggleswick, Witton le Wear and Wolsingham. The email from CDALC was sent to all of the councillors. Cllr Mrs Hawkes would be interested in putting her name forward. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact CDALC

10500

County Councillor Update

Cllr Shuttleworth sent his apologies

10501

Planning Matters

DM/21/02243/LB DM/21/02242/FPA

Demolition of existing conservatory and outbuildings

Erection of extension

Castle Lodge

Stanhope

DM/21/023341/FPA

Retention of generator on 1.50 x 3.10m concrete base and associated works

Road verge on A689 at

Killhope south of Clough House

Lanehead

DM/21/01465/FPA

Conversion of agricultural building to holiday accommodation

Stone Carrs

Westgate

DM/21/02530/LB

Internal alterations

16 Stanhope Castle

Stanhope

DM/21/02607/FPA

Machinery Storage building

Brotherlee Holiday Home Park

Westgate

DM/21/02584/FPA

Change of use of land for the siting of 10 seasonal touring caravans, parking, landscaping and associated infrastructure

Cragside Caravan Site

Eastgate

Objection comments to be sent to the clerk

DM/21/02654/RM

Approval of reserved matters

(appearance, landscaping, layout and scale)of planning permission

DM/15/00373/OUT

Shittleburn Farm

Stanhope

10502

Finance

1. Stanhope Methodist Church would like to apply for the £500 Village Hall Grant money. **Resolved:** Agreed
2. Frosterley Village Hall would like to apply for the £500 village hall grant money. **Resolved:** Agreed
3. All Saints Church Eastgate would like to apply for the £300 grant money. **Resolved:** Agreed
4. Eastgate Village Hall would like to apply for the £500 grant money. **Resolved:** Agreed
5. Eastgate Village Hall would like to apply for the £500 grant money for 2020 which they did not receive last year. **Resolved:** Agreed
6. Ireshopeburn Institute would like to apply for the £500 village hall grant money. **Resolved:** Agreed
7. Victim Support would like us to consider a donation so that they can empower more people in our community to cope and recover from crime. The email was sent to the councillors. **Resolved:** Clerk to see if there is a local Victim Support
8. We received a letter from HSBC that we were due a refund. After confirming with HSBC that the letter was genuine the forms were filled in and sent on 26th July 2021. We are due £1147.83 for bank charges going back to 2005. The refund due was £611.17 and compensatory interest at 8% of £536.66.
9. **Crosshill Allotments – Rats –** Cllr Mrs Hawkes has had two tenants complain about the rat infestation on the allotments. The email has been sent to all of the councillors that Cllr Mrs Hawkes sent. After speaking to DCC we can use our powers to force the tenants to clear the rats but if they don't, we could be issued with a legal notice to solve the rat problem. If the allotments are kept free from rubbish and no feed laid about then the problem is relatively easy to solve. The councillors commented that the tenants have to do their own vermin control. **Resolved:** Cllr Mrs Hawkes will let the tenants know who mentioned it to her that they should do their own vermin control.
10. Bank reconciliation figures for 30th June 2021 **Resolved:** Figures were agreed

10503

AAP Report

Cllr Mrs Humble mentioned that there had been a meeting via zoom with the election of the Chair and Vice Chair. She commented that the Parish Council is well represented with Cllr Shuttleworth, herself and public representatives of Cllr Wearmouth and Cllr Lawrie. Also, K Roddam as a public rep.

10504

Accounts for Payment

Northgate Systems new printer/toner cartridge replacement- setup	£276.00
CDALC councillor training	£20.00
E-ON Next Ashcroft Play park paid 26 th July	£10.98
WAVE Public Conv Daddry Shield	£43.17
J Woodhall Hamper for Crosshill Raffle	£25.00
Zurich Municipal Insurance	£1294.03
Allen Sykes Internal Audit	£246.00

Paul Irwin grass cutting - query grass cutting dates	£180.00
WAVE Old Cemetery	£13.09
WAVE Allotments Willard Grove	£18.81
S Anderson salary	£791.66
HM Rev	£7.54
S Anderson expenses	£37.44
S Anderson expenses BT £85 charge for callout with broadband problems in April	£85.00
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
BT Clerks Phone Bill	£92.29
TOTAL	£3176.01

10505

New Matters for Discussion

1. Cllr Mrs Humble would like the hedge reducing in Burtreeford Cemetery. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
2. There are self-seeding trees growing on West Blackdene Bridge in the middle pillar and on the sides too. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
3. The gully sucker is needed at the drain by the cemetery gate at Burtreeford and the drain on Cowhill bridge. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
4. Cllr Mrs Humble would like it noting that someone fell and broke their arm and was told it would be a three and a half hour wait for an ambulance. They were taken by car to the hospital but hopefully this was a one-off case.
5. Cllr Mrs Hawkes mentioned that she is now a trustee on the Durham Community Action which is an umbrella organisation for the voluntary sector with a lot of money for projects.
6. Cllr Brewin has been talking to the Church Commissioners concerning Frosterley Church. The Church Commissioners are not concerned that family members still visit the graves that would be in the garden of the plans for the Church. They commented to Cllr Brewin that the headstones could be moved. Cllr Craig mentioned that if Cllr Brewin needed the help of the Parish Council, then he just had to say. Cllr Brewin would like to know who owns the curtilage in front of his property. **Resolved:** Clerk to find out.
7. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned the new pigeon loft has been installed at Bondisle and it is very smart.
8. Cllr Blackett pointed out that the Scamps sign is still up and needs taking down. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
9. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff mentioned that are the dog bags in the villages being filled up. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC

10506

Clerks Business

The clerk and G Dobson the Clerk from Wolsingham Parish Council will be judging the sunflower competition tomorrow 5th August 2021.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.35PM

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 1st September 2021 at the Dales Centre, Stanhope commencing at 7pm.

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