

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 1st February 2023 at 7pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Mrs S Smart, Cllr D Craig, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr Mrs C Burdis, Cllr E Buchanan, Cllr R Lawrie, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr P Turton

Cllr Miss J Carrick – Chairman

Susan Anderson – Clerk

Also Present – Insp Turner and PC for Stanhope

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Apologies for Absence

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 7th December 2022

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

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Police and the Community

Cllr Miss Carrick welcomed the Police to the meeting.

Cllr Craig would like the speed limit lowering between the villages to 50mph. At Daddry Shield reducing the limit to 30mph has worked but reducing the speed limit to 50mph could not be enforced. DCC follow the National Speed Guidance. Cllr Craig would like to know why the speed limit has been reduced to 40mph at the bridge past Nenthall. Traffic Management work closely with DCC and review speed limits but there is certain criteria such as blackspots, bad bends and fatality after fatality. Cllr Mrs Smart mentioned the speed of vehicles going through Eastgate and also the speed of the vehicles travelling from the Rookhope road past Cragside. Insp. Turner will take Cllr Mrs Smarts contact details and will be in contact when the Community Speed Watch Van will be deployed. There are three types of speeding, speeding deliberately and accidentally, perception and inappropriate speeding. **Resolved:** Cllr Shuttleworth will order a speed survey to be done.

Cllr Mrs Burdis mentioned the shop thefts and that it was reported in the hour with the car registration number. She has not had any feedback regarding the incident which in past cases she has, the Police Officer will look into this. There has been an increase in door to door selling and the elderly are feeling vulnerable, these hard sell callers should be reported to the Police. With Rural Watch in operation there has been a good reduction in incidents. Thefts will never be stopped but the dale can make it hard for thieves and they will go elsewhere. Cllr Turton mentioned the noise of motorcycles and would it be possible to look into modified noise cameras. This would have to done

through VOSA but the Police do operational endurance to check for no licence and no insurance. Some research will be done on the motorbike noise. Cllr Craig asked the Police that when they are travelling up and down the dale to look out for parked cars opposite the quarry road as poaches park there. Cllr Buchanan commented how good the tri-responders were after a visit last year and spoke very highly of them.

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Matters Arising

1. **ASHCROFT MUGA**- The appraisal of the Ashcroft MUGA project by the Funding Team has been completed. There were a number of questions raised which have been answered. The main issue was with the landlord's consent which cannot be given without a works specification and any County Council funding cannot be released without the Landlords Consent. It was suggested that if the Parish Council was prepared to cover the costs of commissioning Surfacing Standards out of our contribution of £10,000 this would enable all of the relevant preliminary work to be undertaken, work specifications and contract documentation produced. The Funding Team would place the grant application on hold until this first stage work was complete, and confirm County Council funding to support the implementation of the project. After speaking to the Chairman, we agreed to this so that there was no delay in the application and no extra contribution from the Parish Council is needed. On 25th January we have had written confirmation that the grant application has been accepted. We have to sign and return the Terms and Conditions letter that has been sent. All the paperwork has been sent to the councillors so that everyone can see it.
Resolved: Clerk to sign and return the form.
2. **BARCLAYS BUSINESS REQUIRED INFORMATION** – The information that was asked for has been sent.
3. **WESTGATE ALLOTMENTS** – A resident reported that the water pipe had burst, the blue pipe had a split in. As this happened the week before Christmas the water was turned off at the mains until a plumber could repair the pipe. A plumber has now been and repaired the pipe with no charge.
4. **ST JOHNS CHAPEL AMBULANCE STATION COVER ON 3RD DECEMBER**– The reply was sent to all of the councillors. The day shift was single crewed due to sickness and the single crewed member of staff was moved to Consett. The Community Paramedic Rapid Response shift was also uncovered due to annual leave. There is a vacancy on the RRV which has been advertised for the third time but due to the rural location these are hard to cover. On the 3rd the sickness occurred after relief planning, including allocation of spare staff. Due to the demand on the service (CSP Level 2 and 3) during the shift all rural resources would have been released for all outstanding Category 2 calls.
5. **CATS EYES ON A689 FROM HARPERLEY** – This has been reported and the road marking team will decide a course of action.
6. **MEMORIAL BOOKS** – DCC have advised that, if possible, the Memorial Books should be kept at the Church as they do not have the facilities to store them
7. **LIGHT ON FRONT STREET, STANHOPE** – Light has been repaired
8. **DALES CENTRE, STANHOPE** – After the February meeting the function room will be no longer available. We can hold our meetings downstairs in the tea room starting from the March meeting.
9. **WEARHEAD PRIMARY BROADBAND** - The school are still trying to find out who the provider is and will be in touch.
10. **COUNCILLOR PHOTOGRAPHS**- I have been in touch with Northgate systems to see if they will take some photographs of the councillors who are not on the website. They are going to get back to me on Thursday morning.

11. **Road Flooding at Westgate** – Cllr Craig mentioned that there has been more flooding on the A689 road and has moved further up from the quarry entrance. The gully sucker will clean out both sides of the road and DCC are going to deal with it.
12. **Dales Centre Meetings** – Cllr Mrs Sutcliffe would like to make sure that holding the meetings in the tea room will look official. **Resolved:** Clerk will speak to C Hurworth

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Correspondence Received

1. CDALC sent a reminder that the Police and Crime Commissioners precept consultation closed on 13th January 2023. The link to the survey is on the website and in the Notice Boards.
2. CDALC sent an email looking for nominations for the Royal Garden party. CDALC in the past have received 2 tickets and the nominations go into a draw. It is for past service as chairman. After contacting the chairman Mrs Alison Humble has been nominated from Stanhope Parish Council.
3. Barclays Bank in Stanhope are closing the branch on 21st April 2023. To share our thoughts on this you have to visit the branch and speak to one of the team. Two weeks before the closure Barclays will share a summary of the feedback. A resident would like to know what consultation has taken place and what services are going to be available. The full banking facilities should not be removed. Cllr Mrs Savory and Cllr Shuttleworth held a Teams meeting on Friday 13th January with Geoff Watson, Barclays Customer Director for Northumberland and Durham, following his email sent to both councillors on Thursday 12th January. Also, both councillors had a face-to-face meeting with him at Barclays in Stanhope on Monday 23rd January. Both councillors pressed Mr Watson to reconsider closing the branch and to maintain the Barclays Cash Machine, the lease is up on the Barclays Bank building and will not be renewed. People are banking differently and the numbers have fallen. There will be a unit in the Dales Centre for customers who need banking advice and help but there will be no banking facilities. Cash can be drawn at the cash machines, the Post office and cash back from the shops. Telephone Banking is available and online banking and the Barclays App. Statistics showed that twenty-two people used the bank on a regular basis, 79% have banked using the App, online and by phone, 19% of branch customers have used nearby branches in the last twelve months. There is no way that Barclays will reconsider the decision to close the bank.
4. An application has been received for a Felling Licence at White House Farm, Eastgate. Any comments should be sent by 15/02/2023.
5. A resident reported that there must be a hole in the rabbit netting at Burtreeford Play Park as a dog was running around in a resident's field. S Makepeace will check the fencing. A new No Dogs Allowed Sign is needed which has been requested.
6. Details are starting to emerge from Buckingham palace about the focus of each of the three days of the Coronation Weekend. On the Saturday everyone will be watching the television or actually being there. Sunday is the day for local celebrations, with Big Lunch and Street Parties before the concert from Windsor that evening. Monday is called "The Big Help Out" and focuses attention on volunteering. **Resolved:** As our Parish Council covers a wide area each village will have to organise their own celebrations. There is a grant available "Awards for All".
7. The Civic Pride Officer has sent an email regarding a proposed find and fix project for Frosterley. Photographs have been sent of the areas where the work will take place. Mr Henry would like the Parish Councils permission to carry out proposed works on The Green at Frosterley. With regards to The Green which DCC's Clean and Green team plant the planters will be cleaned, varnished and painted. There is at least one that is falling to pieces

and beyond refurbishing and would be better removed. They wouldn't replace any broken planters so Mr Henry would like to know if we think the planters would be better not touched. **Resolved:** It was agreed to have the planters refurbished but to take the broken one away.

8. An email has been received from a volunteer for the Commonwealth War Graves. He has noted that a limb has come down onto a headstone in the Old Cemetery. Oliver's Tree Services have mentioned this in their report and it was agreed at the December meeting to have the required work done. I have sent an email back to the volunteer thanking him and explaining that we are aware of the broken limb and that it is in the tree surgeons' hands. I have sent an email to Oliver's Tree Services to see when the work will be done. The work was brought forward to 31st January 2023 as permission had been received from DCC for the work at the Old Hall Allotments.
9. CDALC have sent a list of the current consultations that we can send our responses and opinions.
10. Greener Miles Running plan to hold an Ultramarathon running race on the Pennine Journey long distance footpath which starts and ends in Settle. We have been contacted as the route passes through our Parish. The proposed date is September 23rd 2023 starting around 7-8am from Settle railway station. Looking at the map the runners will come from Hexham via the fell road and then over to Barnard Castle.
11. The Church Warden has sent details of the Weardale Pilgrimage Plans. The C of E and Methodist congregations in the Dale are putting together plans to help encourage visitors to come to Weardale and then to visit the Church buildings. There is a meeting on 4th March from 10 to 2.30pm if anyone is interested.
12. CDALC has sent information on the NE Devolution Deal Consultation which has been sent to all councillors. The devolution deal sets out £4.2bn of government investment, which will be subject to local influence and decision making, enabling spend on local priorities, together with a range of devolved functions. The devolution deal is subject to the 7 North East Authorities adopting the model of a directly elected mayor over the whole of their area. The link is on the DCC's website <https://www.durham.gov.uk/NorthEastDevolution>
13. S Ragg will soon be retiring on 31st March and Audrey has started a collection for him and she hopes that people who have worked with him over the years will contribute. At the end of the Civility and Respect Day at Aycliffe, Oakleaf Sports Centre on 9th March at 3.30pm there will be a get together to say goodbye.
14. Please can all councillors remember that the Parish Council is not political and we cannot be seen to favour any political party. Also, as Responsible Officer to the Parish Council I do all of the work.

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County Councillor Update

Cllr Shuttleworth mentioned the NE Devolution Deal and that two deals were available. The big mix will mean more money and the Council will function as it is. The cost of the mayor will come from Central Government.

10736

Planning Matters

DM/22/02426/FPA

Change of use to hot food takeaway (Class Sui Generis) and associated works (retrospective)

4B Market Place

Stanhope

DM/22/02427/LB

Associated works in connection with change of use to hot food takeaway (Class Sui Generis)
4B Market Place
Stanhope

DM/22/03240/FPA
Conversion of storage shed to a 2-bedroom dwelling with associated access and residential curtilage
Sparks Farm
Wearhead

DM/22/03543/LB & DM/22/03544/AD
Erection of illuminated and non-illuminated signs to the exterior of the building
Frosterley Inn and Caravan Park
99 Front Street
Frosterley

DM/23/00049/FPA
Proposed external over cladding of existing terrace properties at 1,3,4,5,6,7,8 and 9 Hogarth Terrace, Rookhope. Application of an insulated render system to match the existing limestone facade and replicate feature header and sills. Replacement of the existing roofing materials to match existing together with new eaves and rainwater goods.
Believe Housing
No 1-7 & No 8- 9
Hogarth Terrace
Rookhope

DM/23/00110/FPA
Proposed conversion of barn within to create 2nd dwellings
Shittlehopeburn Farm
Stanhope

DM/23/00083/FPA
Proposed agricultural shed to store silage
Willow Green
Frosterley

10737

Finance

1. There are two self-seeding trees in the allotments at Bondisle that are pushing the tarmac up on the footpath on the other side of the fence. Oliver's Tree Services have inspected the trees at Westgate after a resident mentioned the trees were touching the phone lines. They inspected the self-seedings at Bondisle and sent a quote of £190 to have the trees felled. The trees that the resident reported will be cut back and a full inspection of the site will be inspected on 2nd February 2023. **Resolved:** The quote was agreed for Bondisle
2. S Makepeace has sent the playground inspection report that was carried out on 19th December 2022. The report was sent to the councillors. All areas are generally in good condition and will remain so if the mentioned works are carried out. **Resolved:** It was agreed to have the work done
3. Bank reconciliation figures were sent to all of the councillors. **Resolved:** Figures were agreed

10738**Allotment Competition – Giant Pumpkin Seeds**

Cllr Brewin had the pumpkin seeds so when the rent is collected the tenants will be given a seed.

10739**AAP Report – WAAP e-bulletin**

All councillors were sent the e-bulletin

10740**CDALC Report**

No report

10741**Accounts for Payment**

E-ON NEXT ASHCROFT PLAY PARK PAID 20/12/2022	£39.49
S ANDERSON SALARY INCLUDES BACKDATED PAY INCREASE AS INSTRUCTED BY CDALC ALL CLERKS TO RECEIVE £1925 (37 HOURS) 4/1/23	£1286.96
HM REV PAID 4/1/23	£110.07
S ANDERSON EXPENSES PAID 4/1/23	£36.66
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE PAID 4/1/23	£35.00
E-ON NEXT ASHCROFT PLAYPARK PAID 22/1/2023	£41.77
BT CLERKS PHONE BILL PAID 22/1/2023	£81.48
----- JANUARY TOTAL	£1631.43
DCC HIRE OF MEETING ROOM DEC	£50.63
JRB ENTERPRISE LTD	£597.60
BREAKTHROUGH COMMUNICATIONS-4 COURSES	£144.00
ANGLIAN WATER PUBLIC CONVIENCE DADDRY SHIELD	£55.40
DCC COMMUNITY HIGHWAYS WORKER 1/4/22-31/3/23	£15,810.35
ANGLIAN WATER OLD CEMETERY STANHOPE	£13.84
ANGLIAN WATER WILLARD GROVE ALLOTMENTS	£22.64
S ANDERSON SALARY	£861.04
HM REV	£14.22
HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00
OLIVERS TREE SERVICES-OLD HALL & OLD CEMETERY	£636.00
-	-----
	£18,240.72

£1,631.43

TOTAL

£19,872.25

Resolved: Accounts moved

10742

New Matters for Discussion

1. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff mentioned the defibrillators that the codes cannot be read on them. Apparently, they are not necessary as the emergency service knows the location of the box. The call handler will give the code to get into the box.
2. Cllr Craig would like a thank you letter to the Community Highways Worker for picking litter. **Resolved:** Clerk to send a letter
3. Cllr Blackett would like to report the road between Copt Hill and Allendale B6295 that there is a natural spring and the water freezes on the road . Also, there are some potholes on the same road. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
4. On the A689 by the pumping station at Lanehead there is water coming out of two manholes. **Resolved:** Cllr Shuttleworth will deal with this.
5. Cllr Brewin mentioned that NPG have done the test wiring for the Village Hall. Cllr Lawrie mentioned that the other plans are waiting to be pulled together.
6. Cllr Buchanan would like the boundary hedge at Burtreeford Cemetery trimmed back as some of the headstones are green. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
7. Cllr Lawrie mentioned the Weardale Museum and that the car parking is still on-going.
8. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like the sign post into Crosshill re-attaching. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
9. Cllr Mrs Thompson mentioned the parking as you come out of Crosshill that it's a difficult exit due to the parking on both sides of the road. Maybe a "Keep clear "is needed. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
10. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned that the works outside of the Church in Stanhope is for a permanent electric supply.

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Clerks Business

Nothing to report

Meeting Closed at 8.20pm

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