

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 7th June 2017

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs A Humble Chairman

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

Also Present:

Paul Dobson – Photographer

Laura Birbeck – Police

Lee Brownson, Chris Walkinshaw – Auckland Castle

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Apologise for Absence

None received

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To Receive any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

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Minutes of the meeting held on May 10th 2017

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

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Police and the Community

Cllr Mrs Humble welcomed Laura Birbeck to the meeting who gave the apologies of PC Crampsie. The RPU held a speed watch on 28th May 2017 with our local officers, and some motorcycle officers in Wolsingham, Stanhope, St Johns Chapel and Ireshopeburn. A total of 1648 vehicles went passed with seven cars being stopped and one motorcycle. Cllr Craig enquired if they were stopped in the thirty zones and could it be monitored in the surrounding areas in the sixty zones. Sixty bikes were checked and stopped and all had regular plates that were correct. Cllr Mrs Humble asked for the Police to keep the speeding in the dale as high profile. Alcohol related incidents with some youths were mentioned and that some were taken home to their parents. There is a fixed penalty given to any adult who buys alcohol for under aged people. Four poachers have been prosecuted and the anti-social behaviour outside of the Dales Centre the children have been spoken to. There has been some criminal damage at Crosshill Allotments. Laura and a colleague are going into the schools to educate the children. The incident at Ireshopeburn concerning the man impaled on a steel bar, the fire crew were called out but then stood down before they got left the station. Cllr M Brewin mentioned the anti-social behaviour at Frosterley. Cllr Mrs Humble thanked Laura Birbeck for attending the meeting

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Lee Brownson and Chris Walkinshaw – Auckland Castle

Cllr Mrs Humble welcomed Lee Brownson and Chris Walkinshaw to the meeting. A presentation on the history of Auckland Castle was given. In 2012 a charity was set up so all the profits go back into the Castle and a grant has been received from the Heritage Lottery. Auckland Castle will be a world-class faith, art and heritage destination. In 2012 only five employees worked at the Castle and now there are over one hundred. They plan to invest £100m of which £70m will be on Auckland Castle and £30m on the Eleven Arches. All projects will be completed by 2020. As a result of the investment, businesses including shops are being attracted into the town centre.

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Co-option of Ward Councillor for Stanhope Rural Ward – Mr D Ellwood

Cllr Mrs Humble welcomed Mr Ellwood on to the Parish Council and was co-opted on. All councillors were introduced to Cllr D Ellwood

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Matters Arising

1. **KILLHOPE TOP TO ALSTON – FS20733588** – DCC have reviewed our request and identified that further action is required
2. **DADDY SHIELD TO NEWHOUSE – FS20731591** – DCC will aim to review this in seven working days
3. **BACK ROAD TO EASTGATE** – The highways Inspector has contacted Gary Surtees for an update on this urgent matter he realises it is giving us some concern. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact G Surtees as there has been another two more complaints
4. **CATCH 22 WORK PLACEMENT** – Catch 22 thank the Parish Council for agreeing to the work placement in the allotment
5. **STREET LIGHTING REPORTED BY CLLR MRS HUMBLE – FS20668725** – The lights will be repaired within the next ten working days reported on 11th May 2017. The lights are now repaired and the case has been closed
6. **PARISH WEBSITE** – Michael will add a link to the WVN which he said is very easy to do and a good idea. As soon as we have the village descriptions he will create the pages
7. **NENTHEAD MINES TOURIST SIGN** – This has been forwarded to highways for consideration and will be progressed accordingly. A letter has been received that Nenthead Mines continues in operation and the brown tourist signs must not be removed
8. **BENCH AT EASTGATE** – D Hunt has arranged for the seat to be repaired and the work will hopefully be completed as soon as the timber arrives
9. **PROPOSED CLOSURE OF OLD HEATHERYCLEUGH CHURCHYARD** – Following the letter received 18th October 2016 no objections have been received giving notice of the proposed closure of the Old Heatherycleugh Churchyard
10. **SEAT AT EASTGATE** – The seat has been repaired on Friday 19th May
11. **ROADSIDE BRANCHES AT WHITS HILL, ST JOHNS CHAPEL** - These have been cut back but if it is not enough D Hunt can issue a works instruction to have them looked at further
12. **SEAT AT NEWHOUSE BANK** – The seat has been replaced with a brand new one
13. **PLAY AREA – FROSTERLEY** - As yet the play area equipment has not been replaced Barrie Alderson is dealing with this
14. **ROADSIDE GULLIES AND LITTER PICK** - All works have now been completed. Cllr Craig mentioned that the litter pick from Westgate Old park to warden Hill the gullies have not be

done or the litter pick. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt and to ask for some more signs regarding the litter fines of £80

15. **FROSTERLEY CAR PARK** – The lads will pay regular visits to the car park but with the number of cars parked there it is difficult to get a good clean
16. **OLD SEAT AT SHOWFIELD ENTRANCE** – The old seat has been removed as requested
17. **LIGHTS AT EAST BLACKDENE** – D Hodgson has sent a report on all the lights at East Blackdene a total of nine altogether. Two are new, two are in good condition, three are in an ok condition and one is in poor condition and one has no light fitted. The cost of the lights has been queried and if the repair involves NPG having to attend maybe for overhead connections then this will involve higher costs. **Resolved:** In the future an itemised list is needed of the work that is to be carried out. The light that is 50 metres to the south of Cherry Trees on the lane leading to Island House is to be repaired but we need to know first the work required and the cost
18. **STANHOPE URBAN VACANCY** – The advert has been sent to the gazette for the vacancy for Stanhope Urban Ward Councillor
19. **ROOKHOPE CEMETERY AND BURTREEFORD CEMETERY** – Cllr Thompson gave an update on Rookhope Cemetery the gravel still needs to be put down at Rookhope and Burtreeford Cemetery. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact Ian Ramsey and to see if the path will be extended at Cowshill
20. **TRAILER AT FROSTERLEY** – The trailer at Frosterley is still on the verge. **Resolved:** clerk to contact Brian Buckley
21. **ROADSIDE WALL IN DITCH AT ROOKHOPE** – The work is still outstanding **Resolved:** clerk to write to Rob Yorke
22. **ST THOMAS HEATHERYCLEUGH** – There is a public meeting to be held on 24th June 2017 to discuss the problem of the trees in the churchyard, this will then be discussed at the Parish Council meeting next month
23. **HIRE OF THE MEETING ROOM** – The councillors are questioning why there is a difference between March and April. **Resolved:** Clerk to look into this
24. **WEARHEAD TOILETS** – Cllr Miss Carrick commented that the seats need replacing in the toilets. **Resolved:** clerk to write and request

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Correspondence received

1. Cllr Ian Machin is the Mayor of Spennymoor and will be supported by Mayoress Councillor Judith Machin. The Deputy Mayor is Cllr Clive Maddison who will be supported by his Deputy Mayoress, Cllr Elizabeth Maddison
2. NALC would like our assistance in trying to seek our views on the themes of devolution, housing and neighbourhood planning, health and wellbeing and local economic development. A short survey is on line with a deadline of 31st may 2017. This was forwarded onto the Chairman for consideration
3. S Ragg has sent details of the new Tree Charter on 6th November 2017 where 800 Legacy Trees will be planted across the UK. Legacy Trees will be accompanied by a small plaque about the Tree Charter. A portion have been reserved for local councils who contribute to the Tree Charter by becoming local council Charter Branches. It is free and will in no way effect the autonomy of the council. The level of involvement is up to us and may range from simply signing up to receive free copies of the Tree Charters newspaper to helping gather signatures of support, to more imaginative projects and activities around trees. If we are interested then there is a webpage to register

4. There was a temporary road closure on the C27 Harthope Moor Road, St Johns Chapel to Langdon Beck due to a dangerous culvert
5. We currently do not have a representative on the CDLC Executive Committee and it would be good to see our councils represented at some of these meetings. The person appointed will represent the interests of the four councils in our area Muggleswick, Stanhope, Witton le Wear and Wolsingham Parish Councils. **Resolved:** Cllr D Ellwood volunteered to be our representative clerk to advise S Ragg
6. The next CDALC AGM is scheduled to take place on 21st October 2017
7. A letter has been received from a resident of Crawleyside who lives next to the play area. He would like permission to take part of the fence down temporarily to allow access for a new calor gas tank onto his property. He will reinstate the fence afterwards using our contractor S Makepeace. **Resolved:** Cllr Ellwood will go and speak to the residents, the councillors were in agreement as long as S Makepeace did the fencing work
8. An allotment tenant would like to swap a shed on his allotment for another shed at Bondisle Allotments. Cllr Miss Graham met the tenant and reported back. All the councillors were in agreement that if the shed comes off then a 8ft x 6ft would have to be the size as stated in the Allotment Rules which were agreed at a previous meeting **Resolved:** Clerk to write
9. A letter was read out from a resident of Daddry Shield with concerns about the large trees overhanging her garden from the play area. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff would like a site meeting with DCC Arborist, the resident and herself **Resolved:** Clerk to arrange a site meeting

9763

Planning Matters

DM/17/01448/FPA

New helicopter pad and access path

Moor Rigg

Bollihope

Frosterley

Arago Ltd

DM/17/01542/FPA

Extension to Fire Station

County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Services

Stanhope Fire Station

Front Street

Stanhope

County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Services

DM/17/01382/FPA

Alterations to part of garage into workshop and garden room

2 Horn Hall

Stanhope

Mr John De Muschamp

DM/17/01569/FPA

Shed

72 Bondisle Way

Stanhope

Mr R Cassidy

DM/17/01651/VOC

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission DM/15/03600/FPA to allow different roof covering
River Barn
South View
Daddy Shield
Miss C.I Benson

Objections were raised to this application that the materials specified in the original application to be used ie. Welsh Slate. The proposed change of material is not in keeping with Upper Weardale

DM/17/01696/FPA

Replacement of existing culvert bridge, retaining wall, steps and associated drainage to the area on the south side of the shooting box to stabilise a loose bank
Croglin Estates

Discussion took place on this application. **Resolved:** Cllr Ellwood to contact the graziers and report back to the clerk

PLANNING APPROVALS

DM/17/00882/FPA

Conversion of redundant building into residential dwelling
Byre & Paddock south of
Market Place
St Johns Chapel
Vickers and Barrass Chartered Surveyors

DM/17/01053/LB

Replacement illuminated and non illuminated advert
Bonny Moor Hen Hotel
Front Street
Stanhope
Hawthorn Leisure

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Finance

1. Cllr Carrick has met with the allotment tenant and there is a small tree lying on the fence. It needs the tree removing and a small stretch of fence repairing. Also there are two self seeded sycamore trees in the allotment next to the electricity substation which are near the wall and could cause damage to the wall so they need removing. S Makepeace has sent a quote of £350 plus vat for the fencing. **Resolved:** The quote was approved the seedlings need removing as well
2. Upper Weardale Town Hall would like to apply for the £500 Village Hall Grant money
Resolved: Agreed to send £500
3. The bills from Npower business for the Ashcroft playarea have to be paid well before the meeting date of the Parish Council. If they are not paid a late payment amount will be added to the account. I have a reference number 1-3081252575 so this time it has been waived. If it is agreeable then we could get a councillor to sign the cheque before the meeting so this late payment isn't added on. We do this with the BT bill or we could consider direct debit but I would have to check with P Lamb to make sure this is possible.

4. We are allowed to claim small business relief on Daddry Shield Toilets as it has the higher rateable value but we will have to pay for the Old Cemetery, Stanhope as we are only allowed to claim on one property. The form has been filled in and sent off
5. Frosterley Village Hall would like to thank the councillors for re-issuing the cheque for last years grant money. They would like to apply for the Village Hall Grant money for 2017
Resolved: Clerk to send £500
6. Westgate PCC would like to thank the Parish Council for the churchyard maintenance grant
7. Eastgate Village Hall would like to apply for the Village Hall Grant Money of 500.00
Resolved: Clerk to send grant money £500.00
8. St Johns Chapel PCC would like to apply for the annual church yard maintenance grant.
Resolved: Clerk to send £300
9. The Barrington Hall, St Johns Chapel would like to apply for the village hall grant money
Resolved: Clerk to send £500.00
10. A discussion took place for a new laptop , plus Microsoft and printer totalling £815 and J Lewis would set it up and the vat could be reclaimed. **Resolved:** Agreed

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AAP Report

There was nothing to report. If Cllr D Craig is unable to attend a meeting then Cllr B Thompson will attend. **Resolved:** Clerk to inform C Davison

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Accounts for Payment

T Johnson grass cutting at Ashcroft play area	£100.00
Upper Weardale Town Hall Village Hall grant	£500.00
Frosterley Village Hall Grant money	£500.00
Allen Sykes audit work	£165.00
PI Jewitt Willard Grove Allotment Tap	£65.00
DCC Old Hall Street Light repair	£279.61
NWG Business Old Cemetery	£6.69
DCC Cemetery business rates bill	£116.63
S Anderson salary	£536.52
PAYE HM Rev	£115.00
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
S Anderson Expenses	£19.89
Eastgate Village Hall	500.00
Makepeace Motors Crosshill Allot JS Grant money	5700.00

St Johns Chapel PCC	£300.00
Barrington Hall, St Johns Chapel Village Hall grant	£500.00
TOTAL	£9439.34

ACCOUNTS FOR RECEIPTS

Section 136 DCC	£2700.00
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New matters for discussion

1. Cllr Mrs Maddison mentioned that nothing has been done at Butts Head where the bollards are. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
2. Cllr Brewin would like an update on the progress of Kenneth's Bridge at Frosterley. **Resolved:** Clerk to chase up with DCC
3. Cllr Ellwood would like to report that the footpath in Ashes Quarry has started to erode near to the south side of the bridge. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
4. Cllr Blackett would like to report the footbridge on the Weardale Way between Bridgend Cottage and Low Allers at Cowshill there is a plank that is rotten. **Resolved:** Clerk to report
5. Cllr Blackett would like a spike removing at Vedra Close, Wearhead which is at a forty five degree angle. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
6. On the roadside at Whitshill there is a pothole on the left travelling up the dale. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
7. Cllr Craig would like to know what is going to happen in Slit Wood as the footpath has been washed away. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the footpath officer
8. Cllr Thompson mentioned that the electrical work is still on-going in Rookhope
9. Cllr Mrs Hutchinson would like some flower beds at Eastgate at either end of the village. **Resolved:** Clerk to ask DCC
10. On Sunday night /Monday morning of 28th/29th May there was a two hour wait for an ambulance at Ireshopeburn. **Resolved:** The Parish Councillors would like a letter to go off expressing our concerns and at the delay. We would like a copy of the report and an enquiry into the incident. We would also like an update of the staffing arrangements at St Johns Chapel station
11. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff would like the concrete flower tubs in St Johns Chapel by the Town Hall planted with some plants and the shrubs removed. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
12. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like the Front Street of Ireshopeburn and also the Council garden needs a tidy up. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
13. Cllr Miss Carrick had one response from the notice placed in the gazette regarding the Christmas Lights
14. The empty house at 17 Crosshill is still in a bad state of repair. **Resolved:** Clerk to write and express our concerns
15. The chewing gum that was going to be removed is still on the pavements in Stanhope and has not been removed. **Resolved:** Clerk to chase up
16. There are two seats outside of the Church at Stanhope where the planks are bent on both of them. **Resolved:** Clerk to ask for them to be repaired
17. The cobbles in front of the Church need weeding. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
18. There is a pot hole on the main A689 road by Greenfoot, Stanhope. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC

19. The footpath at Coronation Avenue, Stanhope needs weeding. **Resolved;** Clerk to contact D Hunt
20. The play park at the Riverside has equipment in just for the under-fives, why is there nothing for the over five's. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC
21. Cllr Mrs Humble mentioned the Weardale Way between Killhopeburn Bridge to Heatherycleugh is poorly way marked and a number of stiles are missing. Also the gate on the footbridge at Heatherycleugh is tied shut **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
22. The war memorial needs to be tidied up . **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
23. Cllr Miss Graham has reported that the bins are full around Stanhope especially by the Riverside
24. The footpath from Bondisle to the black bridge at the Butts is overgrown with weeds and needs cutting back as it is a wheelchair access route. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC
25. There are weeds everywhere on the Weardale Railway track and nothing is being done to cut them back. The field was re-instated about six weeks ago but there are still fencing issues. **Resolved:** Clerk to write
26. The cutting of the roadside verges started on 5th June and will continue next week. Spraying has also started
27. The job sheets for Simon are still needed for the councillors. **Resolved:** Cllr Miss Graham will contact D Hunt
28. Rookhope Front Street is covered in moss and needs removing. **Resolved:** Clerk to ask D Hunt to have it removed
29. Plots four and five at Bondisle are overgrown with weeds. **Resolved.** Clerk to write to the tenant of plot four but plot five is vacant
30. Where the tree was felled the wall is unsafe and needs repairing now. **Resolved:** Clerk to ask S Makepeace for a quote
31. One resident is keeping the path cut back on a weekly / fortnightly basis
32. There are three trees blocking out the light for approx. four hours a day. **Resolved:** Clerk to ask for a site meeting to seek advice on reducing the height or removal of the trees

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Clerks Business

1. Cllr Mr D Ellwood to fill in the declaration of acceptance of office form and also the pecuniary and other interest form
2. The minutes that are sent out for the Village Halls are not approved and need to go up the following month after the meeting
3. Parish village profiles are nearly finished

Meeting closed at 10pm

Date of next meeting Wednesday 5th July 2017 at Dales Centre, Stanhope commencing at 7pm