

## STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in Eastgate Village Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023

### PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs S Smart, Cllr D Craig, Cllr Mrs C Burdis, Cllr R Lawrie, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Mrs S Thompson,

Cllr P Turton, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr E Buchanan

Cllr Miss J Carrick – Chairman

Susan Anderson – Clerk

### 10789

#### Apologies for Absence

Cllr L Blackett, Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes

### 10790

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

None received

### 10791

#### Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

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

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

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

### 10792

#### Weardale Renewables – Roy Williams

Cllr Miss Carrick welcomed Mr Williams to the meeting. Mr Williams explained that Weardale Renewables is a non-for-profit Community Energy Group. It would like to provide renewable battery storage with three days' worth of electricity for warm spaces in the Village Halls. A feasibility study has been carried out which showed Weardale Renewables can produce their own source of energy. Mr Williams is hoping to meet with DCC to look at the water turbine part of the renewable village scheme at Eastgate. Cllr Mrs Smart felt that Weardale Renewables was duplicating their work with NPG and that they should all be talking to one another. Cllr Turton mentioned that it is long term process and better for the Community. Swinhopeburn was mentioned and Cllr Craig asked the question that what happens when the burn runs dry. Apparently, the reservoirs let out six million litres of water out a day. Mr Williams thanked the councillors for listening to him and his attendance was just to let the councillors know what he is trying to achieve.

### 10793

#### Matters Arising

1. **KINGS LEGACY** – every tenant from Crosshill Allotments was written to regarding the suggestion of the Kings Legacy garden. Two emails have been received against it and one letter. One phone call against it, all like the idea but could see problems arising from it. Two letters of support have been received and one phone call in support it. The letter mentioned

that if no replies were received by the end of May then we would take it that there were no objections to the proposal. A discussion took place but at the moment nothing was agreed.

**Resolved:** Clerk to ask S Makepeace to trim the grass down and remove the rubbish from the plot.

2. **NORTHERN LITHIUM** – Planning permission has been granted and Mr Stringer wants to be as open as possible. He is planning on holding face to face meetings shortly.
3. **MANHOLE COVERS** – The manhole covers have been inspected and have found to be alright.
4. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COURSE**- Cllr Turton could not make the course so the clerk will do the course instead on 6<sup>th</sup> June. Any presentation details that are received afterwards will be sent to all of the councillors.
5. **WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS HIGHWAYS** – Speed restrictions are introduced in areas within the Westmorland and Furness Council area where speeding is a cause for concern, the installation or change to a speed limit is required to be supported by a Traffic regulation Order which is a legal order made to enable the enforcement of anyone found to be contravening those restrictions. Following a request being made to assess an area, traffic counts would normally be installed to identify the current speeds and referring to the Setting Local Speed Limits guidance Highways Officers would identify if action is required. As a rule, speed limits should largely be self-compliant, with the average driver already travelling at or below the posted limit. The limit would be there to reinforce this and encourage those who may otherwise be inclined to travel faster, to note the signage and slow down accordingly. The Council would not, in most cases, implement a speed limit if the majority of vehicles were travelling in excess of that limit. For any changes, there is a requirement for consultation, formal advertisement and approval.
6. **ASHCROFT PLAY PARK** – We still do not have the Landlords Permission through so the project is well behind schedule. It has been suggested that we wait to start now until after the school holidays . I have received the Licence through from Believe Housing that needs reading through and signing. Please can all councillors read the Licence and then I can email Believe with the new dates.
7. **DADDY SHIELD AND BRIDGE END 30MPH SPEED LIMIT ORDER** - We have received a scanned copy of the Speed Limit Order which comes into force on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
8. **NEW PUBLIC FOOTPATH SIGN POSTS** - The job has been with the contractor for quite a while but unfortunately the Rights of Way Officer has no control over their schedule. The Rights of Way Officer will have a word with the foreman to see what is happening.
9. **A689 SPEEDING** – Cllr Craig mentioned the A689 speeding at Westgate and Eastgate and wondered if we had received a reply from Joy Allan. **Resolved:** Clerk to write again
10. **DALES CENTRE PARKING** – Cllr Turton has noticed that eight car parking spaces have been lost in Dales Centre over the last year. We know that the Dales Centre car park is intended for the Dales Centre customers and tenants. On a weekend the tenants parking is seldom full so could DCC revise the parking arrangements. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC
11. **FOOTPATH AT WESTGATE** – Cllr Craig would like a reminder email sent the PROW officer to look at the footpath down by the riverside. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC

## 10794

### Correspondence Received

1. A resident reported that someone used the steps leading to Coronation Avenue as a toilet. To prevent this from happening is there any chance that the steps could be illuminated or a solar light installed. The resident would like a reply. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC
2. CDALC Smaller Council's Forum was held on 25<sup>th</sup> May which invited three representatives from our council. The email was sent to the councillors.

3. We have been sent details of an application for a felling licence at Weeds Farm. If we have any comments then we have to reply by 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Details were sent to the councillors.
4. Information was sent to the councillors on consultations that are taking place. The Draft Solar Energy Supplementary Planning Document sets guidance to ensure solar panels are sited, designed and of a scale which protects Count Durhams unique landscape character, biodiversity, heritage assets and allows for the continued use of farmland. The online consultation event will be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 5.30pm-6.30pm. Also there is a Parking and Accessibility Supplementary Planning Document consultation which will provide guidance to ensure an appropriate level of parking for a variety of modes of transport on all new developments. The email was sent to the councillors.
5. CDALC have sent information on training sessions that have been arranged for June and July. Anyone interested then I will book the session for you.
6. There is a Teams meeting arranged for a Briefing for Parish and Town Councils by Police and Crime Commissioners Chief of Staff, Andrea Petty. This is the governments new Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan. Microsoft Teams meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June at 6.45pm.
7. A resident reported there is a rotten tree in the Dene that if it falls will land on the footpath.
8. Cllr Miss Carrick had a report that camper vans are parking overnight in the layby along from Unthank Hall. A no overnight parking sign is needed and also no fires. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC
9. A tenant that has just taken over a plot at Westgate which had been neglected has put all the rubbish in a heap for S Makepeace. **Resolved:** Agreed to get the rubbish removed
10. A tenant from Willard Grove has had a load of manure delivered and it had to be barrowed by hand from the gate as the access is too narrow for a modern tractor and trailer. The farmer had suggested that if the gate post could be removable then he could get in to the site. What are the councillors thoughts on this. **Resolved:** Councillors to look when the allotment inspection is taking place
11. A resident has reported that the weeds need spraying in the gutters down by Woodcroft Gardens, some are nearly two feet tall. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
12. An email has been received from Cllr Mrs Hawkes who would like another councillor to share some of the meetings that she attends. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned that she would be the WAAP Parish Council representative. Clerk to contact CDALC to see if another councillor can stand in. Cllr Mrs Thompson is on the Practice Liaison committee so one councillor from the Parish Council would do. The Responsible Financial Officer stand in if the clerk was off the Chairman could be stand in. All these need agreeing and looking into.

#### **10795**

##### **Civility and Respect**

After speaking to CDALC it is not compulsory to do any of the Civility and Respect courses. CDALC were pleased that we have signed the pledge and that a few of the councillors did do the courses.

#### **10796**

##### **Risk Assessment**

The Risk Assessment was sent to all of the councillors and was reviewed and agreed

#### **10797**

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

No update was available

**10798**

**Planning Matters**

DM/23/01075/FPA

Erection of cabin for holiday accommodation

Quarry Bank Cottage

Harehope Quarry

Frosterley

DM/23/01288/FPA

Alterations to the front elevation to include the removal of external signage, night safe, letterbox and lock box to be filled with stonework to match the existing and removal of external ATM to allow window to be re-glazed

Barclays

Front Street

Stanhope

**10799**

**Finance**

1. The Annual Internal Audit Report received and noted. The Annual Governance Statement and the Accounts were approved by all of the councillors.
2. Savills have confirmed that we can use Olivers Tree Services to inspect the tree at Bondisle Allotments and do any works that are required. The tree will be inspected on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Resolved:** It was agreed to have any work done that is needed
3. Eastgate Village Hall would like to apply for the Annual Village Hall Grant of £500. **Resolved:** It was agreed to send the £500
4. Some plots have been let at Crosshill Allotments but there is no fence and no gate on the plot and the back fence is poor. Can permission be granted to ask S Makepeace to do the fencing and a gate. **Resolved:** It was agreed to have the work done
5. There is an accounting programme especially for Parish Councils called Scribe which I saw on the SLCC website. With the councillor's permission I would like to try it. **Resolved:** Agreed
6. The path in Westgate Allotments could do with strimming. It should maybe be put onto S Makepeace list on a regular basis. **Resolved:** Grass cutting agreed
7. St Johns Chapel Town Hall would like to apply for the Annual Village Hall Grant money of £500. **Resolved:** It was agreed to send the £500

**10800**

**AAP Report**

No update available

**10801**

**CDALC Report**

No update available

**10802**

**Accounts for Payment**

**E-ON NEXT- PAID**

**£39.86**

**CDALC TRAINING SESSION INVOICE**

**£10.00**

<b>CLLR MISS J CARRICK – CHAIRMANS ALLOWANCE</b>	<b>£250.00</b>
<b>PAUL IRWIN GRASS CUTTING ASHCROFT PLAYAREA</b>	<b>£180.00</b>
<b>S ANDERSON SALARY</b>	<b>£904.08</b>
<b>HM REV</b>	<b>£20.16</b>
<b>S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE</b>	<b>£35.00</b>
<b>S ANDERSON EXPENSES</b>	<b>£125.56</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1564.66</b>

### **10803**

#### **New Matters for Discussion**

1. Cllr Craig mentioned that the recent dog poo posters that had been put up at Westgate have been taken down apart from a few of them. Cllr Craig also mentioned that Mr G Stringer has been out of action but will soon be back at work.
2. Cllr Buchanan mentioned that the public footpath at Allers Lane will be closed for two weeks. Residents would like to put up a private entrance as large vehicles cannot get turned at the bottom.
3. Cllr Mrs Smart mentioned the consultation on solar panels which can be accessed via the Durham County Council website.
4. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff reported that the state of the bins was terrible after the Bank Holidays. The bins must be emptied on the Sunday ready for the Bank Holiday Monday. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
5. Cllr Mrs Burdis has had a report that the Village Green at Frosterley needs edging. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
6. Cllr Turton mentioned the dreadful accident at the junction to the caravan park in Stanhope.
7. Cllr Brewin mentioned that one of the benches at Cromer Lea, Frosterley has collapsed and the other one is in a bad state of repair. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
8. There have been reports of a motor bike going up and down the play park at Frosterley. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
9. The beck down by Gardiners needs cleaning out again. **Resolved:** It was agreed that S Makepeace will do the work
10. Cllr Mrs Thompson mentioned that no weed spraying has taken place up the dale. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
11. A local resident that looks onto the Weardale Museum is concerned that it is an eyesore and that it needs tidying up.
12. Cllr Miss Carrick has managed to buy the rose named Linda for the planter on Crawleyside.
13. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned the swimming pool and that a group of people would like to organise a meeting. There needs to be a feasibility study done to see if the swimming pool can open up again. If the meeting happens then Cllr Lawrie, Cllr Mrs Thompson and Cllr Miss Carrick will go along.
14. Speeding on the road near to Frosterley School is a great concern and a parent feels that there is inadequate signage. Some parents are reversing into the school gateway to turn. This had been mentioned at the WAAP meeting and Cllr Mrs A Savory was going to look into this. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact Cllr Mrs Savory

15. We have a young fourteen-year-old lad on the waiting list for an allotment. The councillors agreed to let him try it if he still wants to. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the young lad.

10804

Clerks Business

Nothing to report

**MEETING CLOSED AT 8.39PM**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023 AT EASTGATE VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7PM**

-----SIGNED-----DATE