

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 10th May 2017

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs A Humble Chairman

Cllr L Blackett, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr Mrs K Hutchinson, Cllr Mrs H Maddison,
Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr B Thompson

Also present: S Anderson clerk

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Apologies for Absence

Cllr Miss F Graham

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To receive any declarations of Interest from Members

None received

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Minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2017

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

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Police and the Community

No one present **Resolved:** Clerk to invite to the June meeting

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Matters Arising

1. **GREENHOUSE, WILLARD GROVE** – The tenant has advised that the green house is new aluminium, 6ft x 4ft and will be at the back of the plot next to their lock-up shed. **Resolved:** Permission granted
2. **PSPO FOR THE PLAY PARKS** – Ian Hault will assess the play parks mentioned for the new PSPO and will feedback as appropriate
3. **FOOTPATH BEHIND FORSTERLEY CHURCH** – Mike Murden will take a look at the footpath the next time he is out here and will assess what can be done
4. **ROOKHOPE CEMETERY AND BURTREEFORD CEMETERY** – Cllr Thompson and Cllr Blackett has met Ian Ramsey from Bereavement Services. Rookhope cemetery needs gravel on the paths and the weeds spraying and cleaned back to the kerb. The bushes and the suckers under the trees need tiding too. At Burtreeford the path needs possibly spraying or raked over and the edges tidied up to the kerb. There are also two trees which are now pushing the wall over to the right as you go in. The trees need taking out completely and then the wall can be repaired. Cllr Thompson mentioned that work has started on the cemetery and the branches and the suckers have been cut off. They have done a decent job and are making progress, the path is left to do
5. **TRAILER AT FROSTERLEY** – This issue has been forwarded onto Strategic Highways who will determine what course of action is to be taken. Only they can decide as they have the enforcement power. Mr Anderson has sent another email to Brian Buckley

6. **ASHES QUARRY LANDSLIP** - The land owners have been written to and DCC have made them aware of their concerns. They have been reminded of their responsibilities as a landowner and advised if a landslip was to occur they would be in breach of Section 151 of the Highways Act 1980
7. **LAND AT ASHCROFT** – Sarah Williams from Dale and Valley homes will inspect the area to see what is needed to tidy the area up
8. **GRASSED VERGES BY NEWTOWN, BOTTOM OF THE HALL** – J Hodges has passed the request to have these tarmaced to Gary Surtees to consult with Strategic Highways
9. **SPRAYING AT COWSHILL AND FROSTERLEY** – Cllr Mrs Humble sent some photos of the spraying. DCC agree that the lines are wider than they should be. All fence lines are sprayed and obstacles currently on their land this is in line with current policy. The lines should be between 8-12 inch wide but in this case the lines are wider. Once the initial yellowing dies back the area should become much less noticeable. DCC spray all areas prior to grass cutting and a company called Languard do all the hard standing areas. This is a huge task to undertake and is usually started mid-march so all the areas to spray are usually started prior to grass cutting depending on weather conditions.
10. **FENCE ON THE BACK ROAD FROM STANHOPE TO EASTGATE** – J Hodges has a quote for the fence and it will be passed to Gary Surtees for approval. It will all depend on the budget, if DCC are going to accept responsibility for the fence and the cost. **Resolved:** Clerk to find out if there is any progress on this dangerous piece of fencing that needs doing urgently
11. **WOLSINGHAM SKATE PARK** – Under Section 136 of the 1972 Local Government Act two or more local authorities may make arrangements for defraying any expenditure incurred by one of them in exercising any functions exercisable by both or all of them. We would need to take the decision as to whether they consider that SPC monies spent in the WPC area is wise. If our residents/children in our area would not use the skate park in Wolsingham then our rate payers/residents may have grounds for criticising our council for spending money in another area and receiving no benefit from it. This needs to be taken into consideration.
12. **DADDRY SHIELD** – The toilets are now open and the cleaning of the Play Park surface will be done soon
13. **CROSSHILL ALLOTMENTS FENCING** - An allotment holder would like the council to look at the fence at the back of the allotments adjoining the fell as it is in need of repair. **Resolved:** Cllr Miss Carrick will inspect the fence
14. **ROAD MARKINGS AT THE BOTTOM OF ASHCROFT** - It is policy to introduce these keep clear markings in residential areas where the obstruction is continuous and is a result of vehicles accessing nearby business, retail, leisure or similar facilities; as in these circumstances it is often the case that obstruction is being caused by motorists outside the local area who are unaware or have indifferent attitude towards the consequences of their actions. Where the obstruction is caused by residents or their visitors, DCC consider the matter should be dealt with by dialogue between neighbours or where this fails, through intervention by the local police. If the vehicles are causing obstruction they should be reported via 101. If the police are satisfied obstruction is occurring it may be the case that positive enforcement action is required.
15. **WESTGATE ALLOTMENT WALL** – Cllr Craig commented that the wall has been repaired
16. **PARISH WEBSITE** – We must have the description for villages for June meeting. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the photographer
17. **COWSHILL WAR MEMORIAL** – The wall has been knocked and some stones were on the road. D Hunt tidied this up and David Sparkes is aware of what has happened
18. **ROADSIDE WALL IN DITCH AT ROOKHOPE** – As yet this has not been done but Cllr Thompson is watching this
19. **RAILWAY STANHOPE** – It was mentioned that the Railway had gone into liquidation

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CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. DCC have managed to get a map onto their webpage that shows the location of all allotment sites and along with who manages them and how to contact them. The map doesn't show the Town 7 parish Council sites, however Mr Farren is happy to get them added on if any organisations are interested. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact to have Stanhope Parish's Allotments added
2. S Ragg has sent information on Governance and Accountability and the completion of the Annual Return
3. S Ragg would like to know of any Parish Councillor who would be eligible to be nominated as a volunteer for the County Durham Volunteering Celebration Event 2017 to be held in June by Durham Community Action. Closing date is 22nd May 2017
4. Purdah will remain in place after the local elections as a result of the announcement that a general election will take place on 8th June. It is important that our council does not do anything to promote political parties or representatives who are wishing to stand for parliament as part of the June 8th election process
5. There is a temporary road closure and exemption order at Comb Bridges, Healeyfield and Stanhope Ford on 28th May 2017 for the Durham Dales Classic reliability Trial.
6. Catch 22 are an independent training provider and they are a registered charitable organisation/education trust located at Bishop Auckland. They offer a study programme for young people which gives them the opportunity to up-grade their skills in maths and English and to improve their employability skills. The students are expected to do eight weeks work experience. One of their learners would like to do their work experience on an allotment plot which his sister has as he has a keen interest in gardening and horticulture. If the Parish Council are agreeable they would need to see a copy of our public liabilities insurance for the allotments and they would need to complete a risk assessment to ensure their work placement policy is adhered to. **Resolved:** Councillors agreed to this and to the clerk to send a copy of the public liability cover

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Planning Matters

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DM/17/01160/CEO
Caravan Park
Heather View Caravan Site
Stanhope
Verdant Leisure

DM/17/00882/FPA
Conversion of redundant building into residential dwelling
Byre and Paddock
South of Market Place
St Johns Chapel
Vickers & Barrass Chartered Surveyors

DM/17/01053/LB – DM/17/0105/AD
Replacement illuminated and non illuminated advert
Bonny Moor Hen
Stanhope
Hawthorn Leisure

DM/17/01156/FPA
Additional entrance, separation of dwelling, rear extension
51 Front Street
Stanhope
Mr & Mrs Hintz

DM/17/01175/PNT
15m high telegraph pole, 2 x antennas, 2 x transmission dishes (200mm)
2 x cabinets (1 x cabinet, 1 x link ac cabinet, 1 x satellite dish (1200mm) and
Associated ancillary equipment
Road verge on A689
Killhope south of
Clough House
Lanehead
EE UK Ltd

DM/17/00884/FPA
Retention of oil tank with screening and fence and gate to northern boundary
3 Stotsfieldburn
Rookhope
Ms M Gleghorn

DM/17/01295/LB –DM/17/012941/FPA
Two self contained family annexes and associated internal and external works
Frosterley House
57 Front Street
Frosterley
Mr G Mee

DM/17/01317/FPA
Retention of two conservatories to rear
East View
Westgate
Colin Ashton

DM/17/0131/FPA
Extension of Betsdale Caravan Park with associated Ancillary Dev
Betsdale Caravan Park
Frosterley
CM & V Dobson

PLANNING APPROVALS

DM/17/00214/VOC

Removal of conditions 6,7,and 15 of application 3/2011/0101

(Water vole report submitted 18/04/2017

Mr M Gowland

DM/17/01902/FPA

Silage Clamp (original application no DM/17/00280/DNA

Harehope Farm

White Kirkley

Mr & Mrs J Dobson

DM/17/00430/FPA

Single storey side extensions and porch to front

Stone Carrs

Westgate

MR J Stubbs

DM/17/00509/FPA

Garage, store, observatory, single storage side extension and replacement porch

High Brandon

Rookhope

Dr P Sugden

DM/17/00511/FPA

Single storey rear extension

Ivy Dene

Eastgate

Mr & Mrs G Atwill

PLANNING APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN

DM/17/00698/PNT

15m high telegraph pole, 2 x antennas, 2 x transmission dishes (200mm)

2 x cabinets (1 x cabinet, 1 x link ac cabinet, 1 x satellite dish (1200mm) and

Associated ancillary equipment

Road verge on A689

Killhope south of

Clough House

Lanehead

EE UK Ltd

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FINANCE

1. Eastgate PCC would like to apply for the annual churchyard maintenance grant. **Resolved:** £300 agreed as previous years
2. Citizens Advice County Durham would like us to send a donation to help them to continue supporting people. The service is impartial, independent, confidential and free to all residents of County Durham
3. The cheque for Frosterley Village Hall grant money £500 has never been cashed and is now out of date. A new one needs to be re-issued. **Resolved:** It was agreed to send another cheque
4. Cllr Mews has served on Stanhope Parish Council for thirty four years and it was felt that the Parish Council should do something. **Resolved:** Clerk to ask P Dobson how much it would cost for a photo taken from Softley looking onto the Old Hall, A4 size and framed
5. St Andrews Church, Westgate would like to apply for the annual churchyard maintenance grant. **Resolved:** Clerk to send £300
6. Bank Reconciliation figures and receipts and payment figures were discussed. **Resolved:** Figures agreed
7. Annual Governance Statement was approved and signed by the chairman and the clerk
8. The Accounting Statement figures were approved and signed by the chairman and the clerk
9. Change of signatories for cheques three to add and two to take off
10. Laptop running very slow and is now seven years old prices. **Resolved:** Cllr Mrs Humble to take advice on which laptop is the best
11. Heatherycleugh PCC would like to apply for the Annual Churchyard maintenance grant. **Resolved:** Clerk to send £300
12. St Thomas Heatherycleugh are having problems with the trees in the churchyard and have obtained quotes to make the trees safe. Would the Parish Council be able to provide any financial assistance **Resolved:** Cllr Mrs Humble to find out how much the quotes were for

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RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk assessment was discussed and it was agreed that two sets of minutes be sent to Cllr Mrs Humble, Cllr Mrs Sutcliff, Cllr M Brewin to be put up in the Village Halls. A set of minutes will be at the Weardale Gazette office in Stanhope

9751

AAP REPORT

Nothing is happening at the moment with purdah and the board meeting was cancelled until June or July. Cllr Thompson has stood down but will attend the meetings if Cllr Craig cannot attend so that there is representative for the Parish Council attending

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ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Eastgate PCC	£300.00
DCC Community Highways Worker invoice	£9545.44
DCC Hire of meeting room March	£45.00
Npower Northern Ltd street lighting Stanhope	£976.30
Npower Northern Ltd continuous public lighting	£19.91
Frosterley Village Hall grant money cheque re-issued	£500.00
BT Clerks phone bill	£170.69
Stanhope Parish Council – Scottish Widows	£30,000.00
Npower – Ashcroft play area	£57.83
JRB Enterprise Dog Bags	£537.60
St Andrews PCC	£300.00
S Anderson Salary	£521.32
HM Rev Paye	£111.00
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
S Anderson Expenses	£73.56
County Durham Association of Local Councils	£626.54
NWG Business Daddry Shield Toilets	£28.21
DCC Hire of meeting room April	£74.00
Heatherycleugh PCC	£300.00
Total	£44,222.40
Receipts	
Precept	£47,096.00

9753

NEW MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Cllr Blackett mentioned that the main A689 road at Killhope top to Alston has some very bad pot holes. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
2. Cllr Craig commented that work has started on the Band room. The on-going saga of the litter pick has now been resolved and it was agreed that the road verges had not been picked to Westgate and in future it would be done. Cllr Craig met with the Community Highway worker to show him the grassed over gullies which he will clean out.
3. Cllr Thompson mentioned that Rookhope is in the process of having the cables buried which will be better when it is completed
4. Cllr Mrs Hutchinson would like to make sure that the bench opposite the pub is replanked and is not taken away. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
5. The motorbikes are causing problems again with speeding on a Sunday morning and Wednesday evenings when the weather is right. It is not just a Weardale problem but any incidents should be reported to the police so that they are aware of it.
6. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff would like to report some large potholes between Bridge End and Newhouse. **Resolved;** Clerk to report to DCC
7. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned Wearhead toilets and they were not in a tidy state. **Resolved:** The up dale councillors will keep an eye on them
8. Cllr Miss Carrick would like to see the large Lafarge sign taken down and Cllr Blackett commented that there was a sign still up for Nenthead Mines which was no longer relevant. **Resolved:** Cllr Mrs Hutchinson will deal with the sign and the clerk will contact DCC regarding the brown tourist direction sign
9. Cllr Mrs Humble would like a link to the Weardale Visitor Network on the Parish Councils website as it will complimentary to our site. **Resolved;** Councillors agreed to this
10. At Lanehead on the roadside by Cragstile there is a kissing gate which is in a bad state of repair. It has been mentioned before that it is the land owners responsibility but as it is used everyday maybe DCC would replace it. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
11. Cllr Mrs Humble mentioned that the clerk needs a contract of employment which she can organise. It will be brought to the next meeting to discuss the terms and conditions
12. Cllr Miss Graham would like it noted that the back road from Daddry Shield to Stanhope had no litter and that cyclists on the road should exercise more care when there are people walking. We have a very beautiful dale

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Clerks Business

The acceptance of office forms were handed around to be signed and also the pecuniary interests forms to be filled in and brought back for the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Date of next meeting Wednesday 7th June 2017 at Dales Centre commencing at 7pm

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