

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 4th December 2019

PRESENT:

Cllr D Craig Chair

Cllr M Brewin, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr B Thompson, Cllr D Ellwood,

Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr Miss F Graham, Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr Mrs H Maddison

Susan Anderson clerk

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Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mrs A Humble, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr W Wearmouth, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes

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To Receive any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

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Minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2019

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

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Police and the Community

No Police were in attendance

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Matters Arising

1. **BINS ON FRONT STREET, FROSTERLEY** - The Neighbourhood Warden has visited the area and confirmed that two bins were left out. The occupiers were spoken to and one agreed to remove the bin immediately. The other one may have to be positioned tight against the rear perimeter. The warden has issued advisory letters
2. **CAR PARK SIGN AT COWSHILL**- The request has been sent to DCC
3. **TREES IN IRESHOPEBURN** – The trees have been inspected but are located on private land so no work can be undertaken
4. **FOOTPATH 20 AT EAST BLACKDENE** – The footpath has been inspected and works have been scheduled to repair the leak. It is on the main trunk, so there is a fair amount of work needing organised to rectify it. Work should be completed by 20th December 2019
5. **STREET LIGHTING** - The reply back was that we need to list the exact locations of the lights that havnt as yet been renewed
6. **PLANNING COURSE** – The planning course was fully subscribed to but will be re-run in 2020
7. **RIVERSIDE PLAY PARK** – Cllr Miss Carrick met with D Hunt and a location has been agreed for the seat outside the playpark. The seating inside the play park has been rearranged.

8. **OVERHANGING BRANCHES IN THE SWIMMING POOL** – After the site meeting at the play park it was hopeful that the trees would be crown lifted and if one had to be removed then another would be replanted in its place
9. **MOVEMBER SIMON LEWIS** – Two photos have been sent of our Community Highways Worker when he raised money for Movember
10. **DALES CENTRE** – It was a problem with the heating system last meeting which has now been rectified
11. **PC CRAMPSIE** – Pc Crampsie is officially leaving Stanhope Neighbourhood policing team and his replacement is PC E Hutchinson. He would like to say thank you for all the support and kindness shown to him over the years and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
12. **MEMORIAL PLAQUE** – Cllr Thompson has spoken to the owner of the wall who has given permission for a plaque to be placed on the wall **Resolved:** Clerk to get some prices on a A3 size wall plaque
13. **ROOKHOPE ROAD** – Three trenches have been dug but the problem still exists so Cllr Thompson will get J Hodges to inspect the area.
14. **NHS POSTERS** – Cllr Miss Graham suggested that the NHS information leaflets should have been given to all the school children which she mentioned at the meeting when we had speakers there. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the NHS
15. **WHITE KIRKLEY POT HOLES** – The pot holes on the road to White Kirkley still have not been repaired. **Resolved:** Clerk to report it again to DCC
16. **RURAL COMMUNITY LED HOUSING** - Cllr Miss Carrick went to the event but felt it was not for the Parish Council
17. **SCHOOL HEDGE, STANHOPE** – The hedge still has not been trimmed back **Resolved:** Clerk to chase up
18. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN** – Cllr Mrs Hawkes is still interested in doing a Neighbourhood Plan. **Resolved:** Clerk to try again with a date from Allendale Parish Council

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CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. Scottish Woodlands have been instructed to prepare a planting design for woodland creation at Rose Hill in Weardale. Any comments to be received by 6th December 2019. Email sent to all the councillors. Cllr Mrs Humble sent her comments by email. A discussion took place and the councillors do not oppose the planting but would like comments sending that Cllr Mrs Humble sent. **Resolved:** Clerk to send comments
2. Cllr Shuttleworth has had a report that there was glass in the Play Park at Ashcroft and that it needed a good clean. Clerk reported this to D Hunt who has arranged for the Community Highways Worker to tidy it up
3. DCC have sent the up to date S106 list to see if there are any relevant funds available for our area. Email sent to all councillors
4. In 2015 and 2016 DCC Health and Safety Team undertook water safety assessments on land at Westgate. Recommendations from these assessments were to install safety signage and provide water safety advice to local schools, which have been completed. A further recommendation allocated to the Parish Council was to enclose the play area. A further assessment visit in July 2019 determined that the land has a low risk in level in terms of water safety. The Parish Council have a duty to undertake a risk assessment of the play area, factoring in any significant risks, eg. Fast flowing river, adjacent roads, dog faeces and implement any additional controls that may arise from the risk assessment. S Makepeace can do Risk Assessments and photos have been sent showing the play park is not fenced or

the river. **Resolved:** Clerk to ask S Makepeace to do the Risk Assessment and to price a fence parallel to the river

5. Farmwatch would like to formulate emergency plans for our local areas in case of flooding. Valuable items are put upstairs in advance and householders evacuated to a designated RVP. Pretrained volunteers would be implementing the flood plan. Foam mattresses, food, cooking equipment etc would be brought from a storage bunker that each area would have provided. The councillors commented that flooding in Weardale is a low risk area. There was an article in the Weardale Gazette asking for volunteers in case of a flood **Resolved:** Clerk to write
6. The Weardale Area Action Partnership are currently developing a model of consultation. They are testing out utilizing a very capable and experienced theatre company to prepare two interactive pieces of work. The first is The Town Meeting a theatre piece and the second is the Town Meeting Workshop. This will be held on 12th Jan and 19th Jan at St Thomas Church Hall.
7. At the recent CDALC meeting a presentation was given concerning the Armed Forces Covenant. The covenant is a local agreement to ensure that key partners in the county along with the armed forces, work together to support active and ex-armed force communities and their families. They would like Town and Parish Councils to sign up to the covenant
8. A resident has approached Cllr Mrs Sutcliff concerning some tree work that was done between Bridge End and Huntshildford on the narrow part of the road. In that area it is single carriageway and there were no signs put up either end so residents were having to back up the hill. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff would like this reporting to DCC **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC
9. The Geology Projects Officer from the AONB are planning an orientation panel for Slitt Wood and West Rigg Geotrail and wanted to inform us. The work is being supported by the WAAP and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The panel will be situated at the layby in Westgate opposite the caravan park and would show a map of the suggested walking route.
10. Details have been sent of an urgent road closure for water leak repairs on the link road between Westcroft and Eastcroft, Stanhope commencing 5th Dec for up to 5 days

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SCHOOL PARKING IN STANHOPE

Letters have been sent to all the parents of children attending the school as concerns are great that a child will be knocked over. The number of cars going up the square to drop their children off is ridiculous some are actually reversing up passed the main gate. This has been seen by Cllr Miss Graham and Cllr Wearmouth who were there at the times when the children were being dropped off and picked up. Cars are parking on the pavements too which will be sent to the police and DCC. The numbers of children attending the school have increased from 94 in 2013 and 10 in nursery to 154 in 2019 in school and 30 in nursery. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the police and DCC to arrange a site meeting at 8.40-8.45am and 3 -3.25pm

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Planning Matters

No planning applications this month

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Parish Council Website

Nothing to report

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Finance

1. On the evening of the last meeting a car crashed through the allotment wall down at the Bondisle Allotment Site. All details were given to the police and the clerk has them now. The wall will be paid for by the girls insurance company who have said to get the wall repaired and sent all the details of the invoice and proof of payment to them. We got a quote from our contractor who has been instructed to repair the wall and the fence after the clerk contacted the chairman, the wall repair £175.00 and fence repair £236.00 total cost £493.20. WE have now received the invoice from S Makepeace. **Resolved:** All the details will be sent to the Insurance Company
2. A local resident was wondering if it was possible to have the safety surface resurfaced at Ashcroft Play Park. This would have to be inspected first by our contractor to see if it is deemed necessary. **Resolved:** Clerk to ask S Makepeace to inspect the surface
3. Budget Figures and Precept – The budget figures were discussed and it was decided to keep the precept at £48,000 with no increase

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AAP REPORT

It was mentioned that the theatre production is audience participation that is to be held in the Church Hall, Stanhope

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CDALC REPORT

At the recent meeting it was mentioned about vat queries and that advice is available from CDALC and also legal advice. This winter there are 76 gritters on the road and there will be free car parking in the car parks before Christmas. It was mentioned that Witton Gilbert have formerly adopted their Neighbourhood Plan and not many Parish Councils are doing one in County Durham

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ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

DCC Hire of meeting room for Nov	£55.00
Makepeace Motors Accident damage fence/ wall Bondisle	£493.20
Makepeace Motors – Westgate Pay park tarmac gate way	£984.00
S Anderson Salary	£725.25
HM Rev	£28.47
S Anderson Expenses	£75.67
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
TOTAL	£2396.59

Four cheques signed for clerks salary, HM Rev, Expenses and Home as Office as no meeting in January

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New Matters for Discussion

1. Cllr Blackett mentioned that Simon the Community Highways Worker would like to thank everyone who sponsored him and he raised £325 for the Movember Charity
2. It was commented that the tree and the lights in Stanhope are very nice
3. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like to know what is in place for elderly residents on how to order their repeat prescriptions from January 2020. **Resolved:** Clerk to find out
4. Cllr Miss Carrick would like to two signs at Union Lane top and bottom repainted **Resolved:** Clerk to ask S Makepeace
5. There has been a request for a dog poo bin the other side of the railway bridge in Stanhope
6. Cllr Miss Graham would like to report some potholes near to the Methodist Chapel along the back lane **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
7. There are also some potholes down Bondisle that need repairing **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
8. There is a streetlight out next one down on the main street from the Solicitors **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
9. Cllr Miss Graham would like to thank Light Up the Dale for the lovely tree
10. An email to be sent to DCC for a request to fill up all the salt bins **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
11. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned that jobs need to sent to Darren for Simon to do
12. Cllr Mrs Maddison mentioned how clean the bins are kept **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC
13. Cllr Craig would like a sign saying that Harthope is the highest c class road in England and Cllr Blackett would like a sign that Killhope is the highest A class road, sign in feet **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
14. On Meadows Edge the fell says closed due to shooting **Resolved:** Clerk to ask for the sign to be changed

10179

CLERKS BUSINESS

Nothing to report

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.15PM

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2020 AT THE DALES CENTRE, STANHOPE
COMMENCING AT 7PM**

.....**SIGNED**.....**DATE**