

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in Eastgate Village Hall on 6th March 2024

PRESENT:

Cllr D Craig, Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr P Turton, Cllr R Lawrie,

Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr S Smart

Cllr Miss J Carrick – Chairman

Susan Anderson – Clerk

Also Present – Mr Michael Brook, Parish Nurse

10897

Apologies for Absence

Cllr E Buchanan, Cllr Mrs C Burdis

10898

To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

10899

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2024

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

10900

Michael Brook-Parish Nurse

Mr Brook is the Parish Nurse for Weardale and Teasdale and UTASS is his employer. To be a Parish Nurse you have to be a practising Christian and a registered nurse. Mr Brook does not do injections or medication he doesn't replace existing nursing he enhances mental health issues. He supports people in their own home and can sign post to other services. The local vicar has been introducing Mr Brook to residents of the dale and he has been attending coffee mornings. His post is for twenty-five hours a week for two years. It's an open referral and also the GP Practise can refer people to Mr Brook. It's a free service which can last for as long as is needed. If Mr Brook sees something that is not right then it would be reported to his manager. Cllr Miss Carrick thanked Mr Brook for attending the meeting.

10901

Matters Arising

1. **PROPOSED DIVERSION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO.24, ROOKHOPE** – The developer/land owner has come back with a further proposal for the diversion of footpath no 24. The proposal is still not acceptable as where the gate is going to go is the narrowest part of the road. The footpath has been there forever and people have had no stiles to deal with. The

footpath should remain where it has always been as the developer was aware of the public right of way when the property was purchased. **Resolved:** These comments were sent to DCC

2. **D-DAY 80 RINGING OUT FOR PEACE-** Eastgate Church will ring the church bell at 6.30pm on the 6th June. Stanhope Church, St Johns Chapel Church and Heatherycleugh Church will also ring the bells.
3. **LIGHTS AT WILLARD GROVE ALLOTMENTS** – The lights were there as the tenant was concerned about burglaries. They have been removed now.
4. **NOTICE BOARDS** – The catches have been looked at on both Notice Boards and adjusted slightly. If this does not work then it will be new catches that are needed. There was no charge for the adjusting.
5. **JOY ALLEN** – The councillors asked if there was any update from Joy Allen as she was going to write to the Chief Executive to have a meeting with the relevant officers. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to Joy Allen for an update.
6. **WESTGATE LIGHTS** – The Christmas Tree will be removed from the allotment plot by a member of the Light Up The Dale.

10902

Correspondence Received

1. Northern Lithium have secured significant new mineral rights from the Church Commissioners for England. Mr Stringer would like to attend the April Parish Council meeting to update the council.
2. Cllr Turton reported to the clerk about a fallen tree leaning on another tree on Softley Bank. A leaning snow pole by the sheep fold and requested an update as to when the Stone Bridge would be repaired. All matters were reported to DCC.
3. Cllr Mrs Hawkes and Cllr E Buchanan sent some questions for Gary Stringer. These were sent to Mr Stringer who will be attending the April meeting and he will answer the questions then.
4. Cllr Turton sent a photograph of a damaged kerb stone on the footpath by the Bonnymoor hen in Stanhope. Also, there are some uneven cobble stones on the Market Place, Stanhope. Both issues have been reported to DCC and they have been added onto the current works programme.
5. A request was received to have the pavements in Cowshill swept and also for the road sweeper to go up. D Hunt was contacted. This was done the next day and the resident sent a thank you which was passed onto D Hunt.
6. A lady from up the dale sent a thank you card for the quick response to a request to move a dog bin. D Hunt was contacted and the thank you was passed onto the lads.
7. There is a project in appraisal which includes a walking leaflet for Stanhope. The proposed leaflet will be developed mirroring the Wolsingham Wayfarers leaflets with route map and relevant information. The rationale for this choice is that the leaflets have been seen to be popular at shows and generally with tourists/ local people and the Wolsingham Wayfarers, who are the project applicant, will develop this first leaflet to help start the ball rolling for future opportunities in the locality. The project is to link to the railway between train times so people visiting could pick up the leaflet at the train station and have another thing to do during their visit to the area. The AAP would like our support in this project. **Resolved:** The councillors all supported this.

10903

County Councillor Update

Councillor Shuttleworth mentioned the increases for DCC which is 2.99% and 2% totalling 4.99%. Durham has good accountants. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff commented for Cllr Shuttleworth to keep fighting for Weardale.

10904

Planning Matters

DM/24/00232/FPA

Single storey replacement

Front extension

High Kitty Crag

Sidehead

Westgate

DM/24/00296/FPA

Conversion and extension of existing disused outbuilding to form a two bedroomed holiday let (class C3)

Parson Byers Farm

Stanhope

DM/24/00368/FPA

Proposed glazed link to rear of dwelling and detached annex

Westfall Farm

North Grain

Wearhead

DM/24/00370/LB

Listed building Consent for replacement windows, alterations to layout (first and second floor) and installation of bathroom

1The Butts

Stanhope

PLANNING APPROVALS

DM/23/00704/FPA

Change of use and extension of existing barn to accommodate rescue cats and pigs with staff facilities and overnight accommodation and conversion and extension of storage outbuilding to house rescue ferrets.

Far Place

Sidehead

Westgate

Concerns were raised regarding the approval to keep pigs. You need a licence to keep pigs along with a holding number and be registered with DEFRA. Apparently Far Place have a No Kill policy which is a concern regarding animal welfare sometimes if an animal is suffering it is kinder to have it put to sleep.

DM/23/01288/FPA

Alterations to the front elevation to include the removal of external signage, night safe, letter box and lock box to be infilled with stonework to match the existing and removal of external ATM to allow for door to be installed (as amended on 9th Jan 2024)

Barclays

Stanhope

DM/23/03182/FPA

Single storey extension to southern elevation of former garage conversion
Stanhope Grange
Crawleyside

DM/23/03455/VOC

Variation of condition 2 pursuant to planning approval 3/2010/0354 to alter deck areas and to include hot tub shelters (retrospective)
Land south west of
Horsley Hall
Eastgate

DM/23/03550/FPA

Conversion of a former care home into 8 apartments consisting of 3x1bed, 2x2bed and 3x3 bed, including 1 new window to the north elevation
Newtown House
Stanhope

DM/23/03828/TEL

Prior notification for erection of a 25m communication mast, antennas, ground – based apparatus and ancillary development.
Collier Law
Crawleyside

10905

Finance

1. Mr Percival from the Weardale Museum has sent the Spring 2024 newsletter. The final of several phases of critical works will commence on 4th March when important restorations within the roof void will be undertaken. The works should be completed within six weeks. The contractor will remove the sand in the forecourt of the chapel. The chapel will then be structurally sound apart from much restoration and repurposing still to do. The Trustees would like the Council to consider making a grant towards the core costs to ensure the continuance of the work. Mr Percival would be willing to attend a meeting to explain further if required. **Resolved:** The councillors decided due to financial restraints they cannot make any donation.
2. **DOG BAGS FOR THE DISPENSERS-** The standard bags are £23.80 per case of 800 bags £476.00 plus vat which are the ones we are currently buying. The economy bags are £21.40 per case of 800 bags £428.00 plus vat. Cllr Craig felt that it would be a step backwards if the Parish Council stopped providing the dog bags. **Resolved;** The councillors agreed to purchase the Economy bags
3. **CREDIT INVOICE** – In July we paid an invoice for £1054.80 and then in December we paid the same invoice again. The Scribe programme picked up on this when I was ticking the VAT off. We have received a credit of £1054.80 which has been added back into the accounts and also the £25 unpresented cheque has been added back in.
4. **BANK RECONCILIATION** – The bank reconciliation figures for February were sent to the councillors and were agreed.
5. **OLD CEMETERY STANHOPE** – S Makepeace was wondering if the Parish Council would like any signs for the Old Cemetery to help cover liability. The signs say Warning- Headstones may be unstable or Caution- Historic monuments may be unstable. Falling monuments can injure

or kill. Please do not lean against, climb on or play around structures in the cemetery.

Resolved: Clerk to find out if other cemeteries have signs

10906

AAP Report

The fire service are consulting on the draft Community Risk Management Plan - www.ddfire.gov.uk
Ongoing discussions are still taking place to see if the WAAP can stay in the Dales Centre. There are another five AAP's that are having to move.

10907

Accounts for Payment

E-ON NEXT ASHCROFT PLAYPARK PAID	£48.09
EASTGATE VILLAGE HALL	£30.00
S ANDERSON SALARY	£903.68
HM REV	£20.56
S ANDERSON EXPENSES	£165.51
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00
TOTAL	£1202.84

ACCOUNTS FOR RECEIPTS

ALLOTMENT RENT COLLECTED	£ 1,222.00
ALLOTMENT RENT PAID DIRECT	£135.00
MAKEPEACE MOTORS REFUND OVERPAYMENT	£1054.80
TOTAL	£2,411.80

10908

New Matters for Discussion

1. Cllr Blackett mentioned the DCC magazine that there is nothing in it about Weardale. Cllr Shuttleworth commented that if anyone from Weardale sent anything in for the magazine then it would be put in. From now on the magazine is going online.
2. Cllr Craig would like to report the roadside gully up from New Park that it needs levelling up.
Resolved: Clerk to report to DCC
3. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff mentioned the road at four lane ends that the tarmac was damaged by a low loader and still hasn't been repaired. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC again
4. Cllr Turton mentioned that Digital Durham will soon becoming into Weardale.

5. Northern Powergrid are providing a generator to the houses at Wetherhill to do work on the area. Apparently, they have been doing work up East Lane as well.
6. Cllr M Brewin would like to know if anyone hears anything regarding the Church at Frosterley to report it to him.
7. Cllr Mrs Thompson mentioned the white lines to the school at St Johns Chapel. Cllr Shuttleworth reported there is an order in now for the work.
8. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned that the stonework still has not been done at Cowgarth Hill.
Resolved: Clerk to contact DCC

**10909
Clerks Business**

The allotment rents were collected on 27th Feb 2024 and some tenants had these issues.

1. There were a few complaints regarding rats at Westgate Allotments and that they had eaten tenants crops, also rabbits are a problem. One tenant has given up the plots due to the rat problem. The tenants will have to do their own rat control as where there are hens there will always be rats. The cost of vermin control on six allotment sites could not be done by the Parish Council.
2. A tenant from the Old Hall site also complained about the number of rats.
3. A request for a skip to remove more rubbish from the Old Hall site as all was not taken last time as it was too full. **Resolved:** Due to the cost the Parish Council cannot provide another skip.
4. There's an old elderberry tree needs to come down at the site then there could be room for additional plots.
5. The plot holders would like to know if we are holding a competition this year. A tenant suggested about making a bug house. **Resolved:** The councillors decided that the bug house was a good idea. There would be one overall winner of the six allotment sites.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 3rd April 2024 at Eastgate Village Hall commencing at 7pm

-----Signed-----date