

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in Eastgate Village Hall on 1st November 2023

PRESENT:

Cllr D Craig, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr E Buchanan, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr P Turton, Cllr M Brewin,

Cllr R Lawrie, Cllr Mrs S Thompson

Cllr Miss J Carrick – Chairman

Susan Anderson - Clerk

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Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mrs S Smart, Cllr Mrs C Burdis, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes, Cllr J Shuttleworth

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To Receive any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

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Minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2023

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

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Matters Arising

1. **BROKEN KERB AT FROSTERLEY** – The kerb has been repaired opposite the Co-op in Frosterley.
2. **BONDISLE ALLOTMENTS** – Complete Weed Control have been out and treated the whole area again. Part of the small fence had come down but the post will be knocked back in again. Photographs of the site have been sent.
3. **ASHCROFT PLAY PARK** – a site meeting took place and some photos were taken which were sent to the councillors. The top left hand corner gate into the MUGA may need to come off as it has been scraping across the tarmac on the previous surface and the new surface will be slightly higher. The contractor is going to try and lift the hinges but there is a possibility that the gate may have to come off permanently and the metal bits will be smoothed to make them safe. The electrician was there to fit the new lights. The next stage is for the tarmac to settle and dry and the line painting is booked in for the back end of October. With the weather being unsettled the lines have not been painted on yet

4. **STONE BRIDGE, STANHOPE** – The stone bridge is a schedule ancient monument and DCC have to apply to Historic England for permission to do any work to the bridge. This has been noted as urgent and hopefully will be repaired in December.
5. **BURNFOOT, ST JOHNS CHAPEL** – The traffic engineer cannot put a timescale on the repainting works at Burnfoot. He is hoping it will be within the next month, weather and schedule dependant.
6. **RESURFACING, CRAWLEYSIDE BANK** – The B6278 Crawleyside Bank is present on our Capital carriageway resurfacing evaluation list. The carriage way was assessed on 20th September 2023. The 2024/25 Capital resurfacing programme is not yet formed, as inspections of the county are not yet complete. The programme should be publicly available around February 2024. With prioritised works being undertaken within the 2024/25 financial year from April 2024 to April 2025. If Crawleyside bank is not prioritised as part of this programme, it will remain on DCC evaluation list to be considered in future years.
7. **B&B's in COUNTY DURHAM** – The total number of B&B's in County Durham is 144 with 6,305 beds. The councillors felt that this number could not be correct. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC again
8. **KEEP CLEAR NEAR TO LIME TREE YARD** – This has been added to the ongoing work programme and will be processed in line with the repairs policy.
9. **ROAD SIGN, WEARHEAD**- On this occasion our report on the road signs is not considered to be hazardous or dangerous. A record will be kept for potential inclusion in a future schedule of work.
10. **FAIR RIDES AND FOOD STALLS SHOW WEEKEND** – The resident will be taking her concerns to DCC. The email was sent to the councillors.
11. **STREET LIGHTING FRONT STREET STANHOPE** – The light has now been repaired so is resolved and closed.
12. **WESTGATE PLAY PARK** – Cllr Craig mentioned that a farmer who borders the playpark has given permission for the rabbits to be shot on his land so this should help the problem of the rabbits in the playpark.
13. **AAP POTENTIAL OFFICE MOVE** – The councillors felt that we must write to DCC to keep the AAP Office in the Dales Centre. There is the possibility that the office may move to Crook. People in the dale pop into the office all of the time and will not want to travel to Crook. They are valuable and need to be kept in Stanhope. **Resolved:** Clerk to write

10862

Correspondence Received

1. An email came in to report a light out at Middle Black Dene. A works order was sent to DCC to have the light repaired.
2. We have received an email from the WAAP that Frosterley Play Park will be refurbished and that there is a meeting on Thursday 26th October from 4pm-6pm. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like to know what plans there are for St Johns Chapel Playpark as she has enquired numerous times.
3. CDALC sent an email on the Appointment of CDALC President which was sent to all the councillors.
4. The Weardale Natural Flood Management Demonstrator Project is complete and the newsletter has been sent to all of the councillors.
5. A tenant from Westgate Allotments has some rubbish that needs collecting from the plot that he took over a few months ago. It was discussed that when a plot is given up it should be inspected to make sure that no rubbish is being left for the next tenant. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff felt that it should be added into the agreement. This needs discussing again. **Resolved:** Clerk to put onto the February Agenda

6. Stanhope Hartwell Educational Foundation have sent the Receipts and Payments for the financial year ended 31st March 2023.
7. A tenant from Crosshill has rang to say the plots fence has come down and they cannot manage to get it put up. They were wondering if the Parish Council could do it or have any suggestions. As the Parish Council has many other allotment plots we cannot repair fencing on plots it is up to the tenant. **Resolved:** Clerk to write
8. Angelina Maddison has sent an email which was circulated to all of the councillors. The project at St Johns Chapel is a collection of three funding streams, the application has been successfully processed in terms of the paperwork. The project will be going out to tender shortly. The refurbishment will consist of new flooring, springers and a multi-play unit as it is a small area to work with. The Frosterley Play Area being larger is large enough to redesign the play equipment. The AAP has been approached by groups who would like to contribute towards the funding so to ensure the communities aspirations are understood we are holding consultation events on Thursday 26th.
9. There are two plots at the very back of Dunsfield Farm Estate that are vacant. There is someone interested in taking one of them but the plot needs halving and strimming down. If this is done then the resident will take one of the plots on. **Resolved:** Plot to be halved.
10. The Weardale Museum have sent their Autumn Newsletter which I have sent to the councillors.

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County Councillor Update

No update this month

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Planning Matters

DM/23/026781/FPA

Installation of a micro wind turbine for domestic use

Low Lintzgarth

Rookhope

DM/23/02897/FPA

Proposed side extension of first floor

Fellside House

Crawleyside

DM/23/03010/FPA

Conversion of outbuildings to create annex with external alterations including the raising of the roof

Additional fenestrations

Newlands Hall

Frosterley

10865

Finance

1. All Saints Church, Eastgate would like to apply for the £300 churchyard maintenance grant. **Resolved:** Agreed
2. The Bank Reconciliation figures and budget for 30th Sept were sent to the councillors. The grant money of £32,000 has been transferred into the current account. The invoices from Surfacing standards plus the difference of £1580.36 has been transferred from the playground/community account. **Resolved:** Agreed

3. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned the cost of the Poppy Wreaths for all of the villages. A discussion took place as to whether we go back to one poppy wreath for the chairman or to alternate a poppy wreath every year to the villages in the parish.
4. The pumpkin prize for each allotment needs agreeing and also something for the judge. Bondisle – E Craggs, Willard Grove – B Bowman, Cowshill – S Lumb, Old Hall – K Heppell, Westgate - S Aldred, Ireshopeburn- S Andrews. **Resolved:** It was agreed to purchase six 15KG bags of 6X for the prize winners. Cllr Brewin mentioned it was £9 per bag from Amazon. The judge to receive the same thank you as last year.
5. Cllr Buchanan felt that the purchase of the Royal British Legion Poppy wreaths was more important than the prize money for the allotments. It was discussed that maybe next year we would do a Best Kept Allotment in Weardale with one prize of a years free rent rather than every allotment site.
6. The quote received from Npower should not have been given. I have tried Eon, Octopus Energy and Scottish Power none of them will quote as it is a non-metered supply for the street lighting. Years ago, DCC would not adopt the street lights that the Parish Council pay the repairs on. The councillors feel that maybe we should try and see if DCC would adopt them now. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC

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AAP Report

The Frosterley Play Park was mentioned. The Muggleswick Church camping is at the planning stage and if it does not go through in the required time scale there will be more money available for the play parks.

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Accounts for Payment

SURFACING STANDARDS LTD CHAIR PRE-START MEETING PROVISION & PREP OF FORMS OF CONTRACT	£2,220.00
EB SPORTS ASHCROFT MUGA	£33,580.36
WAVE DADDRY SHIELD TOILETS	£71.53
BT CLERKS PHONE BILL - PAID	£79.44
WAVE OLD CEMETERY, STANHOPE	£19.37
DCC REPAIR OF STREET LIGHTING POLE	£240.00
EON NEXT ASHCROFT PAID	£38.08
MAKEPEACE MOTORS ALLOTMENTS, CROSSHILL, WESTGATE, WILLARD GROVE	£2312.88
MAKEPEACE MOTORS GRASS CUTTING CHURCHYARD	£1514.83
MAKEPEACE MOTORS FOOTPATH CLEARANCE	£2016.00
MAKEPEACE MOTORS PLAYGROUND REPAIRS 2023	£1054.80
S ANDERSON SALARY	£904.08

HM REV & CUSTOMS	£20.16
S ANDERSON EXPENSES	£12.00
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00
ALL SAINTS CHURCH EASTGATE	£300.00
CLLR MISS J CARRICK ROSE BUSH	£24.90
EASTGATE VILLAGE HALL	£30.00
TOTAL	£44,473.43

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New Matters for Discussion

1. Cllr Mrs Thompson received a phone call from High Farm External Cleaning who would like to give something back to the dale. He would like to clean the roof and guttering of moss from the toilets at St Johns Chapel. These belong to DCC but the toilets at Daddry Shield belong to the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs Thompson will check that he has the necessary insurance and to see if he actually wants to do Daddry Shield. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact our contractor
2. A resident from Daddry Shield has died and the family have asked if the toilets can be left open until 9th November. **Resolved:** Agreed
3. Cllr Mrs Thompson mentioned the lack of home carers in the dale and the Parish Council need to voice our concerns to DCC. Families are struggling with finding local carers and people coming out of hospital are having carers travelling from miles into the dale. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC
4. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff would like to report a pothole at the bottom of Harthope Road just as you turn the corner. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
5. At the bottom of four lane ends the new surface has been scraped by a low loader and a hole is getting bigger. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
6. The poppies this year at St Johns Chapel are fantastic and the horse is back.
7. Cllr Craig would like a reminder sending to Joy Allen for her attendance at the December meeting. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact her office
8. Cllr Buchanan mentioned that it has been three months since the playground warning sign at Ireshopeburn/Wearhead was taken away. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
9. Cllr Buchanan is concerned about the road to Cowshill where the water is lying on the road in case it freezes and causes an accident. Cllr Blackett commented that the pipe under the road will be blocked. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
10. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned that the two planters outside the church in Stanhope are half planted. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
11. Cllr Miss Carrick greeted the Mayor of Bishop Auckland at Stanhope Railway Station who was impressed with the railway and was good publicity for Stanhope.
12. When the Dales Centre closes over Christmas for two weeks Stanhope will be without toilets again apart from the ones by the stepping stones. Cllr Miss Carrick would like some portable toilets there as when tourists arrive there are no facilities for them.

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Clerks Business
Nothing to report

Meeting Closed at 8.25pm

Date of next meeting Wednesday 6th December at Eastgate Village Hall commencing at 7pm

.....**signed**.....**date**