

## STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in Eastgate Village Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023

### PRESENT:

Cllr L Blakett, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr R Lawrie,  
Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr D Craig, Cllr E Buchanan

Cllr Miss J Carrick – Chairman

Susan Anderson – Clerk

### 10818

#### Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mrs C Burdis, Cllr A Hawkes, Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr P Turton, Cllr Mrs S Smart

### 10819

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

None received

### 10820

#### Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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

### 10821

#### Matters Arising

1. **BONDISLE ALLOTMENTS** – a tenant has been written to with the instruction from Savills that the tree stump that was left after the tree was felled must not be touched at all. If it is then it would be classed as criminal damage. The second plot has been treated to kill the weeds. The tenant from the uncultivated plot has sent a letter that due to health reasons he has been unable to cultivate the plot for the last three years. He does not want the plot halved and is hoping to be able to cultivate the plot in due course. **Resolved:** Following a discussion it was agreed to write to the tenant to offer him help with the plot.
2. **STANHOPE DENE-** The owner of the Dene has the name of a local tree surgeon who will visit the Dene the next time the owner is visiting the area. It is now considered good conservation practice to leave fallen trees to decay naturally in the location, if it is safe to do so. Most of the public stick to the rights of way on the Councils map but some do not. The occupants of the Stanhopeburn Caravan Park and in particular their children, seem to regard this fragile, private, woodland ecosystem as their children's own adventure playground, without a thought to their personal safety, let alone to the detriment of the majority of the Stanhope community who all really value it. The owner would like the Parish Council to raise this issue with the Sites owners. The Parish Council cannot get involved in private land matters. The official waymarking signs are no longer there anymore so maybe some new ones could be put up. The landowner could also put some signs up and maybe an information board

suggesting that people stick to the footpath to protect the habitat. The tree photographs were sent to the owner as people were concerned about their safety whilst walking in the dene especially when it was windy. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the owner and ask DCC for some waymarkers.

3. **MEMBERSHIPS OF AAP, CDALC AND PATIENT LIAISON GROUP-** Cllr Mrs Hawkes has sent resignation letters to the AAP, CDALC and the Patient Liaison Group. Cllr Miss J Carrick will be the Parish Council representative on the AAP Board. It was suggested that maybe Cllr Mrs Burdis would like to be the representative, if not then Cllr E Buchanan would do this.
4. **JOY ALLEN PCC-** Joy Allen is unable to attend the next few meetings as she has other commitments. We have been added into her diary for the December meeting.
5. **KERB STONE, STANHOPE** – The kerb stone near to the Bonny Moor Hen has been inspected and a works order has been put in for a repair.
6. **WASPS NEST AT CROSSHILL ALLOTMENTS** – DCC Pest Control have been out and apparently there were two nests in the shed. These have been dealt with.
7. **ASHCROFT PLAYPARK** – The tender package has now been emailed out to the contractors for pricing with a date of 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
8. **POLYTUNNELS** – Polytunnels often present a grey area in planning and the requirements for planning are based on size and degree of permanence. Also permitted development rights apply for some farmers so DCC always suggest people put a formal pre-application enquiry into seek DCC views on the need for planning.

## 10822

### Correspondence Received

1. Cllr Turton reported a damaged kerb stone by the Bonny Moorhen in Stanhope. The clerk has reported this to DCC.
2. Cllr Miss Carrick reported to the clerk that the tree by the first turn in at Willard Grove, Stanhope needs the shoots cutting off them. D Hunt was contacted.
3. In the small garden at Garden Close, Stanhope there are many self-seeding sycamore trees growing. D Hunt was contacted.
4. We have been sent a copy of the draft Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) scheme prepared by the Church Commissioners providing for the closed church building of Frosterley St Michael, and part of the churchyard, to be sold for residential use and for uses ancillary thereto. A drop – in session will take place on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 between 4pm and 7pm at Frosterley Village Hall where members of the Commissioners' and Diocesan staff will be available to answer any questions. Any representations must be received by 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
5. We have had a complaint concerning the cockerels on the allotments at Crosshill that the noise is getting worse. The email has been acknowledged and the current rules have been sent. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the tenant to make sure the cockerels are being barred in.
6. A tenant of Willard Grove would like a tree looking at that is at the back of his plot. He is concerned that it might fall onto his pigeon loft. **Resolved:** Clerk to get the tree inspected by Olivers Tree Services
7. We have been sent details from the Forestry Commission regarding a felling licence consultation at Killhope Woodlands, Felling and Restocking and maps. We have until 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023 to make any comments. **Resolved:** Clerk to write that the councillors would like to see the restocking of conifers
8. We have received an email regarding the Proposed Pastoral Scheme. The parish of Saint John-in-Weardale and the parish of Westgate. Comments have been received on the proposed closure The Commissioners have decided that the issues raised require a sub-committee visit, probably in early September, before the matter is considered at, hopefully, their September meeting.

9. On the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023 the Major of Bishop Auckland, Sam Zair is hosting a Wine & Cheese afternoon on the Weardale railway to Stanhope. He would like approval to alight the train at Stanhope Station wearing his chains. If possible, a representative from the Parish Council/ County to meet Sam and his guests if they can do so. The train will arrive at the station at 2.30pm and depart again 3pm. **Resolved:** Cllr Miss Carrick will meet the Major of Bishop Auckland
10. A resident from Westgate was wondering if there was a tennis net available for the MUGA at the play park. The Parish Council does not have a net and DCC should be contacted
11. There is a Felling Licence consultation for felling and restocking at High Puddingthorn Cottage at Lanehead.

### **10823**

#### **County Councillor Update**

Cllr Shuttleworth has had a meeting with the LINK staff regarding the ongoing problems with the cash machine at the Coop in Stanhope. They acknowledge that there have been problems and that new parts have been fitted to stop the problem of not working from time to time. They have been contacted again on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July as there has been another period of the machine being out of commission. They are currently addressing the issue.

The toilets at St Johns Chapel are now fully repaired and redecorated and open for use. Cllr Mrs Thompson mentioned that there were splashes of paint all over the floor and that there were no skirting boards on.

### **10824**

#### **Planning Matters**

DM/23/01366/FPA

Detached garden room and stainless steel flue to the main roof of the existing dwelling.

The Forge

Newhouse

Ireshopeburn

DM/23/01968/FPA

Change of use from dwelling to artist studio

3 Burnfoot

St Johns Chapel

Complaints have been received concerning the parking facilities.

**Resolved:** Clerk to send comments that a big percentage of the residents in the immediate vicinity have objected to this application due to parking problems.

DM/23/01890/FPA

Erection of car port

Weardale Lodge

Lanehead

### **PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED**

DM/22/02269/FPA – DM/22/02270/LM

The erection of a single storey visitor centre building and new changing places facility, and the renovation of nettie (description amended)

DM/22/02878/MIN

Continued exploration to develop the abstraction and re-injection of ground water for the extraction and processing of lithium at a pilot scale.

Ludwell farm

Eastgate

DM/23/00629/FPA

Erection of a wooden sectional shed/summer house on grassed area to front of the property (plans amended 10/5/2023

4 West Haswicks

Westgate

DM/22/02798/VOC

Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) for design alterations, discharge condition 3 (building recording) 4(windows & doors) and 5 materials pursuant to DM/21/00520/FPA

Land and building south of 11 Market Place,

St Johns Chapel

DM/22/03321/FPA

Change of use and conversion of former farm building to dwelling

Black Cleugh

Wearhead

DM.22.03543/LB – DM/22/03544/AD

Erection of illuminated and non-illuminated signs to the exterior of the building.

Painting of external detailing black windows and cills

Frosterley Inn and Caravan Park

99 Front Street

Frosterley

DM/22/03647/VOC

Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission

DM/17/02738/FPA installation of flue internally as opposed to externally

Chapel House

1 Bridge End

Frosterley

DM/23/00049/FPA

Proposed external over cladding of existing terrace properties at 1,3,4,5,6,7 & 9 Hogarth Terrace, Rookhope. Application of an insulated limestone façade and replicate feature headers and sills.

Replacement of the existing roofing materials to match existing together with new eaves and rainwater goods.

Hogarth Terrace

Rookhope

DM/23/00235/VOC

Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission

DM/19/00202/FPA incorporation of renewable technology

White Kirkley Farm

Frosterley

DM/23/01075/FPA  
Erection of cabin for holiday accommodation  
Quarry Bank Cottage  
Harehope Quarry  
Frosterley

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS REFUSED

#### DM/23/00685/FPA

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

Land South of Fair View  
High Street  
Stanhope

#### 10825

##### Finance

1. Ireshopeburn Institute would like to apply for the Annual Village Hall grant money of £500.  
**Resolved:** Clerk to send the grant money
2. How do the councillors feel about receiving the Agenda and the Minutes by email rather than posting them out? This would help reduce the postage costs and the cost of the ink cartridges. **Resolved:** Most of the councillors agreed to this, two councillors will receive the agenda and minutes by post.
3. We have received the 2024/25 Budget Planning – Tax Base and LCTRS Grant. The email was sent to all of the councillors to read.
4. We have received an email from the Weardale Museum Trustees which has been sent to the councillors. They are wondering if we are able to offer a donation no matter how small.
5. The Scribe accounting also do an Allotments section which is in addition to the accounting side but all is linked. It has all the plots and tenants' names added, waiting lists and invoicing for the payment of the rent. There are templates for inspection letters and the action required. The cost is £660 plus the additional support and training £397, totalling £1057
6. Bank Reconciliation figures and quarterly budgets were sent to all of the councillors.  
**Resolved:** Agreed

#### 10826

##### AAP Report

There was nothing much to report apart from that the Ashcroft MUGA is going ahead.

#### 10827

##### CDALC Report

No representative at the moment

#### 10828

##### Accounts for Payment

<b>E.ON NEXT ASHCROFT PLAY PARK PAID</b>	<b>£36.11</b>
<b>SCRIBE ACCOUNTS/ STARBOARD SYSTEMS LTD</b>	<b>£788.40</b>
<b>MAKEPEACE MOTORS PLAY PARKS</b>	<b>£1054.80</b>

JRB ENTERPRISE DOG BAGS	£597.60
COUNTY DURHAM & CLEVELAND TRAINING	£10.00
WAVE ALLOTMENTS WILLARD GROVE	£23.06
WAVE OLD CEMETERY STANHOPE	£19.16
BT CLERKS PHONE	£88.19
DCC COMMUNITY HIGHWAYS	£16,600.86
WAVE PUBLIC CONV DADDRY SHIELD	£68.24
IRESHOPEBURN INSTITUTE	£500.00
S ANDERSON SALARY	£904.08
HMREV/PAYE	£20.16
S ANDERSON EXPENSES	£81.99
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00
ALLEN SYKES LTS	£264.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£21,091.65</b>

10829

**New Matters for Discussion**

1. Cllr Mrs Burdis would like to report a broken kerb stone opposite the Coop in Frosterley. **Resolved:** Clerk to report.
2. Cllr Turton has been in contact with the Ordnance Survey Maps regarding a walk to Ireshopeburn. The map incorrectly had the footpath crossing the bridge behind the old cement works at Eastgate. The O/S are amending the maps with their September update. The path continues to Ludwell where there is sign saying no access across the river whereas there isn't one on the Eastgate side. It would be useful to have some signage along the path saying that it is not possible to cross the river from Eastgate. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
3. Cllr Craig mentioned that Edwin Craggs has retired from the Fire Service in Stanhope after a lifetime of serving the Community. **Resolved:** Clerk to write.
4. Cllr Craig mentioned the old railway line footpath from Westgate to the Quarry. The Park Burn Embankment disappeared many years ago leaving walkers to find their own way round it. The landowners are having many problems with people leaving gates open and taking the locks off the gates even though there are good stiles. This causes many problems and extra work when sheep get mixed up and cattle into meadow fields. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC
5. Cllr Buchanan mentioned two triangular warning playground signs one at Ireshopeburn and one at Wearhead have been down now for many weeks, these need replacing as soon as possible. **Resolved:** Clerk to report them to DCC

6. Cllr Buchanan mentioned the road safety throughout the dale. There is some dangerous and idiotic driving taking place with people overtaking on blind bends. Also, some people are driving too slow which is nearly as bad as driving too fast. He was wondering whether some signage might help and also some white double lines. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
7. Cllr Buchanan would like to see the marking off of bays down Stanhope Main Street so that people park properly. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC
8. Cllr Blackett mentioned that he has reported a water leak at Wearhead.
9. Cllr Brewin has had three meetings recently. The first was at Harehope which is no longer used as an educational site. The offices maybe become a bed and breakfast and with a B&B by the pub and another on Front Street Frosterley Cllr Brewin feels that there are too many b&b's and this needs taking up with the County Council. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC. The Second concern is regarding a property in Cromer Lea which is owned by Believe Housing. Cllr Brewin would like the Parish Council to write to Believe Housing with the concerns of the neighbouring residents.  
The third meeting was held on 31<sup>st</sup> July with the Church Commissioners which was well attended. It was mentioned that there will be no objections to people walking the pathway but Cllr Brewin does have concerns that a restraining order to stop people walking it could be applied for. The double-parking bay would be the sole use of the property owner. The footpath is to be widened by two to four metres and some female yew trees are to be cut back. The garden area has no graves there or no marked graves there. Concerns regarding the widening of Church Lane were also mentioned. **Resolved:** Clerk to write
10. Cllr Mrs Thompson mentioned the road marking SLOW signs down by the school in St Johns Chapel that need re-painting and would like this chasing up. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
11. The Crosshill Sign has also not been replaced yet so this needs chasing up again. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
12. The public footpath sign still has not been replaced at Ireshopeburn and there is a sign that has rotted away opposite the school at St Johns Chapel. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC

**10830  
Clerks Business**

1. A tenant from Ireshopeburn would like permission to place an IBC tank on her plot to contain water. This is a reinforced plastic container 1 metre x 2 metres x 1.2 metres high. It has a small cap on the top to fill it by and a tap at the bottom to allow the water to drain.  
**Resolved:** Agreed

**Meeting closed at 8.45pm**

**Date of next meeting is Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Eastgate Village Hall commencing at 7pm.**

.....**signed**.....**date**