

## STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017

### PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs Alison Humble Chairman

Cllr B Thompson, Cllr D Craig, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr D Ellwood, Cllr Mrs H Maddison, Cllr M Brewin,  
Cllr Mrs K Hutchinson, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Miss F Graham (took the minutes)

Also present :

Mr R Mews

Anna Caygill and Graham Watson – Flood Resilience Officer from Civil Contingency Unit of the  
Environment Agency

**9769**

#### **Apologies for Absence**

J Carrick and S Thompson

**9770**

#### **To receive any declarations of Interest from Members**

None received

**9771**

#### **Minutes of the meeting held on June 7<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Moved as a true and correct record and were signed by the chairman

**9772**

#### **Police and the Community**

Not in attendance

**9773**

#### **Presentation to Mr Richard Mews**

Cllr Mrs Humble welcomed former Councillor Richard Mews to the meeting. On behalf of the Parish Council she thanked him for his thirty four years' service as a Parish Councillor during which many of them he was chair. His commitment to Stanhope and the Dale has been exemplary. In recognition of his long service she presented him with the "Tower of Weardale" picture by local artist Matthew Ellwood. Richard explained that he had enjoyed his time on the Parish Council and his love for the Dale will continue

**9774**

#### **Graham Watson and Anna Caygill – Civil Contingency Unit**

Mr Watson explained that the Environment Agency were offering support and advice about flood risks to the community and dale. The Environment Agency has a six year plan for the defences within the North East Area from Berwick to Skinning grove. Stanhope has had a river wall rebuilt as part of this scheme. Cllr Mrs Hutchinson explained that there has been flooding many times on their land at

Eastgate and flooding of the Rookhopeburn has caused damage to the sewage system in the village. The environment agency has visited the site many times and yet nothing has been done so far. Graham Watson will follow up her complaint. Cllr Mrs Maddison would like an update on Kenneth's Bridge at Frosterley. Mr Watson will forward information to the clerk for registration of vulnerable people in areas at risk of flooding

**9775**

### **Matters Arising**

1. **BACK ROAD TO EASTGATE FENCE** – The Highway Superintendent is discussing the matter with a local contractor and is hoping that works to the fence will start in the next two weeks
2. **STANHOPE BAND** – The committee would like to thank the councillors for their generous grant towards the renovations to the band room. Also for the councillors continued support
3. **FOOTPATH FROM BONDISLE TO THE BRIDGE** – The footpath has now been strimmed
4. **SLIT WOOD** – Works are in the pipe line to repair the Slit Wood footpath. M Murden is currently awaiting consent from English Heritage for the contractor to access the path through the mine site and then they will be able to progress. It was hoped that works would commence in June, but given other works they are finishing off and awaiting consent it will be July before they are on site
5. **EMPTY PROPERTY AT CROSSHILL** - This will be looked into
6. **TREES AT DADDRY SHIELD AND BONDISLE** – DCC don't usually inspect the trees Parish Councils use their own private contractors. Olivers Tree Services have been contacted and will look at Bondisle when they are inspecting the trees at Daddry Shield. The trees are inspected bi-annually and were last inspected in 2016. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff will be on site at Daddry Shield and Bondisle will be inspected. The quotes have been received and discussed under finance.
7. **RIVERSIDE PLAY AREA** – Barrie Alderson has replied that the play equipment is for children up to twelve years. He is aware that there is a problem with the roundabout mechanism and he is waiting for information from the manufacturer
8. **SMIDDY BURN BRIDGE** - This application should have been sent to the Secretary of State as it involves works to common land. The correct procedure has not been followed as the Parish Council should have been notified as a consultee. Cllr Ellwood has had a site visit and all of the comments have been sent as an objection to the planning department at DCC. An acknowledgement has been received. Cllr Mrs Hutchinson declared an interest. An email has been received objecting to this application which was read out.
9. **KILLHOPEBURN BRIDGE TO HEATHERCLEUGH** - M Murden will look into this but he doesn't think it is on the Weardale Way he thinks it's on the footpath on the north side of the burn which is currently closed between Burn Hills and Heatherycleugh due to large landslip many years ago. The footbridge at Heatherycleugh was closed due to needing repairs and Mike is not sure if it has been opened.
10. **ASHES QUARRY, STANHOPE** – Bridges Section carried out a full survey of both bridges back in March, so they may have some works programmed into the system as the bridge approach has been eroding for a while now. It will depend how much they consider the approach to be part of the structure, as to who would do any works required. M Murden will pass the email onto them so they can respond
11. **KENNETHS BRIDGE, FROSTERLEY** – the flood damage along the river has led to the need for a more extensive study to be carried out in the immediate vicinity before any works are undertaken. This includes the recent issues at Frosterley Road Bridge and Bucklerdale land slip. DCC are working with the Environment Agency and other stakeholders towards implementing a long term, robust scheme to reduce the risk of similar damage occurring in the future. Mr Newman cannot give any definitive time scale for the replacement of the

bridge until the on-going study is complete and works proposals are identified. He can confirm that DCC has secured funding for the replacement footbridge and other works along the river and that DCC remains fully committed to replacing the bridge

12. **LITTER FINE SIGNS** – D Hunt has a limited number of signs so two have been moved one to Eastgate and one to Daddry Shield
13. **TOILET SEATS AT WEARHEAD** – An order has been placed to have the toilet seats replaced
14. **LIGHTING AT EAST BLACKDENE** – there is confusion over the poles as none are numbered and when one is reported it is by house name. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff is to meet the official who did the survey to try and get the poles numbered so we can keep track on the repairs. **Resolved:** It was agreed to have the light that is out repaired
15. **SAPLINGS AT FROSTERLEY** – Cllr Mrs Maddison contacted the clerk that there were some saplings in the grass verge against the wall of the car park at Frosterley. These have now been removed
16. **VEDRA CLOSE, WEARHEAD** - The spike has now been removed
17. **SWEEPING AT IRESHOPEBURN** – the sweeping and tidying up at Ireshopeburn has now been done
18. **CHEWING GUM ON FOOTPATHS IN STANHOPE** – This will be done in August when the footpath will be washed along with the painting of the litter bins, seats and other street furniture bollards etc
19. **SEATS IN FRONT OF STANHOPE CHURCH** – A works instruction has been issued to have all the seats looked at and any repairs necessary will be done
20. **WEEDING IN FRONT OF STANHOPE CHURCH** - the whole of the Market Place has been weed killed and the area treated with moss killer
21. **CORONATION AVENUE, STANHOPE** – the footpath has now been weeded
22. **WAR MEMORIAL, COWSHILL** – the war memorial has been weeded and tidied up
23. **ROOKHOPE FRONT STREET** – the whole of Rookhope has been weed killed and the area treated with moss killer
24. **DADDRY SHIELD PLANNING APPLICATION** – An acknowledgment has been received concerning the Parish Councils objection
25. **NORTH EAST AMBULANCE** - A detailed reply has been received that was sent to Cllr J Shuttleworth concerning the incident at Ireshopeburn. The investigation has involved a clinical review of the 999 calls made and a mapping of the ambulances available that night and the incidents they were attending around the time of this call. The delay was unacceptable and this incident has shaken up all of those involved because of its severity and nature. The focus of the investigation has been on the assessment of the emergency call and this review is still being carried out and it seems likely that this case has raised an issue over the 999 assessment of this type of injury. Due to sickness there was no time to find a replacement so the Weardale – based ambulance had no cover from the station. The national Audit Office report, NHS England is piloting a new assessment system to allow ambulance trusts to better identify those incidents that need a life-saving emergency response within eight minutes. They have also concluded that the existing process used by all UK ambulance services to prioritise 999 calls has led to inefficiencies in responding that causes delays to those people who need the service most. The full reply was read out at the meeting. One of the senior managers from the Durham Area has been asked to attend a Parish Council meeting. **Resolved:** When the senior manager confirms the date clerk to invite J Urwin and J Heatherington to the meeting
26. **EASTGATE AND ST JOHNS CHAPEL BEDDING PLANTS** – J Bennett has to give careful consideration to the increase of beds and tubs with all the budget cuts. He knows our request is minimal but he receives many requests from other areas throughout the county. He has been working with community/bloom groups to encourage them to take on projects similar to what we are requesting and it has been successful. He would like to know if we

think there is an appetite for community involvement in either of these areas. We did submit a request under the Delivering Differently grants but the criteria was that projects had to be sustainable and annual bedding plants are not sustainable. A meeting did take place with Richard and another councillor but members were not in favour of the changes so no further submission was received. One of J Bennetts staff is a Britain in Bloom judge and would be happy to meet with a community or bloom group to provide some ideas on how improvements could be possibly done if there was the willingness from the community to do it. **Resolved:** Eastgate are interested in forming a Community Bloom Group clerk to forward details of T Natrass to J Bennett

27. **MEETING ROOM CHARGES** – Cllr Mrs Sutcliff was questioning the difference in the charges. The charges vary due to the length of the meetings and also if refreshments are used which was the difference that month, eight @£2.50 the vat can be reclaimed on the refreshments
28. **PLOTS AT BONDISLE** – The tenant of plot four has been written to and plot five has just been let
29. **COMMUNITY HIGHWAYS WORK SHEETS** - Simons work sheets have been sent and the Chairman has a copy of these. The sheets were circulated to the councillors. **Resolved:** The councillors would like to see the rolling programme and could the sheets be sent the week before the meeting
30. **GULLIES AT WESTGATE** – Cllr Craig mentioned that the gullies have now been cleaned out
31. **TRAILER AT FROSTERLEY** – The roadside trailer and the roller has now been removed
32. **ROOKHOPE CEMETERY AND BURTREEFORD** – Ian Ramsey will chase up to see when the gravel will be laid on the paths
33. **ROADSIDE WALL IN DITCH AT ROOKHOPE** – There has been no reply **Resolved:** Clerk to chase up
34. **PLAY PARK FENCE AT CRAWELSIDE PLAY PARK** – Cllr Ellwood has visited the residents and it was agreed S Makepeace would be the contractor he has been notified
35. **GRASS OPPOSITE BUTTS HEAD, FROSTERLEY** – No reply has been received on the possibility of having a small fence erected to stop cars crossing over the grass. **Resolved:** Clerk to chase up
36. **TOWN HALL, STANHOPE** – DCC workmen have repaired the Town Hall roof and cleaned put the gutters

## 9776

### CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. We are invited to attend a free NE Regional training session on Village Halls at Peterlee Town Council Offices, Shotton Hall, Peterlee on 7<sup>th</sup> September between 10.00 and 15.00. **Resolved:** Cllr M Brewin will attend clerk to contact S Ragg
2. On 12th June NALC released details of the Good Councillors Guide to Transparency. This document may become available in hard copy and S Ragg will advise on the cost if it does.
3. S Ragg has informed us that Verdant Leisure 2 Ltd have applied for a new premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003
4. We have been sent a DCC Open Space Study survey to complete with a closing date of Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017. All councillors have been sent the survey some by email and some by post. **Resolved :** The survey was discussed and clerk to send off
5. S Ragg has sent the Good Councillors Guide on Finance and Transparency again this has been sent by email and some in the post
6. Frosterley Village Hall send grateful thanks to the Parish Council for the grant money
7. Eastgate Village Hall send grateful thanks to the Parish Council for the grant money
8. S Ragg has sent details of a Councillor and Chairmanship Training sessions being held. Councillor training sessions are 25<sup>th</sup> July 9.00-3.30 at Barnard Castle Town Council offices

and Chairmanship Training on 1<sup>st</sup> August 9.00 till 3.30 in Barnard Castle Town Council Offices. **Resolved:** Cllr Mrs H Maddison and Cllr D Ellwood are interested in attending the councillor training and Cllr Mrs Humble is interested in attending the chairmanship training course. Clerk to contact S Ragg

9. WAAP have agreed four priorities for 2016/17. Support to groups in Weardale, Culture Tourism and Heritage, Health and Wellbeing, Children Young People and Families. Details have been sent on dates and times
10. S Ragg has sent a draft copy of a revised Charter between DCC and local councils in County Durham. Our comments are welcome a copy has been printed
11. The Tyne Valley Cycling Club in conjunction with British Cycling are to carry out the Tour of the reservoir cycle Races event on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> of July. Road closures will take place on C20 Meadows Edge from its junction with the unclassified road 9.3 at Balehill, Allenshields to its junction with B6278 north of Stanhope
12. The Neighbourhood Protection Team are holding a promotional event to highlight the range of services they provide to protect our neighbourhoods. Areas to be covered are Gypsy, Roma traveller Service, Anti-social behaviour and Crime. Representatives from all partners will be there with a cluster of stalls. It will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at Durham room, County Hall between 9.00am and 3.00pm
13. S Ragg is aware of at least two Parish Councils in County Durham that are Dementia Friendly and would encourage others to follow their lead. To raise awareness of Dementia there is a half day seminar being held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service in the service headquarters in Belmont, Durham. The seminar aims to create a greater awareness of why it is important to create Dementia Friendly Communities, show how any organisation can have a role to play in helping those living with dementia, highlight the positive impact and the results of existing Dementia Friendly agencies, inspire people and their respective workplaces to improve their dementia provisions. Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis
14. S Ragg has sent details of the CDALC Secretariat proposal for 2018/19 onwards. The CDALC Executive Committee met on 7<sup>th</sup> June and the following proposal is from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. There will be no increase in subscription fees currently 10p per elector for 2018/19 and 2019/2020. The reserve balances held by the Association are currently the equivalent of nearly three years net costs of the Association, the reserve balances be used to meet the current deficit budget situation for a further two years. Reserve balances to be invested prudently . During 2019/2020 arrangements would be introduced to ensure the continuity of the service provided to member councils. All Parish and Town Councils have been informed and responses can be sent but the AGM in October

**9777**

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

DM/17/01857/PNT

Upgrading of current telecommunications equipment

Weardale Farm

Intake Lane

Frosterley

Wilkinson Helsby

DM/17/01882/LB  
Repair of gable wall  
White Kirkley Farm  
Frosterley  
Mrs de Boinvile

DM/17/01912/FPA  
Erection of dwelling  
Land to the rear of  
Forest Lea  
71 Front Street  
Frosterley  
Mr D Gardener

DM/17/01960/FPA  
Cattle Shed  
Eastgate House  
Eastgate  
Mr A Jopling

DM/17/02021/FPA  
Two storey side extension  
Vaila  
Hill End  
Frosterley  
Mr & Mrs Little

Cllr Ellwood is questioning why there are two garage doors to the front and rear and the form is filled incorrect as it can be seen from the road. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact Cllr Ellwood before the comments are sent off

#### **PLANNING APPROVALS FOR JULY MEETING**

DM/17/00884/FPA  
1025 litre oil tank (retrospective) and replacement of garden fence and gate height to 1.5m  
3 Stotsfieldburn  
Rookhope  
Ms Margaret Gleghorn

DM/17/01052/AP  
Erection of replacement illuminated and non illuminated signs to the exterior of the building  
Bonny Moorhen Hotel  
25 Front St  
Stanhope  
Hawthorn Leisure

DM/17/01317/FPA  
Retention of two conservatories to rear  
East View  
5 High Town  
Westgate  
Mr C Ashton

**9778**

**FINANCE**

1. S Makepeace has sent a quote for taking down and rebuilding the wall at Bondisle Allotments £250 plus vat **Resolved:** Quote was agreed
2. Cowshill Village Hall would like to apply for the £500 grant money. **Resolved:** Clerk to send cheque
3. Wearhead Village Hall would like to apply for the £500 grant money. **Resolved:** Clerk to send cheque
4. St Thomas Church Stanhope would like to apply for the Village Hall grant money of £500. **Resolved:** Clerk to send cheque
5. St Thomas Church PCC Stanhope would like to apply for the annual churchyard maintenance grant of £300. **Resolved:** Clerk to send cheque
6. The quotes for the tree work at Daddry Shield and Bondisle have been sent. There are four options : Option 1 – Fell to the ground level £1115.00, Option 2 – crown reduce/reshape £420.00, Option 3 – crown thin by 20% and prune back from adjacent property £390.00 and option 4 – crown thin by 20% £290.00. Bondisle trees prune back by 4-5m £590.00. The report was read out and following a discussion it was agreed that as the tree surgeons report states the tree is safe no work is considered necessary at this moment in time. The tree will be inspected again in 2018. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the resident

**9779**

**AAP REPORT**

Cllr B Thompson read out the report there are three new members on the board. The priorities are Health and Wellbeing, Support groups in Weardale, Culture and Tourism and Children and Young People. The small grants funding is available

**9780**

**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Cowshill Village Hall	£500.00
Wearhead Village Hall	£500.00
Weardale Publishing    Advert	£23.44
Weardale Publishing    Stationery	£16.50
Makepeace Motors Play Park Grant Money JS	£3860.88
DCC hire of meeting room 2.5 hours @£20 May	£50.00
DCC hire of meeting room 3.5 hours @ £20 June	£70.00

S Anderson salary	£536.52
HM Rev PAYE	£115.00
S Anderson Expenses	£60.44
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
St Thomas PCC church yard maintenance	£300.00
St Thomas Church Hall	£500.00
Cllr Mrs Humble Picture R Mews	£90.00
Cllr Mrs Humble chairmans allowance	£250.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6907.78</b>

## 9781

### NEW MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff would like the Market Place weeding in St Johns Chapel in front of the shops  
**Resolved:** Clerk to report to D Hunt
2. Cllr Mrs Maddison would like the grass verge from Rogerley into Frosterley included on the works schedule  
**Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
3. The seating area at Frosterley House needs tidying up  
**Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
4. The roadside between Frosterley and Stanhope needs weed spraying  
**Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
5. Residents are approaching Cllr Mrs Maddison as to how long it will be before Kenneth's Bridge is renewed  
**Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC for a date
6. Cllr Ellwood received an enquiry as to how to get an allotment. The resident would need to contact the clerk
7. Cllr Craig would like a start date for the works on the Ford at Westgate  
**Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
8. The roadside verges need spraying on the main A689  
**Resolved:** Clerk to find out when this will take place
9. There are still motorbikes driving around with small number plates and nothing is being done about this  
**Resolved:** Clerk to write to PC B Crampsie
10. Cllr Thompson mentioned that the mobile phone signal is still in progress
11. The bungalows have started to be built Cllr Thompson will be contacting the Housing Association to ensure the properties are allocated to two Rookhope residents
12. Cllr Miss Graham would like an update on the sale of Newtown House and also the For Sale sign needs to be cleaned.  
**Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
13. Cllr Mrs Humble would like the footpath tidying up at the entrance to Burtreeford Play Park.  
**Resolved;** Clerk to contact D Hunt
14. As there is a new labour councillor the councillors would like to meet her.  
**Resolved:** Clerk to invite her to attend either August or September
15. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned that the Police were stopping cars in Frosterley doing random breath tests and that she had been stopped fortunately she was zero
16. There is a wobbly handrail on the first footbridge in the Dene.  
**Resolved:** Clerk to report



17. In the Dene below Widely Field the fencing is in a poor state and needs repairing **Resolved:** Clerk to report
18. Half way up the bank on the Hall Road, Stanhope there is a bad pot hole. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
19. At the bottom of Martin Street at the junction to the main road there is a crack in the road which is large enough to get your foot in and trip. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
20. There are some self seeded sycamores next to Garden Close, Stanhope that need removing properly this time. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to D Hunt
21. Street lamp number 64 at Ireshopeburn is on during the day. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
22. Due to a change of the timetable in mid December there will be an hourly train service from Bishop to Darlington
23. The Lime Trees in Stanhope and Frosterley are in need of their shoots removed. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
24. The pavement on the south side of Chapel Street, Stanhope needs the moss removing. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
25. The channels at Willard Grove need the needs removing and when will the weed spraying take place at Woodcroft Gardens, Stanhope. **Resolved;** Clerk to contact D Hunt
26. Now that the Ford is closed in Stanhope would it be possible to rethink the double yellow lines next to the swimming pool to provide extra parking. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
27. The steps near to the Ford in Stanhope need digging out. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
28. There has been a problem with a piece of play equipment in the Riverside Play park where some bolts have come loose. This has already been reported to DCC

9782

**CLERKS BUSINESS**

1. Some of the Disclosable Interest forms have not been returned yet. Some are not filled in correctly and need either n/a or none entering in all the boxes or they will be returned from DCC
2. The Old Cemetery headstones in Stanhope need inspecting by S Makepeace. **Resolved:** It was agreed to have the cemetery headstones inspected
3. The Annual Play Park inspection needs doing by S Makepeace. **Resolved:** It was agreed to have the Play Parks inspected
4. The first plot at Crosshill allotments with the sub station in needs tidying up. **Resolved:** It was agreed to have this done clerk to contact S Makepeace

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Dale of next meeting Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017 at Dales Centre, Stanhope commencing at 7pm

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