

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

AT A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN EASTGATE VILLAGE HALL ON 7TH FEBRUARY 2024

PRESENT:

Cllr D Craig, Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr P Turton, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr R Lawrie,

Cllr Mrs C Burdis, Cllr I Buchanan, Cllr Mrs S Smart

Cllr Miss J Carrick – Chairman

Susan Anderson – Clerk

Also Present

Cllr Mrs A Savory

Simon Mansfield – Business Development Manager Weardale Adventure Centre

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Apologies for Absence

Cllr L Blackett, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes, Cllr Mrs S Thompson

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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 February 2024

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

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Weardale Adventure Centre – Simon Mansfield

Mr Mansfield is employed to expand the business at the Weardale Adventure Centre. The water sports in Greenfoot Quarry will start again at Easter and will run through until September. You will be able to hire everything that you need and there will be trained people there explaining water safety. It was mentioned that it was good publicity when Robeson Green's programme was filmed there. Open water swimming is to be introduced but there is a stipulation that you must carry a float and have your own insurance. There will be no solo swimming and an induction session on swimming safely will take place. They are looking at a Pizza and Paddle Board evening with no alcohol at all. At the moment there is an issue with parking so Mr Mansfield would like to approach Stanhope Show Committee to see if there is any possibility on using the show ground to park. Not all schools can afford the coaches to bring the children to the centre so they are looking to go to the schools. At the Centre they are going to run Archery tag in a battle zone with bows and arrows which will be very much like paint balling. Mr Mansfield was given the contact details for Stanhope Show Chairman and

it was suggested that he contact all three agricultural shows to get a stand at them to promote the Weardale Adventure Centre. Cllr Mrs Savory mentioned that there are over a thousand children in care in County Durham and that it would be nice to try and arrange something for them.

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Matters Arising

1. **SCRAP VAN ON STANHOPE MARKET PLACE** – The Street Warden has been out and checked the van. He has contacted the company who assured him the van would be moved as soon as possible.
2. **SEWAGE WORKS SIGN** - The repair of the sign has been passed onto Highways.
3. **EASTGATE VILLAGE HALL**- We have received an email from Eastgate Village Hall Committee apologising for the hall being cool. The issue has now been fixed and the committee have not charged for one session. A thank you email was sent.
4. **STREET LIGHTING OWNED BY SPC**- The details of the locations of the lights has been sent to DCC to see if any can be adopted to DCC. Cllr Shuttleworth mentioned that due to the locations of the lights DCC will not be able to take the lights on.
5. **BT DIGITAL VOICE** – Cllr Turton sent his replies that he had received from R Holden MP and from BT. Information was also received from the Executive Complaints at BT that the clerk wrote to. The consumer-resolution representative mentioned that she would answer any questions that the councillors had. Cllr Turton would like to know what plans BT have to roll out the fibre broadband to more properties in Weardale and what support will be available for elderly and vulnerable people when they have to start using the new technology. If anyone is not on a fibre connection then you will not be switched to Digital Voice until our area has been upgraded. Openreach would have to be contacted directly to find out when our area would be upgraded. New technology will cause concern for some customers so someone can be nominated to assist with the switch over. At the moment we do not have the infrastructure to support this technology. When new packages are been taken out people are being switched to digital. The battery packs last an hour so that people can make emergency phone calls.
6. **BENEFICE OF UPPER WEARDALE** - We have received the information on the Pastoral Church Buildings Scheme affecting the benefice of Upper Weardale. Part 1 of Scheme will come into effect on 5th February 2024. The parish of Saint John-in-Weardale and the parish of Westgate, being two of the parishes within the area of the benefice of Upper Weardale in the diocese of Durham, shall be united to create a new parish which shall be named The Parish of Saint John’s Chapel and Westgate. The church of Saint John, being the parish church of the parish of Saint John-in-Weardale, shall be the parish church of the new parish.
7. **WILLARD GROVE ALLOTMENTS** – Cllr Miss Carrick went to inspect the lights that have been put onto an allotment plot. She does agree with the complainant. The lights are facing towards the houses and wouldn’t be so bad if they shone on the ground. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the tenant
8. **JOY ALLEN POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER** – Following on from the meeting that Joy Allen attended she has looked at one of the issues concerning the 30mph speed limit where there is street lighting. It is possible to have a series of streetlights but not have a speed limit of 30mph and where this is the case there must be clear signage and repeater signs at regular intervals. She has contacted colleagues in the Force, who commission the speed awareness sessions, to ensure those delivering the sessions are giving accurate messages, as it seems in this case there was mixed communication. The setting of speed limits is a matter for the County Council. As road safety is one of Joy Allens six priorities, she listened to the councillors concerns and has written to the Chief Executive of Durham County Council to ask for a meeting between relevant council offices, her office and police to discuss these issues,

ensuring the Parish Councils views are heard and to ask whether any solutions can be found. The letter was copied to the Chair of the Safe Durham Partnership as there is a specific sub-group on Road Casualty Reduction.

9. **QUAD BIKE THEFTS** – Cllr Craig asked the clerk to write to Inspector Turner regarding the recent quad bike thefts. The Rural watch WhatsApp group is valuable in gathering community information and intelligence which has proved vital in recovering stolen quad bikes and farm machinery. Recently following the thefts five arrests have taken place and property has been recovered from information directly taken from this forum. If the police stop any quad bikes etc then chassis numbers are checked to establish if they are stolen. The Police are promoting and encouraging crime prevention and property marking and the installation of trackers. The Police work closely with victims of crime to reduce the likelihood of becoming a repeat victim. The problem is the lack of police with Durham Constabulary losing one hundred officers. Some manufacturers are now fitting trackers.

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Correspondence Received

1. Cllr Turton would like the Parish Council to write to BT to find out about their plans for the digital switchover in Weardale. The chairman was contacted and it was agreed to write to BT.
2. D Hunt sent some photographs of the planters outside of the new cemetery in Stanhope. The box hedging is now dead and Darren was wondering if we could do something together in replanting the planters. **Resolved:** Councillors agreed to have the planters re-planted
3. A resident from Frosterley reported the wooden gate into the new graveyard at Frosterley is rotten. The post is rotten so the gate is hanging on by one hinge. This has been reported to DCC and will be repaired.
4. The fence at the Grey Bull, Stanhope has been reported to DCC for repair. The fencing has been done but the wall has not been repaired. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
5. A resident from Westgate has sent a request for some tennis poles and a net for Westgate. DCC do not have a net or poles in their stores. After talking to James Young he has mentioned that the last tenant for Westgate were the Trustees for the Play Area for Westgate Scheme. This needs looking into as the Parish Council has the lease on the play area since 2007. There seems to be some confusion on this. The Parish Council has the lease on the playpark but the tennis court is at the station which belongs to DCC. **Resolved:** No net will be provided by the Parish Council.
6. It was reported to DCC there was a large pot hole near the layby down Bondisle heading towards the allotments. This has been reported
7. When the road up to Eastgate Village Hall was tarmaced the water meter was tarmaced over. The Committee need to read the meter for Northumbrian Water. This has been reported.
8. There is a pot hole at the top of Bondisle Bank and also passed the Railway Station. These have been reported.
9. CDALC would like any nominations to represent Weardale on the CDALC area committee. The four Parish Councils are Muggleswick, Stanhope, Witton le Wear and Wolsingham. Closing date is Friday 1st March 2024.
10. We had a report that after the recent storms some fencing and a gate post had come down at Willard Grove Allotments. After contacting the chair, we felt that this should be repaired now rather than having to wait until the Feb meeting. An email was sent around to the councillors.
11. A tenant from Westgate is giving up his plot this year. His concern is that the Light Up The Dale Christmas tree is still on his plot and is a lovely Korean Pine. He would like to see it planted where the temporary trees are placed every year. **Resolved:** Cllr Miss Carrick will deal with this

12. A reminder has been sent regarding the D-Day 80 on 6th June 2024. Beacons are being lit at 9.15pm, a Lamp Light of Peace being lit at 9.15pm and Ringing Out for Peace where church bells are being rang at 6.30pm, so we are being asked to contact our local church inviting them to take part. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the churches
13. The Forestry Commission are consulting on a Felling Licence for the Park Plantation Stanhope. **Resolved:** No objections were mentioned
14. The Council is consulting on three documents relating to the County Durham Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations Document.
15. There is a resident interested in being a Parish Councillor when a vacancy arises. The next elections are May 2025.

10890

County Councillor Update

Cllr Mrs Savory mentioned that they are waiting for the budgets on 28th Feb. The gritters are doing a good job and that residents should be vigilant for crime in Weardale. The AAP's have to move into a council owned building. The leisure centre/library are a possibility so that the AAP can stay in Weardale, residents wont travel down to Crook. Cllr Shuttleworth mentioned that there is less money and people are expecting the same service. DCC is not in the red as they have good accountants.

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Planning Matters

DM/23/03651/FPA

Resubmission of DM/22/03240/FPA

Change of use from storage shed to dwelling

Sparks Farm

Wearhead

DM/23/03455/VOC

Variation of condition 2 pursuant to planning approval 3/2010/0354 to alter deck area and to include hot tub shelter (retrospective)

Land South West of

Horsley Hall

Eastgate

DM/23/03781/VOC

Variation of condition 3 (energy scheme) pursuant to planning permission DM/20/00879/FPA

Land at Crawley Edge

Crawleyside

DM/23/03828/TEL

Prior notification for erection of a 25m communications mast, antennas, ground-based apparatus and ancillary development

Collier Law Telecommunications Mast

Crawleyside

DM/23/03705/FPA
Retention of 2 no. agricultural buildings
Land to the East of
Briar Hill
Ireshopeburn
DL13 1EL

PLANNING PERMISSION FOR FEBRUARY MEETING 2024

DM/23/02631/PNME
Prior notification under Class K of Part 17 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for exploratory auger drilling at the Rookhope Dump Site.
Boltsburn Garage
Rookhope

DM/23/02732/FPA
Single storey extension
Quarry Edge
7 East Lane
Stanhope

DM/23/02781/FPA
Installation of a micro wind turbine for domestic use and ground mounted solar panels (amended 16/11/2023)
Low Lintzgarth
Rookhope

DM/23/02897/FPA
Proposed side extension at first floor
Fellside House
Crawleyside Bank

DM/23/03001/FPA
Construction of detached outbuilding
Bond Leazes
East Lane
Stanhope

10892 Finance

1. Bank reconciliation figures for 31st December 2023 to be agreed. **Resolved:** Agreed
2. The Notice Board in Stanhope and Cowshill need the catches repairing or replacing. **Resolved:** Agreed
3. The standing orders have been set up for the £500 Village Hall grant money and the £300 Churchyard Maintenance Grant, just waiting for one Church to send their bank details. The grant money will be paid out on 1st May Annually.

10893**AAP Report**

Muggleswick planning application for the glamping has been sorted. Cllr Mrs Savory mentioned that the AAP team do sterling work with the schools, luncheon groups. They are a broad and diverse team that benefit the dale where people need face to face help and they get little thanks.

10894**Accounts for Payment**

SSL ASHCROFT PLAYPARK	£2760.00
EON ASHCROFT PLAYPARK PAID	£47.29
S ANDERSON SALARY JAN PAID	£904.08
HM REV AND CUSTOMS PAID	£20.16
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE PAID	£35.00
BT CLERKS PHONE BILL PAID	£80.14
E-ON NEXT ASHCROFT PLAY PARK PAID	£92.22
WAVE ANGLIAN WATER OLD CEMETERY	£19.37
WAVE ANGLIAN WATER ALLOTMENTS WILLARD GROVE	£24.58
JRB ENTERPRISE LTD DOG BAGS	£597.60
WAVE ANGLIAN WATER PUBLIC CONVIENCES DADDRY SHIELD	£71.53
S ANDERSON SALARY	£904.08
HM REV	£20.16
S ANDERSON EXPENSES	£12.00
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00
TOTAL	£5623.21

ACCOUNTS FOR RECEIPTS

HMRC VAT	£3476.21
HMRC VAT	£8535.79

Cllr Mrs Burdis does not agree with continuing to buy the dog bags for the dispensers due to the cost. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact JRB Enterprises to see if there are any cheaper options. Accounts agreed.

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New Matters for Discussion

1. Cllr Buchanan mentioned that he would like the bins moving at Allers lane Cowshill. **Resolved;** Cllr Shuttleworth to deal with
2. The bends in the road between Wearhead and Cowshill are causing concern in heavy rain as its bouncing onto the road. In icy conditions the water is freezing on a blind bend. **Resolved;** Cllr Shuttleworth will deal with this
3. The play park warning sign between Wearhead and St Johns Chapel is still down. **Resolved:** Cllr Shuttleworth to deal with this
4. Cllr Craig is concerned about the number of cases where walkers are killed by cows. He was wondering if temporary closures of footpaths could be possible where there are cows and calves in a field. If something isn't done, he feels farmers will go out of business. A councillor mentioned could official signage be put up.
It was suggested for Cllr Craig to contact the NFU to see what they are advising to do.
5. Cllr Mrs Savory mentioned that the intake for Wolsingham School is over subscribed which means it has a good reputation.
6. Cllr Brewin is concerned about the female Yew trees by Frosterley Church. Work has started in converting the church and he is wondering if the trees are protected. **Resolved:** Cllr Shuttleworth will deal with this
7. Cllr Mrs Burdis asked about the street lighting in the church but this is not new it was already there.

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Clerks Business

Nothing to report

Meeting Closed at 8.15pm

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 6th March 2024 at Eastgate Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

.....**Signed**.....**Date**