

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 6th December 2017

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs A Humble

Cllr D Ellwood, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr Miss F Graham, Cllr D Craig, Cllr L Blackett,
Cllr Mrs H Maddison, Cllr Mrs K Hutchinson, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr B Thompson, Cllr A Fishburn

Also Present:

PC B Crampsie

9838

Apologies for Absence

None received

9839

To Receive any Declarations of Interest from Members

Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr Mrs H Maddison, Cllr D Ellwood – Light Up The Dale

9840

Minutes of the meeting held on November 2nd 2017

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

9841

Police and the Community

Cllr Mrs Humble welcomed PC Crampsie to the meeting. The dale is being targeted at the minute by poaching and crime. There are two in one crimes happening where a house is broken into and the car keys stolen and then the vehicle is stolen. Some of the cars are found whilst trying to disable the tracking devices. The A.N.P.R is helping to narrow down crime. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff asked Pc Crampsie if the dale Police were on full manpower but at the minute they are one PCSO down. Cllr Mrs Humble mentioned the Police cells and Bishop Auckland is the first option then Peterlee, Durham and Darlington depending on cell space. Poaching is still a problem with a case up Tunstall where a sheep was savaged and four died. Cllr Brewin and Cllr Blackett are concerned about the roadside parking in their villages. Residents who have prams and wheel chairs are having problems getting passed cars parked too far on the footpath. Considerate parking would be appreciated. PC Crampsie will attend the February meeting to report again any crime over the next few months. Cllr Mrs Humble thanked PC Crampsie for attending the meeting

Matters Arising

1. **Bridge End Daddry Shield** – J Hodges has inspected the road and agrees that it does need resurfacing
2. **Fencing at Frosterley** – J Hodges will speak to G Surtees about the possibility of an additional twenty feet of fencing to stop the cars travelling over the grass
3. **Laura Pidcock Visit** – Laura should be up in Durham on 4th April 2018 so we have booked her for the Parish Council meeting. Her secretary will be in touch nearer the time
4. **Soil mound in Frosterley Cemetery** – T Johnston has spoken to the contractor who admits to tipping the grass scrapped from the paths and the rest from the stonemasons. It will be removed and the stonemasons will be written to that all surplus soil has to be removed from the site
5. **Newtown House** – Newtown House is currently on the market with the closing date of 13th November. DCC has assessed all offers and carried out some internal consultations and have now contacted the preferred bidder to inform them that they have been successful. DCC are now drafting Heads of Terms to be agreed by the purchaser
6. **Comments on planning application** – Our objection to the dwelling at Ireshopeburn has been acknowledged
7. **Mine Adits in Stanhope Dene** – DCC contacted the Church Commissioners as a result of receiving a complaint regarding the mine entrances and adits in Stanhope Dene. The council was concerned for the safety of children and adults gaining access into these areas and requested that they be secured as soon as possible. The fitting of grills was not feasible given the time in which the Church Commissioners had to respond to the satisfaction of the council. A discussion took place as to why no bat survey had been done before the entrances had been covered over. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC to have the soil removed and grills fitted
8. **NALC Code of Conduct** – S Ragg has acknowledged receipt that we have adopted the revised code
9. **Various jobs reported to DCC** – The jobs reported have been sent to the relevant departments and reference numbers have been allocated to the jobs
10. **Ambulance Update** – Mr McDougall has confirmed receiving the email and the information will be provided shortly. He sends his apologies as he has been busy with the new Ambulance Response Standards which went live on 31st October
11. **War Memorial from Town Hall** – It has been agreed that the War Memorial Plaque can be installed in the Church and the picture as well. Mr Anstee is our point of contact **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC to have the memorials brought back to Stanhope
12. **Dales Centre Hire** – All evening meetings are charged at £20 for voluntary groups and £25 per hour for commercial groups. Day time meetings between 8 – 5pm are charged at £15. Mr Watson will look into the charging for part hours he feels sure that we can reach an agreement. As the Dales Centre is guaranteed eleven meetings could there be a reduction for bulk bookings or a reduction in the price for tea and coffee **Resolved:** Clerk to write again
13. **Standing Orders** – S Ragg has sent a Model set of Standing Orders which we can adopt
14. **Litter signs** – The signs are back in Weardale 1 at Harperley Banks, 2 in Stanhope, 1 at Softley Bank, 1 at Crawleyside Bank and 1 at Killhope. These will be displayed for approximately six weeks then they can be moved around in the dale if required
15. **Leaves in the gullies at Westgate** – Simon and the road sweeper have cleared the leaves from the gullies west of the telephone exchange and also on the north side of the road
16. **Nettles near to Crosshill Allotments** – Simon has removed the nettles
17. **Leaves between West Terrace and Cowgarth Hill** – Simon has cleared all the leaves

18. **Fencing at Frosterley** – D Hunt is going to keep inspecting the area as there is no evidence of cars travelling over the grass. He is happy to meet Cllr Mrs Maddison or Cllr Brewin to discuss this **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt to arrange a site meeting
19. **Proposed Stopping Up of Grass Verge, Filling Station Site, Westgate** – On 14th March 2018 the County Council propose to apply to Newton Aycliffe Magistrates Court for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 authorising that all highway rights over the triangular shaped area of adopted highway shown on the enclosed plan be stopped up.
20. **Kenneth's Bridge, Frosterley** – DCC have appointed a contractor to undertake ground investigation works for the proposed replacement bridge section. The work should commence next week and will initially concentrate on the north bank and is due to last approximately a week subject to ground conditions encountered and weather. Further works will be undertaken within the river bed early next year following discussions with the Environment Agency
21. **Steps at the stepping stones, Stanhope** – The steps still have not been dug out by DCC. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC again
22. **Street Name Plates** – It has been suggested that the Community Highways Worker paints the signs. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
23. **Footpath between Daddry Shield and Stone Heap** – Cllr Craig mentioned that work is under way on the footpath. There is no improvement on the footpath between Frosterley and Stanhope. **Resolved:** Clerk to chase up with D Hunt
24. **Roadside trees at Westgate** – The self seeding trees have not been cut back yet and need doing before the spring **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
25. **Flower bed at Stanhope** – The flower bed still has not been planted **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Gillett
26. **Bridge in the Dene, Stanhope** – The hole in the bridge still has not been repaired **Resolved:** Clerk to report it again
27. **Footpath between Killhopeburn Bridge and Lanehead Bridge** – This footpath needs way marking and some stiles. **Resolved:** Clerk to report again
28. **The gate at Craghead, Wellhope** – The gate remains in a dilapidated state and needs renewing. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact M Murden again

9843

Correspondence Received

1. The new Annual Governance and Accountability Return will replace the current Annual Return. This document has been approved in principle by the Joint Practitioners Advisory Group. It is anticipated that these will be formally agreed and completed by the end of this month, following which the final versions of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return documents will be formally issued.
2. The Deputy Mayor Councillor Clive Maddison has arranged the Civic Carol Service to be held on Sunday 10th December 2017 in the Town Hall Spennymoor at 3pm. There is a form to fill in if anyone is attending
3. S Ragg has sent details of a survey related to Diversity of Parish Councils. Have we heard about NALC's new diversity commission? The diversity commission has been formed by NALC to promote and increase the diversity of councillors in local councils as well as in county associations and NALC. NALC thinks it is vital that diversity is promoted in a sector that strives for equality and fair representation of the community and the diversity commission wants our help to make this a success
4. At the DCC Cabinet meeting members will be recommended to approve the 2018/19 Council Tax Base and Localisation of Council Tax Support Grant for Parish Councils. Following the approval of these figures, DCC will be writing to each Parish Council notifying them of their

respective figures for 2018/19. The Precept form will be sent out and must be returned by 26th January 2018

5. There was a temporary road closure on 27th November on the road leading to Hag Bridge, Eastgate to Brotherlee
6. Cllr Miss Carrick reported to the clerk that a lady fell on the cobbles on Stanhope Market Place. This has been reported to DCC Highways Department who have identified that action is required
7. NALC would like Parish Councils to get involved in Battles Over – A Nations Tribute. This is a commemorative event for the end of World War 1 and is being held on 11th November 2018.
8. There is a constant risk of chickens , ducks and geese catching bird flu. Defra has sent some information for poultry keepers to help against bird flu. A poster has been printed off for display
9. The County Council intend to close to vehicular traffic, from 9.30am on Friday 8th December 2017 a 50m length of B6277 that extends over Langdon Beck Bridge (east of Langdon Beck Hotel), Teesdale
10. S Ragg has sent the details for the Buckingham Palace Royal garden Party 2018. We can nominate a councillor and a partner. The invitations are for recognition of past service and it is appropriate that outgoing members are invited to attend **Resolved:** Clerk to invite Mr & Mrs R Mews
11. S Ragg has sent a reminder that section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 prohibits a local councillor in council tax arrears for at least two months from voting on the setting of a precept or any recommendation, resolution or other decisions which might affect the calculation of the precept
12. A thank you letter was read out from Cllr Miss Carrick on behalf of Light Up the Dale who thanked the parish Council for their donation. The event had been a great success

9844

Light Up The Dale

Cllr Mrs Maddison commented that the group now has its own constition and own insurance. It is lovely to see a tree back in Stanhope and everyone is thrilled with it

9845

Wolsingham School

A discussion took place and we must show support in retaining the school. We must not be complacent as there is no smoke without fire. DCC cannot justify spending millions on the new school and then close it, there is also the Leisure Centre and swimming pool. The primary schools will need watching as well as on the school website the consultation says 0 to 19 year olds. Why are so many staff leaving and heads not staying? Will a new head teacher be appointed? **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC

9846

Planning Matters

DM/17/03404/FPA + DM/17/03405/LB
Change of use of Agricultural Building
Into 1no dwelling
Greenhead Hall
Rookhope
Mr & Mrs Young

DM/17/03444/FPA

Change of use from annexe to community space and alterations to rear fenestration
Village Hall
Frosterley
L Davenport

DM/17/03507/FPA

Conversion and extension of barn to form dwelling creation of domestic curtilage
Hag Gate
Eastgate
Mr & Mrs Emerson

DM/17/03145/LB

Amended design to fenestration
The Byre
4 Stanhope Hall
Stanhope
Graeme Ward

DM/17/03198/FPA

Construction of 1 no dwelling
Land to the South of
Fairleas Farm
Daddry Shield
J Hunter

The councillors have concerns about the type of building materials to be used. The ship lap will be seen from the A689 and Sidehead and Sidefoot. It will not be in keeping with the area. **Resolved:** Clerk to object to the application

DM/17/03551/FPA

Convert one dwelling to two dwellings
10 Hylton Terrace
Rookhope
Joy Willis

DM/17/03676/FPA

Conservatory to south elevation
7 Whitfield Brow
Frosterley
Mr Alan Cowie

DM/17/03729/FPA

Proposed change of use from garage to holiday lodge
Land to the North of
Graveyard
Cophill
Cowshill
John Texeira

This again has ship lap sides painted black and is not in keeping with the area. **Resolved:** Clerk to object on the building materials

DM/17/0383/FPA
Replace windows and doors with UPVC
Quarry House
Middlehope Bank
St Johns Chapel
Robin Sibley

Clerk to write to the planning authority for clarification on the building materials

PLANNING APPROVALS

DM/17/01331/FPA
Installation of replacement wind turbine
(Removal of old turbine) erection of work shop building extension
Quarry Bank Cottage
Harehope Quarry
Frosterley
Jill Essam

DM/17/0165/VOC
Variation of condition 2 of planning permission DM/15/03600/FPA to allow different roof covering
River Barn
South View
Daddry Shield
Miss CL Benson

9847

Finance – Budget

1. Budget Figures were discussed and approved
2. DCC has sent the Precept form that must be returned by 26th January 2017 the Band D charge will be £30.09 with the increase of £2000 on the precept. Last year the Band D figure was £28.93. If we increased the precept by £1000 the Band D figure would be £29.48.
Resolved: The councillors agreed an increase of £1000 making the precept £48,000

9848

AAP Report

At the recent meeting the Police funding for 2018/19 was discussed and the mid term financial plan. There is a pot of money for 2018 called social isolation fund. Next meeting 8th Dec in Dales Centre

9849

Accounts for Payment

NWG BUSINESS WILLARD GROVE ALLOTMENTS	£92.60
THOMAS JOHNSON GRASS CUTTING	£100.00
DCC STREET LIGHT REPAIR CHERRY TREE 17/7/2017	£185.87

S ANDERSON SALARY	£544.70
PAYE HM REV	£117.00
S ANDERSON EXPENSES	£57.46
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00
TOTAL	£1132.63

9850

New Matters for Discussion

1. Cllr Thompson would like to report that Rookhope is now a traffic light free zone and the electric work is complete. The bungalows are finished and viewings are taking place. Local people are getting the chance of the bungalows first. The gullie at the churchyard has not been dug out yet and the wall is still down. The cemetery path still needs fresh gravel down. **Resolved:** Cllr Thompson will contact DCC and the clerk will also
2. Cllr Mrs Hutchinson would like to report that the bridge at Eastgate still has not been repaired from when it was hit by a wagon. **Resolved:** Clerk to report it again to DCC
3. The wall is bulging in places on the road leading up to the church which will be the land owners responsibility. **Resolved:** Cllr Mrs Hutchinson will deal with this
4. The road from Station Road Head to the back road needs re-surfacing badly. **Resolved:** Clerk to report it to DCC
5. Cllr Ellwood attended the local councils meeting and found it very interesting. Skill Mill from Peterlee Juvenile offenders would like to see offenders placed into jobs such as doing environmental services. Cllr Miss Graham suggested that the Riverside Walk would be a good area for them. The North of England is not represented at the main meetings in London the furthest up is Leeds, this is being looked into
6. Cllr Miss J Carrick mentioned the work on the fish jump above Stanhope and under the Freedom of Information Act would like to know how much it has cost to date as yet nothing has been achieved. About one hundred dumpy bags of sand has been lost down the river and when will the work resume **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the Environment Agency
7. Cllr Mrs Humble would like to report that there are moles in Burtreeford Cemetery **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
8. We need an update on the War Memorial repairs at Cowshill **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC

9851

Clerks Business

The clerk will be on holiday from 22nd December 2017 until 8th January 2018 for ten days

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Next meeting will be on Wednesday 7th February 2018 at the Dales Centre, Stanhope commencing at 7pm

.....signed.....date

