

## STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in Eastgate Village Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023

### PRESENT:

Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Mrs S Smart, Cllr E Buchanan, Cllr D Craig, Cllr R Lawrie, Cllr Mrs S Thompson

Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff,

Cllr Miss J Carrick - Chairman

Susan Anderson - Clerk

Also Present – Cllr Mrs A Savory

### 10805

#### Apologies for Absence

Cllr L Blackett, Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes, Cllr P Turton, Cllr Mrs C Burdis

### 10806

#### To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

### 10807

#### Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023

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

### 10808

#### Matters Arising

1. **TRAFFIC SIGNALS ON FROSTERLEY BRIDGE-** At the moment there is no scope to refurbish this sight and equip additional cycle detection at the moment but hopefully in the near future. DCC are planning to re cut the carriageway loop detectors in a specific way that makes them a lot more sensitive to objects passing over them. In addition to the detection DCC are going to up the all-red period between the green signals slightly in order to give cyclists a few additional seconds to make it over the bridge before the opposing traffic receives a green signal.
2. **ASHCROFT MUGA** – We have now received formal consent in principle for the works at Ashcroft Play Park. We have to let CPAL Property Management know when the works have been completed. The Landlords Permission letter has been sent to Angela Bacon along with the email stating that Planning Permission is not needed for the lighting. Once the funding is released then we can instruct Surfacing Standards to commence with the phase 2,3 and 4 and CDM (Health & Safety). We now have confirmation that everything has been signed off and that the funding will be released. Surfacing Standards have been instructed to commence.
3. **WEED SPRAYING IN WEARDALE** – The weed spraying will be starting in Weardale week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> June.

4. **BINS AT ST JOHNS CHAPEL** – Unfortunately the weekend cleaning rota does not include St Johns Chapel, this is the case with a lot of town centres and villages such as West Auckland, Tindale Crescent, Willington and Coundon. Daren will look to increase the capacity of the bins within the Market Place which he feels will help.
5. **VILLAGE GREEN, FROSTERLEY** – Footpath edging no longer happens but the footpaths are treated with weed killer which will be done shortly.
6. **MOTORBIKE IN FROSTERLEY PARK** – D Hunt could see no signs of any tracks in the planning field. The only bike that is going in belongs to a resident who parks his bike in the back garden of his property. The enforcement officer would not come out for this.
7. **CDALC REPRESENTATIVE** – I have spoken to Audrey and she can put an email around in our area to see if anyone else would like to be the Weardale Representative for CDALC and the AONB. If Cllr Mrs Hawkes decides to give this up then she would need to email CDALC. With the WAAP we just need to send an email that the new Parish Council representative would be Cllr Miss Carrick.
8. **OAK TREE IN STANHOPE DENE** – The tree has been reported to the owner of the Dene. Mr Kirk would like a photo of the tree so the person that reported it will take a photo. The clerk went to have a look but couldn't find it.
9. **HOLIDAY LODGES, STANHOPE** – The application for the holiday lodges has been refused.
10. **ALLOTMENT INSPECTIONS** – All the sites have been inspected and the plots that have not been cultivated the tenants have been written to. D Hunt has been asked to trim back some of the self-seeding trees and bushes that are encroaching onto the footpath from tenants plots.
11. **BONDISLE ALLOTMENTS** - Savills arranged for the forestry to come out and assess the tree in Bondisle with the broken limb. The limb is to be removed urgently and all the ivy will be cut off the tree. The tree has Ash Die Back and a tree surgeon from Savills will inspect all of the trees and at some point, they may have to be felled.
12. **DALES CENTRE CAR PARKING** – The reply that was received was sent to all of the councillors. The car park is privately owned by the Durham Dales Centre. All tenants pay a service charge for maintenance to the buildings and grounds, and this includes the car park, where they pay a % towards their parking bays so they can carry out their business, which brings an income into the Centre as well as their local business. The general public are encouraged to use the car, park, offering them a four hour stay free of charge, by keeping a time frame on the free parking this keeps the traffic flowing through the Centre and minimises all day parking which could result in lack of sales/income for the local businesses. Visitors can park in the bays on a weekend which does state on the signage.
13. **WEARDALE MUSEUM** – The contractor has been instructed to remove the dumpy bags of sand from the east forecourt of the Chapel and also the area will be tidied up.
14. **NORTHERN LITHIUM** – Mr Stringer has sent the Discharge of Planning Conditions which he asked me to send to all of the councillors. He will keep us informed on this submission plus the timetable for actually going back onto site at Ludwell.
15. **BURNHOPE RESERVOIR** – Northumbrian water have sent an update that the final phase of work will begin this week, which includes earth works and tunnel valve work. They anticipate the work being complete by the end of September.
16. **SIGNAGE IN LAYBE ON THE B6278**- The Council would not look to provide signage on the adopted highway that is not identified within the Traffic Signs Regulations & General Directions 2016. Signage relating to parking restrictions can only be provided when there is a Traffic Regulation Order in place. If vehicles are parked causing a nuisance or obstruction offences of the road or footpath then this should be reported directly to the Police.
17. **BURNHOPE RESERVOIR** – Cllr Craig had a feeling that the water from Burnhope Reservoir was been led away by tankers and wasn't be let out into the river. The river at the moment is an absolute mess with green algae in it.

18. **SPEEDING ON A689** – Cllr Craig enquired if there had been a reply from Joy Allan the Police and Crime Commissioner. There had been no reply so Cllr Mrs Savory suggested that an invite should be sent to attend a Parish Council meeting. **Resolved:** Cllr Mrs Savory will request a meeting and will give them the clerks contact details.
19. **BARCLAYS CASH MACHINE** – Many complaints have been received concerning the removal of the Barclays Bank cash machine. The cash machine does not always work and often runs out of money at the Co-op, as there is one outside, they are unable to have a machine installed inside the shop. On a busy weekend there was nowhere to get cash as the Co-op couldn't do cash back and the cash machine was not working. The cash machine at Wolsingham had also run out of money. Barclays promised a good service still in the dale when the branch closed, which is not happening. Apparently, people are having a long wait at the Dales Centre so every time Cllr Mrs Savory receives a complaint, she is sending an email off to Barclays.
20. **CROMER LEA BENCHES** – The benches have been removed as they were dangerous.
21. **THE BECK DOWN THE BUTTS, FROSTERLEY** – Half of the Beck has been cleared which DCC are responsible for. The other half has not been cleared yet. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact S Makepeace again
22. **ALLOTMENT PLOT AT CROSSHILL** – The young lad that took on the plot has cleared it already at Crosshill Allotments. He has put a lot of work in.

**10809**

#### **Correspondence Received**

1. A tenant from Crosshill allotments would like permission to erect a small greenhouse measuring 6ft by 5ft. **Resolved:** Councillors agreed the greenhouse
2. CDALC has received information from Bruno Peek Pageant master urging Parish and Town Councils to light a beacon on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 to commemorate 80 years since the D-Day landings. The Guide to taking part can be downloaded.
3. Mr Williams from Weardale Renewables would like me to pass on his thanks for the opportunity and time that was given to him at the last meeting. Mr Williams sent another email that a national power supplier had approached him to locate potential sources of renewable energy in the area. He feels Eastgate Village Hall would be a great opportunity for him to work with us on a imaginative project that could supply free electricity to any public property Stanhope Parish Council own. On clarifying this if the Village Hall is community owned it may still qualify its privately owned property that would be excluded. Mr Williams is looking to hold some meetings in the Upper Dale Villages where residents can learn more. He would like us to provide the contact details for the village halls and community groups that might assist him. **Resolved:** The committee are interested, Clerk to contact Mr Williams
4. Angelina Maddison has sent an email regarding an Event on Housing and Development in Rural County Durham. This will be held at Mickleton Village Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 between 9am -13.30pm. The email was sent to the councillors.
5. It has been reported that there are overhanging branches which are encroaching onto the footpath leading down from the solicitors to Bondisle and also along the allotment footpath. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact Mr Shuttleworth
6. CDALC has sent the governments new Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan presentation. A poster Don't Suffer in Silence has also been sent which is now in the Notice Board. The email was sent to the Councillors.
7. CDALC have sent information on a couple of consultations one of them being Care in Later Life. Health and care leaders are keen to hear from people aged 50+ and would like their view about their expectations for the future. Email has been sent to the councillors and is on the Parish Council Website, stanhopeparishcouncil.co.uk. All consultations are on the DCC website.

8. It has been reported that there is a large wasps nest in a garden shed on the Crosshill Allotment site in Stanhope. After contacting the Chairman it was agreed to report this to DCC so that pest control could deal with the nest.

#### **10810**

##### **County Councillor Update**

Cllr Mrs Savory reported that Wolsingham School will be full in September and has had a good Ofsted report after a recent inspection.

Cllr Mrs Savory had a site meeting and the police have been at the school in the mornings and afternoons at different times. Some signage is being looked at and it was mentioned if there was a 20mph school policy. Criteria has to met and Cllr Mrs Savory is using £14,000 out of her Neighbourhood Budget this year for a school but another school could be earmarked for another year. In some areas the Police go into the schools and get the pupils to design the posters to help reduce the speed.

#### **10811**

##### **Planning Matters**

DM/23/01487/FPA

Proposed erection of a new polytunnel.

Valley View Farm

Sidehead

Westgate

A councillor asked what the policy is on polytunnels. Cllr Mrs Savory will get the planners to send the information to the clerk.

#### **10812**

##### **Finance**

1. Frosterley Village Hall would like to apply for the Annual Village Hall grant money of £500.
2. Cowshill Village Hall would like to apply for the Annual Village Hall grant money of £500.
3. Wearhead Village Hall would like to apply for the Annual Village Hall grant money of £500.
4. Westgate Village Hall would like to apply for the Annual Village Hall Grant money of £500.
5. The clerk had a zoom meeting with Scribe Accounting and they went through the accounting. The auditor also joined the meeting and his thoughts are that it is worth trying and that he feels at some point it will become mandatory. The cost is £34 per month which is £408 per year. The first year there is an additional £249 for continuous support throughout the year making a total of £657. **Resolved:** It was agreed to try Scribe
6. Weardale Methodist Church would like to apply for the Annual Village Hall grant money £500.

#### **10813**

##### **AAP Report**

Cllr R Lawrie is chair and Cllr Mrs Savory is vice-chair. The AAP does sterling work for the people of Weardale. The play park at St Johns Chapel is still on the radar.

#### **10814**

##### **CDALC Report**

Nothing to report

## 10815

### Accounts for Payment

E-ON NEXT ASHCROFT	£37.80
OLIVERS TREE SERVICES LTD	£1440.00
SURFACING STANDARDS LIMITED PHASE 1	£2376.00
JRB ENTERPRISES LTD	£312.00
NORTHGATE SYSTEMS IT SUPPORT	£48.00
FROSTERLEY VILLAGE HALL	£500.00
COWSHILL VILLAGE HALL	£500.00
WEARHEAD VILLAGE HALL	£500.00
WESTGATE VILLAGE HALL	£500.00
WEARDALE METHODIST CHURCH	£500.00
S ANDERSON SALARY	£904.08
HM REV	£20.16
S ANDERSON EXPENSES	£24.00
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00
TOTAL	£7697.04

## 10816

### New Matters for Discussion

1. Councillor Mrs Savory mentioned that Believe Housing have grants available of £500 for Village Halls and Community Groups.
2. Cllr Buchanan mentioned the toilets at St Johns Chapel and was wondering when they would be opened. The toilets have been refurbished with a new floor and decorated. They are due to be opened in a couple of days time.
3. Cllr Craig mentioned that the bridge at Edmundbyers will take about a month to do repair works.
4. Cllr Lawrie enquired about the Swimming Pool meeting. A feasibility study is being worked on and hopefully an extension on the lease will be granted. It was mentioned that to attract the big funders a longer term lease will be needed.
5. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like the War memorial tidied up at Cowshill. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to D Hunt
6. The SLOW signs outside of St Johns Chapel School need painting. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
7. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned that the signage opposite the Grey Bull has now been repaired.
8. The plaster is coming off the wall in the bus shelter at Frosterley. **Resolved:** Clerk to report

- 9. It has been noticed that the sign which is on the wall by the house passed the Frosterley Inn is hanging off the wall. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
- 10. The sign directing to Crosshill has come off and needs re-attaching. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC

**10817**

**Clerks Business**

Nothing to report

**Meeting closed at 8pm**

**Date of next meeting is Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 at Eastgate Village Hall commencing at 7pm.**

.....signed.....date