

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 7th December 2022 at 7 pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Mrs S Smart, Cllr D Craig, Cllr Mrs C Burdis, Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr R Lawrie,

Cllr M Brewin, Cllr P Turton, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes

Cllr Miss J Carrick – Chairman

Susan Anderson – Clerk

10714

Apologies for Absence

Cllr E Buchanan, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr J Shuttleworth

10715

To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

10716

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2022

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

10717

Matters Arising

1. **Theft at St Johns Chapel** – Councillor Shuttleworth sent an email to the Police regarding the theft. The Coop only reported the crime on the Monday so it was therefore not a live theft.
2. **Copt Hill Churchyard** – The churchyard is the responsibility of Durham County Council.
3. **Footpath 34, Frosterley** – This was reported to the Rights of Way officer who mentioned that he would look at the stretch behind the church.
4. **Lime Tree, Stanhope** – The highways inspector has inspected the stretch of footpath that is lifting. The work required has been marked out and will be repaired within fourteen days.
5. **Flooding at the bottom of Heights Quarry** – There is a blocked gully at the bottom of Heights Quarry. The gully sucker will clean it out as it works its way up the dale.
6. **Wearhead Primary School Fibre Broadband** – Will contact the school again.
7. **Paving stones at St Johns Chapel** – The paving stones have been repaired
8. **Speed Limit on A869** – Cllr Craig and Cllr Mrs Smart mentioned the speed limit again. Cllr Mrs Smart is concerned about the speed that wagons, cars, bicycles and motorcycles travel through Eastgate. Electric cars are also a problem as you cannot hear them. **Resolved:** Clerk to invite Inspector Turner to the February meeting to discuss Police Response Times and the speed limit.

9. **Huntshieldford Bridge-** Cllr Mrs Sutcliff mentioned that the fencing and the wire has been removed from Huntshieldford Bridge.

10718

Correspondence Received

1. A resident reported that the alarm bells were ringing at the Town Hall, Stanhope. This was reported to DCC
2. Northern power Grid sent an email that an Unmetered Inventory Update was required as there are no changes an email has been sent confirming that the inventory has not changed since our last submission.
3. Airwave Solutions Ltd are consulting for proposed minor alterations to the existing telecommunications apparatus at Horseshoe Hill, Muggleswick. The planning application is to maintain the existing and crucial Airwave Emergency Services network in the surrounding areas.
4. CDALC have sent a copy of a presentation that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England delivered. The presentation was on the consultation process for reviewing boundaries/divisions for county councillors within County Durham.
5. Allan Percival from the Weardale Museum has sent an email that one of the trustees Mrs Jean Heatherington has sadly died. Jean was involved with the Museum since the very first meeting in 1984. Her funeral took place on 6th December.
6. Alleged public Bridleway, Windyside Moor, Alleged public bridleway, Chapel Pasture and Alleged public bridleway, North Grain. The report will be considered at a meeting of the County Councils Highways Committee on Monday 12th December 2022 at 1.30pm in the Council Chamber. Any representations in person are entitled but DCC need to be contacted no later than noon on Thursday 8th December 2022.
7. A resident is concerned about the possibility to build housing behind Coronation Avenue, Stanhope. The access is restricted due to garages plus the field is a playing field where the land was gifted as a childrens playing field. Concerns about childrens safety is paramount. This has also been reported to Cllr Shuttleworth. Years ago there was play equipment on the field but DCC took it away and it was never replaced.
8. CDALC emails sent to all of the councillors. DCC is seeking Parish and Town Councils and councillors views on homelessness as part of a refresh of its homelessness and rough sleeping strategy. Councillors can help DCC to develop their new strategy by letting them know what priorities they should focus their efforts on.
9. An email has been received that from March 2023 we will be unable to use the Dales Centre meeting room. Cllr Shuttleworth has organised a meeting and will let us know as soon as possible. The meeting room will be in use for the February meeting.

10719

County Councillor Update

No County Councillor update

10720

Planning Matters

DM/22/03107/FPA

Change existing 2 x Dutch canopys to

2 x full cassette electric awnings

37 Front Street

Stanhope, Cllr Miss Carrick declared an interest

DM/22/03163/LB

Listed building consent for the conversion of barn and byre to 1 no. dwelling
White Stones Cottage
Wearhead

DM/22/03179/FPA

Prior approval for erection of a general purpose agricultural building pursuant to
DM/22/01936/PNA
Fairhills
Huntshieldford
St Johns Chapel

DM/22/02878/MIN

Continued exploration to develop the abstraction and reinjection of ground water for the extraction and processing of lithium at a pilot scale.
Ludwell Farm
Eastgate

An email has been received concerning this application regarding the use of the back road and its effects on others. Stanhope Parish Council sent an objection that we are concerned about the tanker movements on the C74 which in places is a single file road.

DM/22/03321/FPA

Change of use and conversion of former farm building to dwelling.
Black Cleugh
Wearhead

DM/22/03442/TPO

Remove major deadwood, 2 lowest roadside pendula branches and crown lift up to 3m to T3. Sycamore, reduce lowest roadside limb to branch closest to the stem and remove epicormic growth at the base to T4. Sycamore, remove major deadwood to T5. Sycamore, remove low roadside limb and prune to clear phone line by 2m to T6. Sycamore, remove lowest roadside branch to T7. Sycamore, crown lift up to 3m to T9. Sycamore, crown lift up to 3m to T15. Sycamore remove epicormic growth to T20. Sycamore, crown lift over graveyard up to 3m to T21. Sycamore, remove epicormic growth at the base to T24 and T25. Sycamore, remove epicormic growth and crown lift up to 3m to T69 sycamore.
St Johns Chapel Cemetery
St Johns Church
St Johns Chapel

10721

New Code of Conduct

The New Code of Conduct and the DCC Code of Conduct were sent to the Councillors. **Resolved:** It was agreed to stay with the DCC Code of Conduct that we have adopted.

10722

Finance - Budget, Setting of the Precept, Play parks

1. Olivers Tree Services have sent the quote for the recent bi-annual Tree Inspection. At the Old Hall Site a cherry tree needs pruning back by 2m and crown lift to 3m costing £150.00.

At Stanhope Old Cemetery a beech tree needs a broken hanging limb removed costing £380.00. **Resolved:** It was agreed to have the work done

2. The proposed Budget Figures have been sent to the councillors. Cllr Mrs Hawkes mentioned the DCC proposed budget. There has been £11.8 million of proposed savings and additional income already identified. Savings from back office/staff reductions £7 million. Additional income raising £4.25 million selling renewable energy back to the grid. Savings identified from changes to the way DCC deliver services £0.57 million. A council tax increase of 2.99% which includes 1% Adult Social Care precept). Using £25.6 million of council reserves which are allocated for things like emergencies, projects, programmes and initiatives to meet the budget shortfall. **Resolved:** Budget figures were agreed
3. The precept form has been received and must be returned by 20th January 2023. **Resolved:** It was agreed to keep the precept at £48,000.
4. Play Parks – Money is available through the Towns and Villages and the AAP would match fund with the Parish Council. Cllr Shuttleworth would put his Neighbourhood budget into the pot. James Young has visited all the play parks (Daddry Shield was missed but he will go and visit there) and listed possible new pieces of play equipment. A rough cost is Bondisle £40k, Cowshill £15k, Crawleyside £22k, Westgate £40k. The Parish Council has committed £10,000 to the Ashcroft MUGA. **Resolved:** £5000 was agreed but the councillors could not commit an amount any further ahead.

10723

Emergency Resilience – Grant Money

Cllr Miss Carrick, Cllr Mrs Hawkes, Cllr P Turton and Cllr R Lawrie are members of the Community Resilience Group. S Ragg recommended that the group have their own constitution and bank account so that they can be in control of the money. He also advised that Community Groups stand a better chance of receiving grant money. Cllr Miss Carrick has spoken to A Maddison who said that in the past she has used The Hub to apply for grant money. The grant money is needed to buy equipment, high vis vests, clip boards, plugs for generators.

10724

AAP Report

Cllr Mrs Hawkes attended the recent AAP where the AAP gave an update on Warm Spaces, Faith and Wellbeing Event, Thornley Village Hall Art Group. Improved Access and Safety at St Thomas Church Hall through the Towns & Villages funding was mentioned. The Area Budget and Welfare Reform were discussed and a new boiler for Rookhope Village Hall.

10725

CDALC Report

Cllr Mrs Hawkes attended the Executive Committee meeting. Updates were provided on the Local Councils Working Group, Larger Councils Forum and the Smaller Councils Forum. Next year S Ragg is retiring so it was agreed that Audrey would do 30 hours a week with a 10 hour admin support. Reports were discussed on the Boundary Commission, AAP Review and Civility and Respect Campaign. The pay ward for the current year was agreed on 1st November and includes a £1925 flat rate increase on all salary points and an additional days annual leave. Councils have been reminded that they should backdate this award to the 1st April 2022 and pay any arrears as soon as possible. If requested to do so councils should also pay any arrears to clerks who have left their service from 1st April 2022.

10726

Accounts for Payment

WAVE ALLOTMENT GARDENS, STANHOPE -PAID	£64.09
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL -PAID	£165.00
E-ON NEXT PLAYGROUND ASHCROFT -PAID	£38.35
DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING ROOM HIRE	£50.63
S ANDERSON SALARY	£815.36
HM REV	£8.63
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00
S ANDERSON EXPENSES	£19.47
TOTAL	£1,196.53

Resolved: Accounts moved and to pay clerks salary in January

10727

New Matters for Discussion

1. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff would like to know what is going to happen with the memorial books as they are still at the church. **Resolved:** Clerk to find out
2. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff mentioned the defibrillators and who maintains them. The codes have gone off some of them so you cant read the instructions either. Cllr Mrs Thompson replied that G Nelson is responsible for them and the concerns have been passed on.
3. Cllr Mrs Smart mentioned Northern Lithium and residents are concerned about the number of wagons that will be travelling on the back road. Ideally it would have been best to pipe it over the river and load in the old cement works site. The Parish Council have objected to the use of the back road.
4. Cllr Craig mentioned that there was no ambulance cover on Saturday 3rd December 2022 at the St Johns Chapel Ambulance Station. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to NEAS to find out why.
5. Cllr Turton mentioned the missing cats eyes on the main A689. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
6. A resident has reported to Cllr Lawrie that a convex mirror is needed on Crawleyside Bank opposite Rose Lodge as they are having difficulty pulling out onto the bank. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
7. Cllr Lawrie mentioned the council seat boundary review. Cllr Craig could remember that Weardale used to be linked with Teasdale.
8. Cllr Brewin mentioned the church in Frosterley with the possibility of planning permission for a five-bedroom house.

10728

Clerks Business

So far, I have attended two courses, What makes people become challenging and Personal resilience and self-protection. Next weeks is Understanding Psychopathic and Narcissistic Behaviour.

Barclays Business have sent a letter so I will have to send the required information.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 1st February 2023 at the Dales Centre, Stanhope commencing at 7pm

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