

## STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018

### PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs A Humble

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

**9852**

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr B Thompson, Cllr A Fishburn

**9853**

#### **To Receive any Declarations of Interest from Members**

None received

**9854**

#### **Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

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

**9855**

#### **Police and Community**

No Police in attendance

**9856**

#### **Matters Arising**

1. **DALES CENTRE, STANHOPE** – Mr Watson refers to his earlier email explaining the hire of the meeting room. He will discuss the cost of the refreshments with the Dales Centre Kitchen supervisor and he is hopeful that he can offer us a reduction in the costs. The booking form for the room hire has been returned. It has been agreed that we can have complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits
2. **PLANNING OBJECTIONS** – Our comments have been acknowledged for the objections to the planning applications at Daddry Shield and Cowhill
3. **STANHOPE TOWN HALL** – The Town Hall is closed and progress is being made to declare the building surplus to DCC requirements. Any comments or observations regarding the potential disposal of the asset had to be received by 9<sup>th</sup> January. No comments were sent apart from asking to be kept updated
4. **EASTGATE BRIDGE** – The bridge has been reported to the Bridges Team for them to look into
5. **ROOKHOPE CEMETERY** – Bereavement services will look into getting the fresh gravel put down
6. **STATION ROAD HEAD, BACK ROAD FROM EASTGATE TO STANHOPE** – This has been logged by highways FS-Case-24983764. DCC have identified that further action is required
7. **BURTREEFORD CEMETERY** – The problem with the moles has been passed onto Bereavement services
8. **WAR MEMORIAL AT COWSHILL** – Tom Betts is making enquiries with the War Memorials Trust to find out the extent of any discussions that may have been made with Mr Dunn

before he left with regards to funding. The project may be eligible for part funding if an application was to be made for the works including the provision of improved access. Given the costs of the works may be significant due to associated highways issues at this site it would be useful to get an idea of an indicative level of any funding the Parish Council may be able to provide towards the works. Mr Betts understands from the pre-discussions that were made with B Harris that the Parish Council would consider taking on the responsibility for the War Memorial following on from any works that are carried out. We have to confirm if this is still the case. Once we have figure from DCC on the cost then the Parish Council can decide on funding. **Resolved:** It was agreed that the Parish Council would take over the War Memorial when the work has been completed

9. **GATE AT CRAGHEAD, WELLHOPE** – M Murden will take a look at the current state of the gate when he gets a chance to. The last time it was bit tatty but useable. He can let the landowner know if it is obstructive and needs replacing
10. **FOOTPATH BETWEEN KILLHOPEBURN BRIDGE AND LANEHEAD BRIDGE** - A section of this footpath is closed due to the long-standing landslip. Mike will check the bit from Killhopeburn Bridge to Low Burnt Hills and then up to the village for waymarking
11. **MINE ADITS STANHOPE DENE** – A reply has been received from the Ecology Team at DCC who had no real involvement with the covering of the adits. There only involvement was limited to forwarding an email highlighting the Health and Safety issues at the mine access. The HM Principal Inspector of Mines contacted DCC regarding the West Pastures mine and the security of access in June 2017 as they assumed DCC were the landowner. As the West Pastures Mine is not owned by DCC the email from the HM Principal Inspector of Mines was passed to Savills, the agent for the Church Commissioners who own the land. Any questions on the covering of the adits should be directed towards the Church Commissioners. A discussion took place and it was felt that the correct procedure had not been followed as a bat survey should have been done. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the Church Commissioners direct
12. **WOLSINGHAM SCHOOL** – A letter has been received from Phil Hodgson Head of Education (Interim). There is a review of educational provision being done by DCC. The purpose of the review is to ensure that DCC have the right number of schools in the right places in County Durham. Wolsingham School is being looked at by members of the local authority's education department to propose a range of options that will secure the future of high quality education in Weardale. The options have been shared with local elected members and the next step is to convene a meeting of all school head teachers and chairs of governors in the Dale, to invite them to consider their preferred way forward. This meeting will be in January. The option agreed upon will be developed in a full feasibility study by the education department. When this process is completed, probably by next March. It will hopefully be reassuring to the Parish Council that none of the options shared involved the proposed closure of any schools. We will be kept informed as the meetings between school leaders take place and the chosen options are decided upon. Since this letter Mr Hodgson has confirmed that the headteacher and the governors have decided to suspend the sixth form for two years. Cllr Miss Graham would like to see all the minutes from the governor meetings where the future of the school and the 6<sup>th</sup> form have been discussed over the past five years. **Resolved:** Clerk to ask for the minutes and also the school budgets for the last five years under the Freedom of Information Act.
13. The Parish Council is concerned about the knock-on effect of the school having no 6<sup>th</sup> form, families could move away and some families will not consider moving into the dale when there is no sixth form provision especially now that children have to stay at school until they are eighteen. The cost from Cowshill every day on a reduced

monthly pass is £8.50 to Bishop Auckland. The Arriva bus from Stanhope leaves at 7am to Durham and another Arriva leaves at 7.25 to Bishop Auckland. **Resolved:** A letter to be sent to the Secretary of State for Education to review this decision and to intervene. Rural children are being socially excluded. A copy of the letter to be sent to Laura Pidcock MP. A letter to go to the Weardale Gazette and Northern Echo that Stanhope Parish Council is supporting all the parents

14. **EASTGATE FISH PASS** – To date the spend on the project is £144,618.91 the original project budget was £198,000. Owing predominantly to the central section of the weir being in worse condition than envisaged and requiring complete replacement than currently forecast that the outturn cost will be closer to £210,000. Owing to the overtopping of the temporary works in November they were unable to restart the work due to the fish spawning season. They currently plan on returning to site once the risk of setting up the temporary works affecting the eggs of sea trout and salmon has reduced. They will work with the fisheries specialists to determine the best time but hopefully they will be back on site by June 2018. While the nature of the work may look from the surface that very little has been achieved the foundation work has been completed and will mean that the return to site will need much less intrusive temporary works, and they are investigating methods of working that do not require large sand bags, Lessons have been learned around public communications relating to the purpose and timing of the work. They are conducting a review and are developing plans for better liaison before they return to site and would welcome our thoughts on this. Mr Thomas is happy to attend a Parish Council meeting, or they were also considering an open day on site where they can explain the work, the issues and challenges and the benefits of the scheme.

15. **AMBULANCE UPDATE**

**1 A councillor would like to know why the ambulance came from Prudhoe and why other responders and services were not called out to the impalement incident**

The vehicle which attended the call was the nearest resource to the scene of the incident, the responding vehicle was not in Prudhoe when they received the call to attend the incident they had cleared at University Hospital North Durham.

When a call is received in our Emergency Operations Room the technology within the system automatically identifies the nearest resource to the location of the incident

**2 Also why when one of the paramedics was sick why did the other one not respond to the impalement incident**

The member of staff was teamed up in another ambulance and they were attending another call

**3 How do the ambulances find a patient is it by post codes, is there a procedure to call back the centre for directions to find the patient**

If the call is received through a land line, the address of the land line is automatically identified through technology we have within the Emergency Operations Room. If the call is received from a mobile phone the Call Taker will question the caller to identify their location, if this is unsuccessful, BT triangulate all 999 calls, through this the

location of the caller can be found, our call takers will keep the 999 caller on the line until their location is found. As we know the general location of the caller an Ambulance will be dispatched to travel towards the patient's general direction as the effort to locate the patient is happening in the background.

#### **4 Do 999 calls go to a satellite when there is no mobile phone signal**

For emergency calls the mobile phone is not limited to the network of the inserted SIM card, but can use any network available to make an emergency call using 999. Technically when your mobile phone has no signal it means the mobile phone has no signal of your network. This is called "Limited service", because the networks available to the mobile phone allow registration but only offer emergency calls.

#### **5 We wrote on 27th August concerning a quad bike accident and we have had no reply or acknowledgment, the question received was regarding why the Air Ambulance was not requested**

An investigation regarding the incident was undertaken, the investigation demonstrated that at 09.43 the Paramedic requested via our Emergency Operation Room that due to the location of the patient, he required the Air Ambulance to attend the incident. Prior to this a member of the Air Ambulance crew contacted our Emergency Operations Room to advise he had spoken with the caller and deemed it was not necessary to deploy the Air Ambulance to the scene as the patient did not have life threatening injuries and did not meet their dispatch criteria.

At 10.18 the Paramedic on scene contacted our Emergency Operations room requesting the Air Ambulance attend the incident, this request again was denied as the incident did not meet their dispatch criteria. The Air Ambulance is not managed by NEAS and it operates its own dispatch criteria, several calls were made to the Air Ambulance but unfortunately their decision was that the patient did not fit their dispatch criteria.

The crew on scene requested assistance from the Mountain Rescue Team at 10.19. Whilst waiting for the Mountain Rescue Team, the patient was immobilised and placed on a scoop stretcher ready to be transported to their ambulance on the arrival of the Mountain Rescue Team. At 11.24 the Mountain Rescue Team had not arrived on scene so the Ambulance Crew decided to transport the patient on a Quad Bike to the Ambulance.

The Ambulance staff who attended the incident were faced with a difficult extrication of the patient to the ambulance due to the location of the patient and the difficult terrain to be negotiated, due to this the Ambulance staff felt the safest way to move the patient was by using the Quad bike. On the journey back to the ambulance the Mountain

Rescue Team arrived to assist, the Mountain Rescue vehicle was unable to be used to transport the patient so the journey to the ambulance was completed using the Quad Bike with assistance from the Mountain Rescue Team. Councillor Craig cannot understand how the Air ambulance had attended a broken ankle at a Mart and yet the Air Ambulance did not attend this serious accident due to not meeting the criteria. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the Air Ambulance and to find out what the criteria is for attending a remote accident

16. **FROSTERLEY ISSUES** – Cllr Brewin has met with D Hunt and it has been agreed that Darren will extend the low trip rail fencing at Westfield by three extra lengths. A temporary repair to the footpath at the rear of the Church has been done and the Community Highways Worker will be checking and clearing dog fouling from this footpath weekly. There are no parking signs on the road at Kirk Rise, this is down to highways but Darren will pass this on. The shrub bed in the corner of the Village Hall Car Park was passed its best and the old shrubs will be removed and replaced with something more suitable.
17. **FROSTERLEY CEMETERY** – T Johnston was to have the mound of soil removed but as yet it still has not been done. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact Mr Johnston
18. **KENNETHS BRIDGE, FROSTERLEY** – Cllr Mrs Maddison would like to know if the works before Christmas had been carried out. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to P Newman
19. **STEPS BY THE FORD IN STANHOPE** – The steps still have not been dug out **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
20. **STREET NAME PLATES, STANHOPE** – The Street Name Plates still need painting if possible **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt

## 9857

### Correspondence Received

1. As works have not yet been completed to replace Kenneth's Bridge, Frosterley it will be necessary to continue the closure in force by means of an extension of the Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The extended closure will be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 for an anticipated period of up to 12 months or until the bridge is safe to re-open, whichever is the sooner.
2. A Maddison from the WAAP requested a meeting with Cllr Mrs Humble and the clerk. The meeting was held at the WAAP office on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018. A Maddison would like to work with the Parish Council on a joint project. A few options were discussed but it was felt the Riverside Play Area should be concentrated on first. There is a social isolation fund available for the next three years. Wolsingham Skate Park, Light Up the Dale and the Northern Heart Lands were discussed. It has been suggested that a site meeting at the Play Park takes place with B Alderson, A Maddison, Cllr Miss Carrick, Cllr Mrs Humble and the clerk. Dates available are Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb, Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, Wed 7<sup>th</sup> March, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March if the councillors are in agreement. **Resolved:** It was decided in principal to look at the options for play equipment and some picnic benches. Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 1.30pm is the preferred date and time
3. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> December NALC issued their latest Legal Briefing concerning GDPR which becomes effective in May 2018. This briefing relates to the appointment of the Parish Councils Data Protection Officer. In NALCs view the clerk and other officers cannot be designated as a councils Data Protection Officer. An important paragraph reads, Notwithstanding the remit of the Data Protection Officers responsibilities, the GDPR confirms that the council is responsible for compliance with data protection law, not the Data Protection Officer

4. At the last County Training Partnership Meeting it was agreed to pursue the possibility of providing a cemetery training course in the area. The number of delegates per course will be restricted to around 12 and is a full day course. The course covers the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order, Burials, Administrative Processes, grave digging, memorials, responsibilities, creating burial space, exhumation and transferring burial rights overview/refresher. The cost would be £165 plus vat. S Ragg's first question is, how many members would envisage attending and is there a need from councils for this type of training
5. Mr G Dell is a project manager at The Coal Authority and is working on several metal mine projects in our area along with the Environment Agency. This is to improve the water quality in the River Wear Catchment Area. One of his projects is the old Sharnbury lead mine and the Euden and Bedburn Becks. Also, sites at Cambokeels, Killhope and Rookhope. This is the first contact made to us and Mr Dell believes that parishioners and Parish Councillors will have a key interest in any potential remediation solution that could be envisaged to improve the rivers water quality **Resolved:** Cllr Blackett would be interested in this
6. The Police Crime and Victims Commissioner Ron Hogg is planning to raise the councils tax by 7.09% or the equivalent of less than £1 per month on average to fund Durham Constabulary for 2018/19. To comment on this proposal AAP meetings will be held throughout January or comments can be sent online. Mr Hogg said the government has reduced the funding for policing in Durham and Darlington every year since 2010. There are 360 fewer officers than in 2010. The Dales Centre held a drop-in session on 22<sup>nd</sup> January between 9.30-11am on Monday at the Dales Centre
7. S Ragg has sent information on a variation of premises licence for Wannasee Ltd at Castle Park, Stanhope. This application is to allow two x 2-day events to take place on any Friday/Saturday between the months of May – August inclusive. The new times are live music from 17.00 – 0.00 on Friday and 12.30 – 0.00 Saturday. Recorded music from Friday 16.30 – 00.30 and Saturday 12.00 – 00.30. A resident has concerns about the second weekend and the extension of the hours. The music is loud and can be heard in the home and garden and there is no escape from it. The councillors feel it is good for the dale as it brings so many people into Stanhope
8. The next CDALC Smaller Councils Forum meeting is being held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 2pm in Murton Parish Council offices, The Glebe Centre, Durham Place, Murton. Any item for the agenda to be received by 13<sup>th</sup> February
9. In order to gauge the level of preparedness of Parish Councils for the introduction of GDPR a questionnaire has been provided for completion which will give S Ragg some information as to where we are with GDPR. The questionnaire has been filled in by the clerk and the chairman and has been sent off
10. Shiver Productions are developing a new television programme and are looking for vibrant, fun and outgoing grandparents who have three or more (18+) grandchildren who would like to spend more time with. Details are available if anyone is interested
11. The County Training Partnership has organised two training sessions with Mazars LLP. Information sessions are being run on 21<sup>st</sup> March in the Cleveland area and on 28<sup>th</sup> March for the County Durham area. Mazars will be the new external auditors for 2017/18 accounts and the next four following years. Part 3 of the form refers to councils with an annual gross income or expenditure exceeding £25,000. It is important that all councils attend to find out what they need to do regarding the new Annual Governance and Accountability Return. Venue is at Committee Room 2, County Hall commencing at 17.30 for refreshments for a 18.00 start. We have to let S Ragg know by 21<sup>st</sup> March who will be attending
12. D Heatherington has sent a copy of the Upper Weardale Report from 1979 highlighting a paragraph which he thinks is relevant in the absence of County Council Masterplans for rural

areas compared to the Urban centres. The report has been sent to the councillors via email and a copy has been printed off for the councillors not on email. **Received and noted**

13. Cllr Mrs Maddison has received an email from a resident at Frosterley. The Harehope Quarry Project have for many years put up the Christmas Tree at Frosterley. This year they want to consult the community as they would like to do something different. They are considering upgrading the electrics, planting a tree so that a tree need not be cut down every year, providing a metal frame around the tree to create a shape and to allow the lights to be hung on until the tree grows and possibly a second site at Butts Head. A few questions need to be answered before any of this can be done. Can a tree be planted on a Village Green, can a frame be erected without planning permission, does DCC own the triangle of green at Butts Head and if DCC own the land at Butts Head how do they go finding out if they would allow the area for a Christmas Tree. The Village Green belongs to the Parish Council and the Planning Officer suggested talking to him about the metal frame and he would help.
14. Lee Brownson from the Auckland Project has sent an update. The Welcome Tower will open to the public on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July and Auckland Castle will re-open on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Mr Brownson is continuing to do the future plans presentations to groups so if we would like him to come back then we just have to contact him
15. The County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership is pleased to announce the return of the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA). CILCA is a recognised qualification and not a training course. The cost is £170 and will be held over two days 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> March at Shildon Council Offices

## **9858**

### **Planning Matters**

DM/17/03859/FPA

Erection of porch and conservatory and raising of roof height

Layfields Barn

School Hill

Lanehead

Mr C Brown

DM/17/03893/FPA

Porch to front

Burnview

7School Close

St Johns Chapel

Thornton Architectural

DM/17/03928/FPA

Single storey extension to front resubmission

15 East Blackdene

St Johns Chapel

Mr A Millington

DM/17/03909/FPA

Single storey rear extension

1 Western Hill

Frosterley

Mr M Nixon

DM/17/04085/PNT

Proposed 20m swann 30H Lattice Tower on a 4.x4.x0.8m

Concrete base and association work

Land to the east of telecommunication mast at Heights Quarry

EE (UK) ESN

DM/17/03827/FPA

The Parish Council objected to this application at Copthill, Cowshill due to the buildings design and materials and has been called to Committee.

DCC Design and Conservation Officer has no objection to the proposal. The existing structure is a small outbuilding which forms the basis of the proposed holiday let. The key feature is the arched opening which is to be retained whilst to the rear a modest extension is proposed to provide a bedroom. Due to the small scale of the existing building and shallow roof, the proposed extension is to be constructed from contrasting materials, (timber, boarding and sheet roof) and feature a curved profile roof. This design, palette of comparatively lightweight materials and colour finish contrasts with the core structure, however this does clearly define the extension from the original element of the building and ensure some subservience. The North Pennines AONB Building Design Guide details the use of contrasting materials for modern extensions and the positive interest that can derive from such a move. The siting of the building below the road level also limits visibility of the proposed extension. The Planning Officer asked if we still wished for the application to be heard at Committee. The chairman was contacted and yes she wanted it to be heard at Committee.

DM/17/03922/FPA

Two storey extension with Juliette balcony and porch to rear

Hill House West

Westgate

Mr C Hodgson

DM/17/04088/FPA

Additional 18 Lodges

Caravan Site

Horsley Lodges

Eastgate

K Thompson

This application needs clarification are the lodges for rent or for sale if they are for sale then it is a major development and is a way of building houses through the back door. **Resolved:** The Parish Council are to object to this application on access, flooding, are they holiday lets or permanent residency, stealth way of building eighteen bungalows

## 9859

### Finance

1. A standing order has been sent for the collection of the rent due to Savills for Bondisle Allotments. They have made changes to the bank account that they use for collecting rent. The first payment is due on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 for £50.00 annually **Resolved:** It was agreed to set the standing order up
2. DCC have acknowledged receipt of our precept form for £48,000 which is an increase of 1.92% on last years. Band D charge of £29.48 which is an increase of 1.90% and an increase of £904 on last year
3. Bank Reconciliation figures for the end of December were sent out and agreed



**9860****AAP Report**

Nothing to report

**9861****Accounts for Payment**

DCC Hire of meeting room for Sept 2.5 hours	£50.00
DCC Hire of meeting room for October 2.5 hours	£50.00
DCC Hire of meeting room for November 2.5 hours	£50.00
DCC Hire of meeting room for Dec 2.5 hours	£50.00
JRB Enterprise Dog bags	£537.60
Weardale Publishing and Printing Ltd	£31.99
BT Clerks Phone Bill	£114.88
DCC Community Highways Worker	£14,532.94
Npower Ashcroft Play area	£63.60
NWG Business Allotments, Willard Grove	£14.56
NWG Business Old Cemetery, Stanhope	£12.16
S Anderson Salary Dec/Jan	£1206.20
HM Rev & Customs	£117.20
S Anderson Home as Office	£70.00
S Anderson Expenses	£904.85
S Anderson Expenses	£38.50
TOTAL	£17,844.48

**ACCOUNTS FOR RECEIPTS**

HM Revenue VAT refund	£965.09
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**Resolved:** All accounts were approved, it was agreed that the clerk should have the January pay in that month and not have to wait until February. A cheque will be signed at the December meeting from now on

9862

**New Matters for Discussion**

1. Cllr Mrs Maddison would like the website discussed at the next meeting
2. Cllr Blackett commented on the mess of the old Blue Circle Social Club and it was a sad reflection but nothing could be done about it
3. Cllr Craig would like a litter pick done as soon as possible before the grass start to grow  
**Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
4. Cllr Craig mentioned the self- seeding trees that need removing and also the ones at Cowshill that must be done before March. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
5. Cllr Mrs Hutchinson would like a litter pick from White House to Station Road Head. She has picked a lot of litter up herself but there is still plenty to do. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
6. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff commented that she had seen a private ambulance and wondered if anyone else had. She will contact Mrs Jean Heatherington
7. Cllr Miss Graham would like the flower tubs planting first in Stanhope this year. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Gillett
8. Cllr Miss Graham is attending the Skate Park meeting at Wolsingham but as a parent
9. Cllr Miss Carrick commented that the snow had been cleared from the Dales Centre to Garden Close but the area by Crosshill Flats had not been cleared or gritted, the councillors commented that it was same all the way up the dale **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
10. Cllr Miss Carrick asked when the Allotment Rents were due. **Resolved:** Usually the end of February to the beginning of March depending on the weather. A notice is put up at all the sites advising of the date, time and venue
11. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like to report pot holes in the road outside the Chapel at Wearhead and on the main A689 road through Ireshopeburn. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
12. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like to report that the road needs sweeping by High House Corner as there are a lot of chippings. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
13. Cllr Mrs Humble would like the litter signs placing between Cowshill and Allenheads.  
**Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
14. The west wall in the corner of Burtreeford Cemetery needs repairing as it is nearly falling down. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
15. There is a nasty pot hole from Burnhope Reservoir to Cowshill at Stipehead Cottage and Blackcleugh, the whole road is water logged and needs attention. **Resolved:** Clerk to report it to DCC
16. Cllr Mrs Humble asked the councillors to think about a new chairman and vice-chairman as she has now done two years

9863

**Clerks Business**

The clerks contract has now been signed

**Meeting closed at 8.50pm**

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Dales Centre, Stanhope commencing at 7pm**

-----signed-----date

