

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 6th February 2019

PRESENT:

Cllr D Craig Chairman

Cllr L Blackett, Cllr Mrs H Maddison, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr D Ellwood, Cllr B Thompson,

Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Miss F Graham, Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr Miss J Carrick

Susan Anderson Clerk

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Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mrs A Humble, Cllr Mrs K Hutchinson

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To Receive any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

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Minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2018

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

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Police and the Community

No Police were in attendance

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Mr P Hodgson DCC – Wolsingham School

Mr Hodgson emailed to cancel his attendance as he has now reverted back to his previous post in the school improvement team. The education review in Weardale is still being considered by senior officers in the Council and either himself or the new Head of Education would be in a position to speak at a meeting at some point . **Resolved:** Clerk to invite the Head of Education to the April meeting

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Matters Arising

1. **FOOTBRIDGES IN ASHES QUARRY** – There is a temporary footpath closure as the works on the bridges are not yet completed. The Order will be effective for a period of six months

2. **TEMPORARY PUBLIC FOOTPATH CLOSER ORDER** - Footpath 25 from Middle Blackdene to the junction with road C77 adjacent to High Barnes, Newhouse is still closed on safety grounds. The extended closure will be effective from 15th December 2018 for an anticipated period of up to twenty-four months or until the works are complete and the path safe to re-open. This continuation has been approved by the Secretary of State for the Transport.
3. **PARAGON STREET, STANHOPE** – The light has now been repaired
4. **EASTGATE SITE** - Our letter has been passed to both DCCs Environmental Health Team and also the Clean and Green Team and both have advised that DCC cannot get involved due to this being private land. Our concerns will have to be raised with the landowner or DCC does have an Absestos Officer who maybe able to offer some advice. A letter was sent to the Environment Agency who have spoken to Cllr Mrs Hutchinson. **Resolved:** It was agreed that the clerk should write to the owner of the site for assurances that there is no contamination of asbestos on the site
5. **COUNCIL TAX QUERY** – The Councils Medium Term Financial Planning and 2019/2020 budget planning assumptions are that yes, the Adult Social Care Precept (with an increase of 2% on the previous years total Council Tax charge) will apply in 2019/20. The 2019/20 budget and actual Council tax will not be until 20th February 2019, so this is all subject to County Council approval. DCC await the publication of a Green Paper on the future funding arrangements for Adult Social Care beyond 2019/2020. As things stand, there is no assumed further increases in the Adult Social Care precept beyond 2019/20 at this stage
6. **FOI NEWTOWN HOUSE** - A reply has been received to the three questions that we asked. The property was sold with the following restriction “not to use the land for any other purpose other than as a residential care facility, day care service, domiciliary care base and supported living.” DCC have also included a pre-emption for completion of the re-development within 12 months of completion however have not specified an actual opening date. Newtown has been bought by a company set up for the purpose of refurbishing the home known as Newtown House Limited. DCC do not restrict purchasers to a particular geographical area. Cllr Thompson will be attending the AAP meeting and will mention Newtown House as Mr Timmiss will be attending
7. **LAY-BY AT HILL END, FROSTERLEY** - A resident would like the lay-by tidied up and the chippings levelled out. This was reported to DCC twice and the resident sent a photo of the area which has been sent to DCC. This has now been inspected and has been added to the non-urgent list
8. **FOOTPATH AT STONE HEAP NEAR TO THE RIVER** – The footpath officer has identified the section in question. The surface is uneven and there are tree roots, but it’s not a hazard as its obvious and natural surfacing. They have run out of budget this financial year, but he will keep it on record as a possible improvement for next financial year. The new surfacing on the section makes this section and the rest of the path look worse, but it is useable given its situation
9. **ALLOTMENT LETTERS** – All the tenants at Bondisle have received a final warning letter regarding vehicles entering in wet conditions. A letter has been received which was read out. A site meeting could be arranged for a weekend so that the tenants of Bondisle can discuss this problem with the councillors. **Resolved:** It was agreed that Cllr Ellwood and Cllr Miss Graham and the clerk would have a site visit with the tenants
10. **WESTGATE ALLOTMENTS** – Following the letters that went out to some of the tenants an inspection took place on 15th January. The plots have had bushes cut back and don’t look that untidy. It would be best to do an inspection of the sites in April / May when the plots should be planted.
11. **SHAFTWELL HEAD** – The road is now well lit up with cats’ eyes
12. **STANHOPE DENE** – The Dene has now been sold and is known as Stanhope Dene Ltd

13. **TOWN HALL, STANHOPE** – Cllr Blackett mentioned that a poster was displayed advertising an event to be held in the Town Hall but has been advertised wrong as the Town Hall is closed
14. **IRESHOPEBURN TREES** – DCC have not replied to the question as to who owns the trees in Ireshopeburn **Resolved:** Clerk to chase up
15. **WEARDALE RAILWAY** - One of the Terms and Conditions of holding the Christmas Event was that no buses were to go down Bondisle as there is nowhere for them to turn. **Resolved:** Clerk to write again to the Railway
16. **LITTER PICK** – Cllr Craig asked for a litter pick which has not been done **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC again

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CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. The North Pennines AONB Management Plan 2019-24 is now live and closes on 31st January 2019. This is a statutory plan developed by the AONB Partnership on behalf of the areas five local authorities tasked with its production under S.85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. All councillors have been sent the email
2. There is funding available aimed at Communities which are described as a group of people who have come together such as a friend's group, a tenants group, community gardeners etc. The funding is available to fund new pocket parks and park refurbishments.
3. The Ministry of Defence is offering funding for community celebration events and activities taking place on or around Saturday 29th June 2019 – Armed Forces Day 2019. Event organisers should in the first instance register their event on the Armed Forces Day website. The deadline for submitting applications is Monday 1st March 2019. All councillors have been sent the details
4. DCC are reviewing their vision for the County. The consultation is the first stage of a two-part consultation exercise and is looking for our views on the proposed high-level aims.
5. I have had a request from a resident of Rookhope regarding the possible Twinning with Redkey USA. If this is of some interest to the councillors, we can contact her for more information **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the resident to acknowledge receipt of her email and that at this moment there is no interest
6. An allotment tenant at Westgate is concerned about the present rules regarding fruit bushes. Her plot is very productive in fruit bushes. The new tenancy agreement allows existing fruit bushes to stay as long as they pruned back. New ones can be planted but only if they mature before they are twelve months old. There is an Ash tree at the roadside edge of the allotment site that needs inspecting **Resolved:** Clerk to ask S Makepeace to fell the tree
7. The closing date for nominations for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party was 20th January 2019. We have nominated Mr and Mrs Mews.
8. A new book has been published called Licensing Review Handbook which aims to offer practical help so that residents and affected members of the community can take effective action against problems that are being caused by licensed premises. Councils may find it useful to purchase a copy if anyone is experiencing licensing problems in the area at a cost of £14.99
9. A resident reported that a way marker was missing giving directions to the footpath at Shittlehopeburn. This was reported to the footpath officer
10. NALC Points of Light is services and schemes provided by Parish Councils giving details of 150 Parish Councils. As there are 10,000 Parish Councils this is a small list but gives some ideas as to what some Parish Councils are doing. S Ragg would like to raise the profile of the County Durham Association so any Parish Council can showcase their council. Cllr Mrs Humble suggests that we could mention the financial support for Cowhill War Memorial and the

Riverside Playpark when it is completed **Resolved:** It was agreed to do this when the Play Park project is completed

11. The Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy produced by DCC runs from 2014 to 2019 and needs to be reviewed every five years. This expires in October 2019 and is the subject of a DCC cabinet report on 16 January. There will be a twelve-week consultation on the revised Statement. S Ragg will advise when the consultation period will start, and we will have the opportunity to get involved with the revision of the new Statement of Licensing Policy if we wish to do so.
12. The Committee on Standards in Public Life has released its 110-page report on Local Government Ethical Standards. NALC has released a media release, Parliamentary inquiry backs NALC call to strengthen standards regime for 100,000 councillors. NALC is campaigning for high standards of conduct, the re-introduction of sanctions, emphasis on training and development, and a single code of conduct for all tiers of local government based on NALC's own model.
13. The pre-submission draft of the County Durham Plan is now at the final consultation stage and comments can still be sent in. The plan can be seen on line or at one of the consultation events. It is available on 21st February 2019 at Wolsingham Town Hall between 3.30pm – 6.00pm.
14. DCC is currently reviewing its allotment provision including looking at all the sites they own and how activities on them should be managed.
15. The County Durham Housing Strategy has been published for consultation. The Housing Strategy has been developed to consider housing issues in County Durham. The council is providing a presentation on the Housing Strategy to the County Durham Association of Local Councils on 21st Feb 2019 to support this consultation. Comments can be sent via the website or by post
16. Mazars are holding an update on the submission of the 2018/19 annual returns. This will be held on 3rd April 2019 at County Hall. Cllr Mrs Humble will attend this if we feel it will be beneficial to do so
17. A letter has been received from Cllr P Murphy who has resigned as Councillor for Stanhope Urban.

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PLANNING MATTERS

DM/18/03695/FPA

Conservatory and detached out building to east

Mill Isle

4 The Batts

Frosterley

DM/18/03718/FPA

Detached outbuilding to south (retrospective)

Greenhead Cottage

Rookhope

Mr B Harding

DM/18/03833/VOC
Variation of condition 2 of
DM/14/03382/FPA to allow opening hours of
9.00 to 22.00 Mon-Sun
Horn Hall Farm
Stanhope
Miss Dawn Emery

DM/18/03841/FPA
Two storey side extension
Bank Foot Cottage
25 High Town
Westgate
Mrs C Scott

DM/18/03886/FPA
First floor extension
21 Hill End
Frosterley
Mrs Wearmouth

DM/18/03856/OUT
Erection of dwelling outline with all matters reserved
Garages
The Fold
Daddy Shield
Gordon Slater

DM/18/03873/FPA – DM/18/0387/LB
Utility meter store
Castle Mews
Stanhope
Arrandene Ltd

DM/18/03836/FPA
Insertion of 2 no dormer windows to rear conversion of existing outbuilding to form snug and
conversion of existing barn to form annex
Lintzgarth House
Rookhope
Mr J Nixon

DM/19/00141/FPA
Retention of air source heat pump
Ambulance Street
St Johns Chapel
Wear Heating Ltd

DM/19/00197/FPA

Erection of a detached, 3 storey house with integral garages

Crawley Edge

Crawleyside

Mr & Mrs Leatherland

DM/19/00202/FPA

Change of use from a redundant agricultural building to a single dwelling (resubmission of

DM/18/00393/FPA

White Kirkley Farm

Frosterley

Mr D De Boynville

10033

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION – ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENT

All councillors received a draft copy of the Allotment Tenancy Agreement which they have gone through, 17.3 was taken out. All tenants will receive a copy of the new agreement. **Resolved:** It was agreed to adopt the Allotment Tenancy Agreement

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ALLOTMENT RENT

A discussion took place on the increase of the allotment rent. It was proposed and seconded an increase to £20. An amendment was proposed and seconded for £18. One abstained from voting so the chairman had the casting vote **Resolved:** An increase to £18 with effect from 2020

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PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

It was mentioned that the site looked poor as there was not much on it

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FINANCE

1. The Volunteer Transport Scheme would like us to support them either this financial year or the next financial year. The volunteer scheme has been running since 2003 and funding ceased from DCC in 2016, and they are now working with funding from the CCG. This does not cover all the costs. Patients are based in our Parish and use the service of the local surgery, RSVP work with all the surgeries in Co. Durham and all hospitals and clinics in the North East. Volunteers use their own vehicles and give their time freely. They are paid a mileage allowance of 45p per mile to the volunteer. The councillors would like clarification as there are two organisations and they would want any donation to be in our area **Resolved:** Clerk to find out for the next meeting
2. Npower Business have sent a 24 months contract for the continuous public lighting as we are now out of contract. There will be a saving of £300 a year **Resolved:** Clerk to find out in more detail
3. North East War Memorials Project have a website that is now out of date and need to find £45,000 to update the site and keep the bespoke NEWMP website going. They would like the Parish Council to make a donation. A councillor thought that you had to pay to get on the site

4. The Bank Reconciliation figures were sent to all councillors and were discussed and agreed. Cllr Craig mentioned that it was agreed that the clerk received £500 when the GDPR was complete. **Resolved:** Clerk to add £500 on to her March salary

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AAP REPORT

Cllr Thompson mentioned the groups that had been successful in receiving money through the Small Grants. He is hoping it continues this next financial year

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CDALC

Cllr Ellwood will be attending the AAP meeting representing CDALC on 7th Feb. There is nothing else to report from CDALC until after the meeting of 6th March 2019

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ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

JRB ENTERPRISE DOG BAGS	£537.60
ANGLIAN WATER BUSINESS WAVE TOILETS DADDY SHIELD	£63.24
DCC ELECTION COSTS OCT 2018	£4333.40
BT paye S Anderson	£139.59
S ANDERSON SALARY FOR DEC RECEIVED	£708.27
HM REV SENT	£16.00
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE RECEIVED	£35.00
S ANDERSON EXPENSES RECEIVED	£21.00
S ANDERSON SALARY FOR JAN	£708.07
HM REV	£16.20
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00
S ANDERSON EXPENSES	£91.59
NOWER ASHCROFT	£76.36
TOTAL	£6781.32

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NEW MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Cllr Mrs Maddison would like a different shaped sign at Hill End as it keeps getting knocked and is leaning. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC

2. The sign on the Weardale Way by Coronation Bridge needs cleaning. **Resolved:** Clerk to report it to D Hunt
3. Cllr Mrs Maddison suggested a sponsored walk on the Weardale Way for the councillors to do. Cllr Miss Graham mentioned that there are two other sponsored walks that the pubs arrange
4. Light Up the Dale has been very successful, and Cllr Mrs Maddison will bring a report to the next meeting
5. Cllr Brewin mentioned that the yellow signs advertising the Christmas Event were placed on the footpath by the playpark and no-one could get passed them with a mobility scooter or a pushchair. These need to be placed in a more appropriate place **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
6. Cllr Ellwood has had a report that the gate post at the Old Cemetery is rotten and needs replacing **Resolved:** Clerk to ask S Makepeace to inspect it and replace it if it needs doing
7. The pedestrian gate by the cattle grid at the top of Crawleyside Bank has collapsed and needs renewing. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
8. Cllr Blackett would like to report light numbers 402 and 398 Cowshill to Wearhead are burning all the time **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
9. The water gutter opposite Wearhead School has been cleaned out but the cover is broken and is sticking up which is puncture waiting to happen. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
10. There is a collapsed drain where the school bus picks up at Cowshill **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
11. Wearhead Toilets have had another burst pipe and the water should have been turned off in October or November. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
12. Cllr Thompson mentioned that work has started in the play area at Rookhope
13. An elderly lady was unwell and 999 was called. Within five minutes the first responder arrived, fifteen minutes later the paramedic arrived then the ambulance. Praise is due on the arriving times.
14. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like to report the main road from the wreck to Blackdene road end that it has gone smooth and is dangerous. **Resolved:** Clerk to report it to DCC
15. Cllr Miss Graham would like to report a drain in the Market Place, Stanhope by the cobbles that needs attention **Resolved:** Clerk to report it to DCC
16. There are salt bins at the bottom and top of Ashcroft bank, but the residents would like a bin half way down as the cars cannot get up the bank. It is dangerous when they are sliding as children are going to school. Cllr Miss Graham is willing to have a site visit to explain the problem. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
17. At the same area where the crossroads are at the bottom of the bank cars are parked on the corners and Cllr Miss Graham would like the Police contacted to see if yellow lines on one side of the road would help. If the car slides residents are concerned that they will slide into these parked cars. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the Police
18. Cllr Miss Carrick would like Mr Alderson to start on the new playpark equipment before the Easter Holidays and not during them

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CLERKS BUSINESS

Nothing to report

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 6th March 2019 at the Dales Centre, Stanhope commencing at 7pm

.....Signed.....Date

