

## STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017

### PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs A Humble Chairman

Cllr D Ellwood, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr Miss R Graham, Cllr D Craig, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr Mrs H Maddison, Cllr Mrs K Hutchinson, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr B Thompson, Cllr Mrs S Thompson

### Also Present:

Northgate – Parish Website

Mr Andrew Fishburn

### 9823

#### **Apologies for Absence**

All councillors in attendance

### 9824

#### **To Receive any Declarations of Interest from Members**

None received

### 9825

#### **Minutes of the meeting held on October 4<sup>th</sup> 2017**

On page one 'plus seven vehicles' should read this is the equivalent of an extra seven vehicles  
Minutes were moved as a true and correct record and were signed by the chairman

### 9826

#### **Police and the Community**

PC Crampsie will be attending the December meeting and has sent the following replies

#### **Cllr Brewin is concerned about the number of cars parked on the pavements in Frosterley?**

This is a valid point that has been highlighted however a very difficult one to resolve. All persons parked on the pavement in anyway commit an offence which can be dealt with by means of a ticket. I would urge the Council to consider that if the vehicles in Frosterley were not on the pavement then they would be fully on the road and would probably narrow the main carriageway to one lane which would probably be potentially more of a problem and we would not be able to prevent this as there is nothing currently to enforce in that area so they could park on the road legally and there would be nothing we could do about it. I would suggest that we look at sensible/responsible parking. The rule of thumb we use is that a double pushchair or wheelchair should be able to pass. If that is not the case we would look at other options and consider offences for obstruction.

**Cllr Mrs Maddison would like to report that children are playing in the churchyard and climbing on a mound of soil and then onto the wall. We have asked for the mound to be removed**

Again this is also valid there has been a couple of reports regarding youths in the cemetery committing ASB. At present Frosterley is a desirable area for youths to congregate and misbehave. This was discussed at the recent PACT meeting but not adopted as a priority as the persons present selected another matter to be focussed on. Despite this a certain instigator of the ASB in Frosterley has been adopted as a neighbourhood policing target and he will be dealt with robustly, so hopefully things will quieten down. I can confirm that this area is being monitored.

**Cllr Blackett would like to report that cars are parking on the footpath by the doctors surgery at St John's Chapel**

This is still being monitored but again we have to bear in mind the Frosterley situation and parking and I believe at this is very similar. It is likely to be persons using the doctors surgery infrequently and consideration could be given to link in with the surgery to get them to speak to patients about parking more considerately.(this could be done in a form of a letter from the parish requesting this?) **Resolved:** The councillors would like a letter to go to the surgery for them to put a notice up saying please park responsibly as pedestrians need to use the footpath

**Cllr Mrs Sutcliff would like to know has the automated number plate recognition been in place in the dale**

Yes, ANPR has now been placed in two locations in Weardale, awaiting the third. The locations remain undisclosed for obvious reasons.

**9827**

#### **Interviews for Stanhope Urban**

One of the applicants sends their apologies as they feel at this moment in time they cannot commit to the post. Cllr Mrs Humble formerly co-opted Mr Andrew Fishburn onto the Parish Council as Ward Councillor for Stanhope Urban.

**9828**

#### **Matters Arising**

1. **STEPS LEADING TO THE STEPPING STONES** – This job has been passed onto Highways
2. **POLES ON THE ROOKHOPE TO ALLENHEADS ROAD** - This was passed to Highways as there are too many poles for the Community Highways Worker to paint
3. **ROADSIDE VERGES** - The verges are now being cut
4. **GENERAL WORK** – The Community Highways Worker is currently sweeping/clearing leaves and checking drains/gullies and ditches before the weather turns
5. **ROAD TO THE ELEPHANT TREES** – The road was inspected on 15<sup>th</sup> September and is a single track rural road which is predominantly used by local farmers. The road surface is old and worn but there are no actionable defects. The road will be added to a future Surfacing Program. DCC may need to carry out a longer term work, and have added this to the work programme for completion in the next 12 months **Resolved:** Clerk to send a thank you letter thanking DCC for inspecting the road

6. **PARISH OF OLD HEATHERYCLEUGH CHURCHYARD** - We have been sent a copy of the Final Order dated 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017, relating to burials in the Parish of Old Heatherycleugh Churchyard, Copt Hill, Cowshill.
7. **LAND SLIP IN ASHES QUARRY** – A letter was sent to who DCC believed was the rightful landowner according to Durham Land Registry details in April 2017. It became apparent that they were not the owner of the land. A further letter was sent to whom DCC understand to be the owner on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017. No response has been received and DCC have no powers of enforcement. It has been made clear the consequences to the owner if they feel no preventative measures are required and an incident occurs. DCC cannot justify pursuing this matter any further
8. **STREET NAME PLATES** – The request has been forwarded to the relevant department for consideration and will be progressed accordingly. DCC no longer remove street name plates above a certain height. Three new name plates can be installed at the three locations as post and tray in the footpath. **Resolved:** It was decided not to go ahead with the new signs
9. **PARKING PROBLEMS REQUEST FOR A LOADING BAY** – The request for a loading bay has been added to DCC's future schemes list that officers will look at when changing or implementing restrictions in the area. This is a lengthy process as consultations would need to be carried out and the legal Traffic Regulation Order amended before lines can be put down, so in the meantime DCC suggest Contacting the Police to resolve any obstruction issues
10. **BOG BANK, ROOKHOPE** – This has been strimmed 1.2mtr from the roadside and around roadside markers. D Hunt has been informed that this is wildflower-rich area. The Community Highways worker diary sheets have been sent
11. **GRASS VERGE, HEIGHTS QUARRY** – This will be cut twice a year as requested
12. **THE MOSS ON THE ROADSIDE BETWEEN FROSTERLEY AND STANHOPE** – This is being looked into and an update will be provided
13. **THE FOOTPATH FROM EASTGATE TO STATION ROAD HEAD** – Works have been completed
14. **CAR PARK AT FROSTERLEY** – This has been completed and will be continued to be monitored over the coming weeks and the leaves will be cleared
15. **WHITS HILL, ST JOHNS CHAPEL** – This is being looked into and an update will be provided
16. **ASHES QUARRY FOOTPATH** – The whole in the footpath has been reported to M Murden and has again been forwarded to the bridges team. M Murden will provide updates
17. **OVERHANGING BRANCHES BETWEEN COWSHILL AND WEARHEAD** – Works required will be completed by DCC Abor Team
18. **BRANCHES BEFORE THE SCHOOL AT WEARHEAD BRIDGE** – Works will be completed by DCC Abor Team
19. **FOOTPATH BETWEEN WESTGATE AND ST JOHNS CHAPEL** – This work has been started and the footpath has been weeded, swept and the grass edged off, work will continue over the coming weeks
20. **WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUE FROM TOWN HALL, STANHOPE** – Facilities Team at DCC have confirmed the War Memorial Plaque is kept in storage at County Hall, Durham. As it belongs to Stanhope it would be nice to have it back in Stanhope. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the PCC and see if there is room in the church or the Church hall
21. **LAURA PIDCOCK VISIT** – The MP has had to cancel due to a vote having to be taken in Parliament. Wednesdays are not a good night but sometimes she can make a Thursday. A representative is willing to attend on her before on a Wednesday or this Friday she is having an Open-Forum at the Dales Centre between 6-7.30pm if any councillors would like to attend then. The whole point of the invite was to meet the MP and to discuss the problems of the area. **Resolved:** Clerk to send a list of the Parish Council meetings and for the MP to pick a date that she can attend

22. **NE AMBULANCE** – Mr McDougall attended the last meeting and he was going to look into a few points and send the Parish Council a reply, as yet he has sent no reply. **Resolved:** Clerk to chase up
23. **PARAGON STREET ROAD WORKS** – Cllr Miss Graham would like Traffic Management contacting to look at the traffic light system on Paragon Street. They are causing problems with access onto the main road and onto the back lane **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
24. **LITTER FINES** – Cllr Miss Graham would like to know when the signs will be back in Weardale **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
25. **WESTGATE PLAY AREA** – Cllr Craig has looked at the Play Area and the seats have sunk. They need digging out and replanking. There are some moles but Cllr Craig decided that they weren't causing a problem at the moment
26. **REQUEST FROM CLLR BREWIN** - Cllr Brewin would like PC Crampsie to contact him urgently **Resolved:** Clerk to contact PC Crampsie again
27. **SIGNS AND MOUND OF SOIL, FROSTERLEY** – The signs that need replacing at Frosterley have not been done yet and the mound of soil in the Churchyard still needs removing **Resolved** : Clerk to contact D Hunt again regarding the signs and D Gillett about the Churchyard
28. **SELF-SEEDED TREES** – The self seeded trees still need removing on the roadside between Eastgate and Westgate **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
29. **FLOWER BEDS AT STANHOPE** – The flower bed has not been planted as you come into Stanhope from Eastgate **Resolved:** Clerk to report again to DCC
30. **LIGHTS AT ST JOHN'S CHAPEL** - The lights are burning all the time **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
31. **NEWTOWN HOUSE** – There is still no update on Newtown House **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC for an update as its four years since it closed

9829

#### Correspondence Received

1. We have received notification of Changes to Weardale Practice Service Provision to stop its medication dispensing services at St John's Chapel branch surgery with effect from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Finding and keeping staff in a rural is a challenge which many rural practices face. At St Johns Chapel two qualified dispensers are needed to provide a clinically safe dispensing service. Since December 2016 there has only been one trained dispenser and despite advertising have been unable to recruit another. The service has been kept running by using a dispenser from another organisation and by training staff internally. Dispensing takes 18 months and the practice has lost four dispensers in the last three years. Due to another staff member moving on there are now no trained dispensers at the practice. This means there is no choice but to close the dispensary at St John's Chapel Surgery as the practice is no longer able to safely dispense medication to patients. The Partners are sorry for the distress and inconvenience that closing the service will cause. Communication with NHS England has taken place and the decision has not been taken lightly. Some providers offer a delivery service, the surgery can help patients to access this and complete any necessary paperwork. A discussion took place and all questions were asked at the meeting held at the Town Hall, St John's Chapel.
2. The Auckland Project is having a positive impact upon Bishop Auckland and it will also help fill beds in tourist accommodations in Weardale. Mr Heatherington was able to voice a concern that new and developing attractions outside Weardale may have the effect of drawing tourists out of the Dale for the day to spend their money while they use Weardale as a dormitory. The whole region should benefit from the Auckland Project and that if visitors stay longer it might result in more visits to the Dales. The question is how do we engage with the Auckland Project to help bring this about

3. The Annual Forum 2017 of the North Pennines AONB will be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Melmerby Village Hall between 2pm-5pm
4. Details have been sent of the National Tree Week from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Completed applications to be received by 13<sup>th</sup> November. A 100% grant up to a maximum of £150 is available to Parish Councils, Community Groups and Schools wishing to undertake well-planned tree planting projects during National Tree Week
5. S Ragg has sent the draft NALC Annual Report which is being considered for approval at the NALC AGM on October 30<sup>th</sup> in Milton Keynes
6. PCVC Ron Hogg is holding a PCVC Local Heroes event at the Locomotion in Shildon on 28<sup>th</sup> October Parish Councillors are invited to attend
7. S Ragg has sent details of the latest NALC Chief Executives Bulletin. NALC are to address four key areas Council tax referendum principles, multi-year settlement, new homes bonus and business rates retention.

### 9830

#### Light Up the Dale

**LIGHT UP THE DALE** – The clerk was asked to find out about the possibility of the group using the Parish Councils public liability cover. Zurich advised that the Parish Council would have to take some responsibility and that 50% of the committee must consist of Parish Councillors. The only dangers being if the group decided to expand their activities and would the Parish Council want to take that on. Also would the lights and decorations need insuring? Another option would be for the Parish Council to take the project on and use the group as volunteers. Zurich also mentioned that they do an online policy for non for profit organisations starting at £75. Cllr Mrs Maddison asked if the group could come under the Parish Councils insurance so that Stanhope could have a Christmas Tree this year and use the constitution, by next year they will be organised and will be an independent group.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the group could come under the Parish Councils insurance so that this year there would be a Christmas tree in Stanhope. The clerk will write to the group stating this and also we must have a copy of the Risk Assessment and the testing certificate of the lights

### 9831

#### Dales Centre Costs of Hire

We need to try and negotiate the price as some groups don't pay the same as the Parish Council does **Resolved:** Clerk to ask for a quote

### 9832

#### Planning Matters

DM/17/02989/FPA

Conversion of Methodist Chapel to form 2 no dwellings

St Johns Methodist Chapel

Hood Street

St Johns Chapel

DM/17/03385/FPA  
Conversion of barn to dwelling  
Barn to the east of  
Laneside Farm  
Wearhead

DM/17/03446/FPA  
Dwelling  
Land to the west of  
Weardale Inn  
Ireshopeburn

An objection letter has been received about this application which was read out. The councillors have concerns about the materials to be used **Resolved:** Clerk to object on the grounds that it is in view of listed buildings, its not in keeping with Weardale, design is out of character and the materials and there is no flood risk provided with the plans

#### PLANNING APPROVALS

DM/17/02466/LB  
Listed building consent to remove internal wall  
43 Front Street  
Frosterley

DM/17/02695/FPA  
Proposed agricultural building to straw storage  
West Newlands Hall  
Frosterley

DM/17/02844/VOC  
Variation of condition 2 of application DM/15/02300/FPA in relation to revised design and positioning of previously approved dwellings (retrospective)  
Petrol Filling Station  
Britton Hall  
Westgate

DM/17/02694/FPA  
Additional front entrance alterations and rear extension  
51 Front Street  
Stanhope

DM/17/02933/FPA  
Replace timber windows and door with UPVC  
14 Kirk Rise  
Frosterley

## APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN

DM/15/01453/LB  
Repair roof  
3&4 Stotsfieldburn  
Rookhope

### 9833

#### Finance

1. The Bank Reconciliation figures for the end of September were handed around **Resolved:** Figures were agreed
2. The Great North Air Ambulance would like the Parish Council to consider in donating a grant to the charity **Resolved:** It was agreed to send a donation of £500

### 9834

#### AAP Report

The Annual Forum has recently been held and the Priorities for the year were voted on. First was support for local groups, Children and Young People, Culture, Tourism and Heritage. The next meeting is on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov at 2pm at the Dales Centre

### 9835

#### Accounts for Payment

Smith of Derby Wearhead Memorial Clock Service	£222.00
Smith of Derby Frosterley Village Clock Service	£222.00
Smith of Derby Westgate Memorial Clock Service	£222.00
BT Clerks phone bill	£118.47
Makepeace Motors Grass cutting Old Churchyard Stanhope	£1377.12
Makepeace Motors Crosshill Allotments rebuild fence/cut up tree	£390.00
Makepeace Motors Daddry Shield Toilets	£1260.00
Makepeace Motors Footpath Clearance June/Sept	£1920.00
Npower Ashcroft Play Area	£51.50

NWG Business Public Conv Daddry Shield	£56.65
S Anderson Salary	£544.70
S Anderson Expenses	£47.18
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
HM Rev PAYE	£117.00
NWG Business Old Cemetery	£12.16
Great North Air Ambulance	£500.00
TOTAL	£7095.78

#### ACCOUNTS FOR RECEIPTS

VAT Refund	£3899.08
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#### 9836

##### New Matters for Discussion

1. Cllr Mrs Maddison mentioned the cars travelling over the grass down from the bus shelter near to Butts Head **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC again
2. A new list of all the councillors should be given to everyone **Resolved:** Clerk to send out
3. Cllr Craig mentioned about the minutes going in the gazette as unconfirmed minutes a discussion took place **Resolved:** A vote took place and it was agreed that only the approved minutes go into the gazette and the website when it is finished
4. The leaves need removing from the gullies west of the telephone exchange and also on the north side of the road **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
5. Apparently the AONB have objected to some tree planting and in the Teasdale Mercury the Forestry Commission are offering grants for planting small blocks of woodland. Hawthorn, Rowan and holly are been planted but not Spruce and Scots Pine. **Resolved:** Cllr Craig would like to know what the policy of the AONB is for tree planting
6. There is a new transformer going in at Westgate some of the cables will be buried
7. Cllr Thompson would like to report that the electric work should be completed in the next two weeks and there's no electric for the mobile telephone mast
8. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like to report that the block paving outside the flats needs repairing on the Market Place, St John's Chapel. **Resolved:** Clerk to report it
9. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff would like the road resurfacing from Bridge End to Ireshopeburn **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
10. Cllr Ellwood attended the CDALC AGM as representative for Weardale. There were seventy councillors from Durham at the meeting and Cllr Ellwood was made very welcome and it was worth being there.
11. Cllr Miss Graham would like the information on the tree planting week **Resolved:** Clerk will email the information



12. Cllr Miss Carrick would like to report some nettles that need removing from Crosshill Allotments **Resolved:** Clerk to report to D Hunt
13. The leaves need clearing away from the cut between West Terrace and Cowgarth Hill **Resolved:** Clerk to report to D Hunt
14. There are a block of lights off from the top of West Terrace to Ashes House, Stanhope **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
15. The triple flower pot on the Market Place, Stanhope that was knocked over needs replanting **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
16. There is a loose bottom stone on the small wall up from the Grey Bull, Stanhope that needs repairing **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
17. The bridge in the Dene, Stanhope near Widely needs some new planks on as there is a whole in the bridge **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
18. Cllr Mrs Humble would like to report the footpath between Killhopeburn Bridge and Lanehead Bridge that it requires way marking and some stiles **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
19. The gate at Craghead ,Wellhope remains in a dilapidated state, can M Murden write to the land owner if it is their responsibility to repair it **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
20. The footbridge has not been repaired yet between Bridge End Cottage and Low Allers **Resolved:** Clerk to report again
21. We need to contact P Dobson the photographer to arrange to take Cllr A Fishburns photograph along with a picture for Stanhope Rural **Resolved:** Clerk to arrange

**9837**

**Clerks Business**

S Ragg would like all Parish Councils to adopt the Revised Code of Conduct which has the addition of “disrepute” to the existing NALC Code of Conduct. This is under Member Obligations point 3. We then have to advise S Ragg when we have adopted it.

**Resolved:** Stanhope Parish Council have adopted the Revised Code of Conduct on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017

At Crosshill Allotments there is a plot not let that is very overgrown as it has not be let for a number of years. Someone is interested but feels as it stands it is too much to take on. Would it be possible for Simon to tidy it up and weed kill it this would cost £280 plus vat or he could bring the digger in and leave it dug over for £450 plus vat. Some else is willing to take the plot as it stands. **Resolved:** The councillors decided to let the person take it on as it stands and the other person to get a plot when one becomes available

**Meting closed at 8.45pm**

**Next meeting Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at Dales Centre commencing at 7pm**

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