

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 7th March 2018

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs A Humble Chairman

Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr D Craig, Cllr D Ellwood, Cllr Miss F Graham,
Cllr Mrs H Maddison, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr B Thompson

Also Present:

PC G Moore

Andrea Wakefield and Charlene Burdis – Wolsingham School Parents

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Apologies for Absence

Cllr L Blackett, Cllr A Fishburn, Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr Mrs K Hutchinson

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To Receive any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

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Minute of the meeting held on 7th February 2018

Page 3 should read Weardale Motor Service not Arriva

Page 3 should read stay in Education and not stay at school

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

9867

Police and the Community

PC G Moore attended the meeting as PC B Crampsie is on leave and sends his apologies. Since January there have been 45 incidents reported. Vans have been targeted with tools in and scrap metal vehicles have been stopped. A van was stopped with a trailer of wood and building materials on it which turned out to be stolen. Large denomination counterfeit currency has been passed in the shops. Cllr Craig mentioned that two empty tool boxes were reported which could have been from the thefts, PC Moore would investigate this. Cllr Mrs Humble mentioned that the traffic lights were still off at Ireshopeburn and she asked if the cameras were benefiting the Police. PC Moore commented that the cameras are beneficial. Cllr Mrs Humble thanked PC Moore for attending the meeting and the next update will be in three months' time unless we need know something before then

9868

Wolsingham School – Andrea Wakefield and Charlene Burdis

Andrea and Charlene are part of a group of parents trying to understand why a successful 6th form is going to be suspended for two years and ideally have the decision overturned. The support is gathering momentum with Wolsingham Parish Council and Wolsingham W.I. and Stanhope Parish

Council on board. There has been no consultation with parents and a review of the feeder schools is taking place with the results due around Easter time. The chair of the governors has said that they are under no legal obligation to consult.

Cllr Miss Graham would like an email sending back to our reply from the Sec of State that no consultation has taken place and that the four statutory stages have not taken place. Also a copy to go to Laura Pidcock and DCC. **Resolved:** It was agreed that the clerk should write

Cllr Ellwood had attended the CDALC Executive committee meeting and they will support keeping the 6th form. If we send a letter to CDALC they will write to DCC. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to CDALC - S Ragg and to send the Impact Assessment that has been done

Cllr Miss Graham wants reassurances that our feeder schools will remain adequately funded and that none of their school budget goes to reduce the deficit of Wolsingham School. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to P Hodgson

9869

Matters Arising

- 1. STANHOPE TOWN HALL WARSHIP WEEK PICTURE** – Mr Dixon has checked with the records office and at Crook and there is no sign of the Warship Week picture, sadly it has gone astray
- 2. POTHLES OUTSIDE THE CHAPEL AT WEARHEAD** – It has been identified that further action is required
- 3. POTHLES THROUGHOUT IRESHOPEBURN** – It has been identified that further action is required
- 4. POT HOLE BETWEEN PRY HILL AND STRIPE HEAD COTTAGE** - It has been identified that further action is required
- 5. CARAVAN SITE HORSLEY LODGES** - Our objection has been acknowledged
- 6. STREET NAME PLATES** – Due to health and safety procedures the highways worker cannot paint the street name plates. If the Parish Council wish to carry out the repairs themselves the County Council would have no objections to this. The councillors would like the street name plates painting so if all councillors look in their wards to see if any need doing and bring it to the next meeting. **Resolved:** A quote will be asked for from S Makepeace for painting the name plates after the next meeting
- 7. WOLSINGHAM SCHOOL** – Mr P Hodgson has sent this update to the Parish Council. He reassures the Parish Council that there is no intention on the part of the County Council to close Wolsingham School sixth form. The statement issued by the School fully covers the facts of the matter, and it was a decision taken by the School rather than the local authority. The Governors have decided to suspend enrolment into the Sixth Form for two years to ensure A Levels are not interrupted while a more sustainable model for the delivery for post-16 education in Weardale is established. Mr Hodgson is committed to the preservation of a strong education offer, from 0.19 and beyond, in Weardale. Wolsingham Secondary School is central to this. The quality of education in both primary and the secondary school is very good and there is much to build on and maintain. Mr Hodgson hopes this communication reassures us that DCC are working hard to build a sustainable education provision in Weardale and will keep post-16 provision under review and as a high priority in all forward planning with the school. **Reply from Sec of State:** The minister is unable to intervene in local matters and this is the responsibility of the local authority. Certain changes are known as “prescribed alterations” and if a governing body or local authority wishes to make a prescribed alteration to a school, for example adding/removing a sixth-form it must follow the procedures set out in The School Organisation (prescribed alterations) (England) Regulations 2013. The process involves four statutory stages, Publication of statutory

proposal (in a local newspaper and at the entrance (s) to the school, Representation / formal consultation (a four week period allowing for comments and objections to be submitted). Decision (by the local authority or in some circumstances by the Schools Adjudicator). Implementation (where the proposal is enacted). The department would strongly encourage us to participate in the consultation stage so that our comments and suggestions can be taken into consideration in the decision-making process. Our reference number is 2018-0009838. **Reply from Laura Pidcock MP:** The MP is looking at all ways to support the school and pressure the government to look at the situation at Wolsingham. She will be writing to the Minister and has already had one meeting at the school and at the County Council. She is applying for an adjournment debate in Parliament which will be about the funding situation as a while for rural schools across Weardale. Unfortunately, this is a raffle process and she will have to wait. She is also looking to set up a meeting for schools across Weardale as soon as a suitable date can be agreed

8. **FROSTERLEY CHRISTMAS TREE** – An email has been sent to the contact who is going to speak to the planning officer about the framework for the tree. We will be kept informed on the progress. A diagram of the frame has been sent to the Parish Council which is 4m x 1.5m in diameter. A variegated holly tree will be planted and the frame around it until the tree is established. **Resolved:** The councillors agreed to the frame and the tree and Cllr Mrs Maddison said that there were no objections by the residents
9. **KENNETHS BRIDGE, FROSTERLEY** – The ground investigation contractor completed the site works on the north bank week ending the 22nd December 2017. Discussions are still ongoing with the Environment Agency regarding permission to undertake additional investigation works within the river bed adjacent to the north pier. These are to identify ground conditions within the river bed adjacent to the supports and determine whether a realignment of the river or moving of river bed material would also be beneficial to the footbridge. This will not delay the proposed repair works to the footbridge. The ground investigation report will enable us to finalise proposals and progress the design of the new bridge support at the north bank. A preliminary design has been prepared and forwarded to the Environment Agency for comment. A meeting will be held shortly with the Environment agency for comment and to discuss the proposals with a view to agreeing a way forward. It is hoped that this early agreement will prevent any delays in the approval process. DCC are aiming for a site start of the 4th June 2018 this is the earliest possible start date due to EA restrictions for working in a main river. The meeting will also include initial discussions on how best to address the ongoing landslips on the C75 near Bucklerdale. The Frosterley councillors are not convinced that the work will commence in June, we will keep on at DCC
10. **THE COAL AUTHORITY** – Cllr Blackett is the point of contact for Mr Dell the project manager for the metal mine programme. Mr Dell is keen to attend a Parish Council meeting to explain the project Cllr Blackett thinks this is good idea to attend **Resolved:** Clerk to write that MR Dell can attend the April meeting if L Pidcock cancels otherwise it will be the June meeting
11. **PECUNINARY INTERESTS FORMS** – S Ragg sent a reminder that all forms should now be back at County Hall. We have two that have not been sent
12. **COMMUNITY HIGHWAYS DIARY SHEETS** – D Hunt has sent the work sheets and they have been printed off for all the councillors
13. **WEBSITE** – We need to get the website up and running we need a link to the planning and a link to the DCC declaration of internet
14. **ROOKHOPE CEMETERY** – The gravel is not down yet and the trees need trimming. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
15. **AIR AMBULANCE** – There has been no reply to our letter asking what the criteria is for attending a remote accident. **Resolved:** Clerk to write again
16. **FROSTERLEY CEMETERY** - The mound of soil still has not been removed. **Resolved:** Clerk to write again

17. **LITTER PICK** – Cllr Craig mentioned that there is no sign of a litter pick yet on the A689 roadsides. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
18. **SELF SEEDING TREES** – Cllr Craig has met with the Community Highways Worker to identify the trees that need removing
19. **PRIVATE AMBULANCES** – Mrs Heatherington has confirmed that there are private ambulances in the dale. Someone thought that maybe it could be paramedic training
20. **LITTER SIGNS** – Cllr Mrs Humble has confirmed that the litter signs are now at Killhope

9870

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. We have received notice concerning the proposed closure for regular worship of the church of St Michael and All Angels, Frosterley and the unification of the benefices and parishes of Stanhope and Rookhope and Frosterley. The Bishop's Council, as Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee, is considering making recommendations to the Bishop under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. These may affect the benefices named above and their constituent parishes. The parish of Stanhope and Rookhope and the parish of Frosterley being two of the six parishes within the area of the benefice of Upper Weardale, shall be united to create a new parish which shall be named The Parish of Stanhope, Frosterley and Rookhope. The church of St Thomas, Stanhope being the parish church of the parish of Stanhope and Rookhope shall be the parish church of the new parish. We have a form to fill in and comments if we wish.
2. The first meeting of the Weardale Community Hospital Reference Group was held at County Hall, Durham on Monday 26th February. The future meetings are to be held in Stanhope and we will be sent the minutes from the first meeting.
3. There was a temporary road closure on Monday 26th February to allow safe removal of trees from the embankment where a landslip had previously occurred. This was at Peakfield Bank, Buckler Dale, Frosterley
4. Cllr Blackett contacted the clerk as the road to Burnhope Reservoir is in poor condition and needs repairing. The clerk has written to NWG Business to report the road
5. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff mentioned that part of the wall is down in the car park before the Mart at St Johns Chapel. The clerk has reported it to DCC
6. S Ragg has sent details of toolkit content page for the GDPR but the content has not been finalised yet. Information has been sent on Reporting Personal Data Breaches
7. The Durham Dales Centre is hosting an exhibition about the Durham Light Infantry "The Call of the Bugle". It will be held from Friday 20th April until Sunday 10TH June 11.00 until 16.00 The Centre needs volunteers for one or two week days to be in the exhibition space to protect the exhibits. In return lunch is provided and may be able to contribute to travel expenses
8. The next CDALC meeting was held on 22nd February at The Glebe Centre, Murton. GDPR is on the agenda and the issue of police attendance at Parish and Town Council meetings
9. The County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership is providing a full day free Allotments event in Shotton Hall, Peterlee on April 11th at 9.30am
10. An urgent drainage repair has been carried out under a temporary road closure at East Lane, Stanhope
11. A resident from Westgate is concerned about chickens that are roaming freely around Westgate and are going in people's gardens. Also, there are three peacocks that are roosting in the village. The chickens are not from the Allotment Site and the peacocks are possibly from a house where the residents have moved away. The councillors commented that this is not a Parish Council matter **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the resident

12. NALC has sent a good Retention and Disposal Policy document as to a guide as to the length of time considered important to retain documents. Westfield Parish Council have a good example which has been printed off and could be adopted
13. S Ragg has sent the latest NALC Chief Executives Bulletin about the proposal to set up a Joint Information Governance Group which is aimed at bringing together key stakeholders to support the sector establish sound information governance policies and practices. The Data Protection Bill will have its second reading in the House of Commons on 5th March further sector specific advice and guidance is needed from the ICO. NALC and County Associations will be raising this with MPs at Lobby Day on 20th March
14. Communities, staff and volunteers across County Durham and Darlington are being urged to take part in the eleventh annual Big Spring Clean litter picking campaign. Litter picks can be organised until Sunday 17th April. Bags and litter-picks are provided, and all bagged rubbish will be collected and recycled/disposed of accordingly. To organise and register a litter pick in County Durham email litterfreedurham@durham.gov.uk
15. A resident has sent an email praising the snow ploughing teams that have battled the recent severe elements to keep our spine road and other major roads accessible. They deserve recognition and the resident would like Stanhope Parish Council to convey to DCC how grateful the majority of residents of Weardale are. The councillors agreed that snow ploughing teams have done a good job and the snow clearance workers along with Weardale Motor Services keeping the buses running in atrocious conditions. **Resolved:** It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to DCC and to Weardale Motor Services
16. A resident would like to know can the Parish Councillors remember when farmers used to plough the side roads. Why did the policy change? Apparently, it changed when the farmers needed to pass an operator's license to grit and plough. Also, the diesel needed to be changed from red to white every time they went on the roads. If there were health issues where residents needed to be out, then DCC could authorise side road clearance.

A copy of the correspondence to be printed off for all the councillors for the start of the meeting

9871

Planning Matters

Conversion of redundant building to holiday accommodation, including extension to the north at Copthill

This application went to committee on 22nd February at Spennymoor

Erection of dwelling and garage at The Weardale Inn, Ireshopeburn

This application went to committee on 22nd February at Spennymoor

DM/18/00293/TPO

Make safe trees which were damaged during recent storms and to remove trees which are dead and unsafe. At least three trees appear to be unsafe

Parson Byers

Stanhope

Andrew Gower

DM/18/00448/FPA

Demolition of outbuildings – proposed new garage

The Hotts

Hotts Lane

Ireshopeburn

Mr & Mrs Williamson

DM/18/00393/FPA
Change of use from a redundant agricultural building to a single dwelling
White Kirkley Farm
Cottage
Frosterley
Mr D De Boinville

DM/18/00602/FPA
Dwelling
Land adjacent to 19
Eastcroft
Stanhope
Mr E Rowell

PLANNING APPROVALS

DM/17/03909/FPA
Single storey rear extension
1 Western Hill
Frosterley

DM/17/01391/FPA
Extension to Caravan Park to create pitches for 9 static caravans with decking
Betsdale Caravan Park
Front Street
Frosterley
CM & V Dobson

DM/17/02738/FPA
Change of use from Chapel D1 to dwelling C3
Chapel House
1 Bridge End
Frosterley
Miss S Marriott

DM/17/031451/LB
Amended design to fenestration
The Byre
4 Stanhope Hall
Stanhope
G Ward

DM/17/03198/FPA
Construction of 1 no dwelling amended site plan 10/01/2018
Land to the south of
Fairleas Farm
Front Street
Daddry Shield
J Hunter

DM/17/03928/FPA
Single storey extension to front Resubmission
15 East Blackdene
St Johns Chapel
Adam Millington

DM/17/03893/FPA
Porch to front
Burn View
7 School Close
St Johns Chapel
Thornton Architectural

PLANNING REFUSALS

Erection of three no detached dwellings
Site of former builders
Yard south of
Shittlehopeburn Farm
Stanhope
Mr G Gibson

WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

DM/17/02937/FPA
Renovation of dwelling to include two storey extension to side and two storey extension to rear
Crag Stile
Lanehead
Andrew Lees

9872 Finance

1. The Trustees of the County of Durham School Benevolent Fund are asking if our organisation would be able to support to the charity. Parents must be in receipt of benefits entitling their children to receive Free School Meals. In eligible cases up to £35 is paid towards the cost of a pair of shoes and a winter coat for each child attending school.

9873 AAP Report

The Board meeting was held on Thursday 8th February and agreed to work on the following priorities in 2018/19. Supporting Local Groups, Children, Young People and Families and Culture, Tourism and Heritage. The AAP would like to hear any ideas as to what the issues are within these priority areas.

Also if there any ideas about projects or schemes that could be introduced into Weardale to help address these issues.

Cllr Thompson commented that Christine Davison is leaving the AAP. **Resolved:** Cllr Craig would like a thank you letter sending to Christine

9874

Accounts for Payment

NWG BUSINESS PUBLIC CONV DADDRY SHIELD	£52.11
S ANDERSON SALARY	£661.70
S ANDERSON EXPENSES	£85.21
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00
MISS N DAWSON IRESHOPEBURN ALLOTMENTS	£20.00
DCC CEMETERY BUSINESS RATES	£129.14
TOTAL	£983.16

9875

New Matters for Discussion

- Cllr Mrs Maddison would like to report that a tree inspection by DCC is needed on The Green, Frosterley as the Lime Trees are dropping large branches in the wind. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
- The report back from the CDALC meetings needs to be an agenda item, the meetings are Feb, Mar, June and Nov. There is no update from Cllr Henderson, so Cllr Ellwood is to attend the AONB meetings which are Jun, Sept and Dec. Cllr Ellwood mentioned that on the national committee there are no representatives north of Leeds. They are considering forming a Northern Group.
- Cllr Craig mentioned that Newbiggin Parish Council is providing the dog bags like Stanhope Parish Council
- Cllr Thompson mentioned that the wall that belongs to the church has now been repaired
- There is a tree on Bog Bank, Rookhope leaning 45 degrees over the road. **Resolved:** The tree needs reporting to DCC
- Cllr Miss Graham would like to report some bad pot holes down Bondisle Way, Paragon Street and Ashcroft across the top. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
- Cllr Miss Graham asked if she could go to the meeting concerning the school as a representative from the Parish Council when Laura Pidcock was attending. **Resolved:** It was agreed that Cllr Miss Graham could go to the meeting
- The FOI is due next Monday, and Cllr Miss Graham would like the information as soon as the clerk receives it. **Resolved:** As soon as the information is received then it was agreed to send it to all the councillors. If nothing is received by next week then it must be chased up
- Cllr Miss Carrick would like the grass verge repaired at the bottom of Paragon Street **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC

- The footpaths need cleaning of dog dirt down the Main Street to the Dales Centre in Stanhope. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to D Hunt
- Cllr Mrs Humble would like S Makepeace to high pressure the play areas and the Community Highways worker to clean up the leaves **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt and S Makepeace
- We need a notice board in Stanhope for the minutes, agenda and any other information. The ideal place is near to the church hall by the Lime trees. Cllr Mrs Humble would like a standing notice board at Cowshill. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact Mr Anstee and DCC
- There was a seat at Copthill which has been taken away that needs replacing. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC and ask for the seat to face down the valley
- Last year EE put up a mast in the layby and as yet the dish is not up, there is a barrier up which is causing all sorts of parking problems. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact A Williamson to find out when the dish will be erected, and the barrier removed

9876

Clerks Business

The clerk will be on holiday from Monday 26th March until 30th March totalling 15 hours

Meeting closed at 9pm

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 5th April 2018 at Dales Centre, Stanhope commencing at 7pm

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