

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 4th October 2017

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs A Humble Chairman

Cllr D Ellwood, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr Miss F Graham (took the minutes)

Cllr D Craig, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr Mrs H Maddison, Cllr Mrs K Hutchinson, Cllr M Brewin,

Cllr B Thompson

Also Present:

Mr Douglas McDougall – NHS Ambulance Service

Mrs J Heatherington

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Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mrs S Thompson

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To Receive any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

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Minutes of the meeting held on September 6th 2017

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

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Police and the Community

PC Crampsie was unable to attend the October meeting and is not available to attend in November. He could send a representative for November but can attend himself in December

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Mr D McDougall – NE Ambulance Service

Cllr Mrs Humble welcomed Mr Mc Dougall to the meeting .The Parish Council wrote to NEAS at the beginning of June expressing their concerns over the length of time a resident had to wait for an ambulance. Since then the Parish Council have obtained under the Freedom of Information Act Ambulance Response times for the first six months of the year which shows only 42% of calls are within the response times. The mandate is 75% in eight minutes but no region is meeting this. We are the lowest funded ambulance service in the UK with the lowest number of paramedics. Funding has recently been received to recruit forty two more paramedics and forty two health care support workers plus seven vehicles.

Referring to the 999 incident an investigation has shown that the call taken through the triage pathway was incorrect when the information was taken so priority was not identified. The second

call handler did everything correctly and upgraded to priority. Assurances have been given that it would not happen again. This incident has identified a glitch in the triage system, which has been rectified locally and nationally. A councillor would like to know why the ambulance came from Prudhoe but Mr McDougall was unsure where the ambulance attended the last patient. Cllr Mrs Humble asked about other responders and services and why they were not called.

Mr McDougall confirmed that Weardale is manned twenty four hours at St John's Chapel. The rota system of staffing was explained. Sickness level is at 7% across the region. Cllr Craig would like to know why when one of the paramedics was sick why did the other one not respond to the incident up the dale, Mr McDougall would look into this. There is an aging society in the dale and nationally, Mr McDougall mentioned that there are new ambulance standards that have been introduced.

These will hopefully start on 1st November 2017 and officially from 1st April 2018.

Cllr Craig asked how to find a patient is it by post codes, is there a procedure to call back the centre for directions to find the patient.

On the 27th August 2017 the Parish Council sent a letter to NEAS concerning a quad bike accident, as yet no reply or acknowledgement has been received. Cllr Blackett enquired do 999 calls go to a satellite when there is no mobile signal, Mr Mc Dougall was unsure and will get back to the Parish Council. Cllr Ellwood asked how much of the budget is used on the Community Ambulance. None of the budget is used as this is paid for by charity as Cllr M Brewin confirmed. It may be commissioned by the NHS who will pay an agreed rate for the service.

Mrs Heatherington asked about the air ambulance and who can ask for it, the paramedic can ask for it to attend as the control room can see and monitor the calls on screen. The air ambulance does not fly at night time, however the police helicopter does and it can be called upon. Mrs Heatherington mentioned that Dales residents are so uncertain about the ambulance service that they are taking people themselves to hospital. Cllr Thompson asked why trained paramedics are leaving the service. Mr McDougall replied mostly because of the salary. The government has recently increased the salary from band 5 to band 6, so it is hoped this will prevent staff from moving into other areas of the NHS.

Cllr Mrs Humble thanked Mr McDougall for attending and in return Mr McDougall thanked the Council for their warm welcome and allowing him to explain events and current developments.

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Matters Arising

1. **Riverside Play Area** – Cllr Miss Carrick met Barrie Alderson and new facilities would cost £25k for older children. Only one piece of equipment would suit the over 5's. If the community raised some funds for more equipment then there should be opportunities for other organisations to contribute.
2. **Police Attendance** – PC B Crampsie will be attending the December meeting if there are any issues then please let the clerk know before hand and she will contact PC Crampsie
3. **Parking at the bottom of Paragon Street** – The area was inspected and at that time no vans were parked. The only one was a workman on the phone. The area will be kept an eye on
4. **Stanhope Dene Mine Adits** – An email has been sent to C Godson at Savills **Resolved:** Clerk to chase up
5. **Road to the Elephant Trees** – The photographs have been sent to DCC. As yet the road has not be repaired **Resolved:** Clerk to get a date when the work will commence
6. **Football Field, Bondisle** – We have sent comments only for this application that contact must be made with representatives from the Football Club at all times. The Chairman of the Football Club would like to thank the Parish Council for the position they took on this application and that it is reassuring and appreciated that they know they have the support of the Parish Council.

7. **Litter Signs** – The litter signs have been moved out of the dale but D Hunt will arrange to have these brought back for a while
8. **Rubbish at Killhope** – The rubbish that was left has now been removed
9. **Self seeded sycamores at Cowshill** – A works instruction has been issued to have them removed which will be in the autumn
10. **Rolling Programme for Community Highways Worker** - D Hunt has sent the rolling programme that the Community Highways Worker does regularly along with the diary records for August. Jobs that Simon needs to do, There is moss on the roadside between Frosterley and Stanhope that needs removing, the footpath needs brushing from Eastgate to Station Road Head, the car park at Frosterley needs a tidy up, at Whits Hill St John’s Chapel the pot holes need filling up with tarmac and the verges tidying, through Ashes Quarry there is a hole in the footpath in front of the bridge, the overhanging branches at Wearhead Bridge before the school need trimming back along with the footpath sides, the footpath from Westgate to St Johns Chapel needs sweeping and weeding, Lanehead requires strimming from Pudding Cottage to the Old Chapel (Greenways)
11. **Old Cemetery Grave Stone Inspection** – An inspection was carried out of the stability of the grave stones in the Old Cemetery, Stanhope. The overall condition of the grave stones is good and there are no dangerous defects and nothing to cause concern at this time
12. **Play Park Inspection Report** – The play parks have been inspected and overall are in good condition. A few minor repairs and some paintwork will bring everything up to standard. Work done in the past year has greatly enhanced the appearance of some of the areas.
Bondisle, Stanhope – Swings in good order, paintwork and safety surfaces ok nothing required. **Crawleyside, Stanhope** – Greatly improved with new fencing and seat, swings in good order, safety surface good, nothing required. **Ashcroft, Stanhope** – The equipment in the main ring is in good condition. Small repairs required on safety surfacing. The steps to the small ring need repairing. Small ring equipment ok. Safety surfacing could benefit from a clean but not essential. The two picnic benches need some repairs and painting. The brick wall to the area needs a small repair. Area itself is ok. Perimeter fence and gates in good order. **Westgate** – Some of the equipment while in good order would benefit from a clean. The swings need a paint. The safety surface is fine. There is evidence of mole activity. There are two old bench seats that have sunk into the ground and should be removed. **Daddy Shield** – The equipment is all in good order and the perimeter fence is in good order. **Burtreeford, Cowshill** – Equipment all in good order, new fence and seat have greatly improved the play area. Safety surface in good condition. The basket ball net has gone and the back board needs cleaning. **Resolved:** It was agreed to ask S Makepeace to do the repairs. Cllr Craig will inspect Westgate and report back at the November meeting. Cllr Mrs Humble would like the repairs at Burtreeford done in the spring
13. **Operation Spruce Up** – In November 2016 DCC launched Operation Spruce Up and informed all Elected Members as well as CDALC of the planned initiative. The project has been a great success and it has been supported by Elected Members, Parish Councils and Businesses to support infrastructure, landscaping, new bins and lighting. Chris Hindmarch the Civic Pride Officer met two SPC councillors on a walkabout prior to the scheme and that they were fully involved in discussing how various issues could be tackled. It was felt that a contribution was made by them and this is appreciated. The launch of a project includes promoting the event as this ensures that residents are aware of the improvement work that is taking place in their community. The responses have been positive. The Elected Members who have contributed to the improvement work have typically been invited to a launch however changes to the process have been made and going forward Elected Members and Parish Councillors irrespective of whether they have made a contribution will routinely be invited to the launch.

14. **Parish Council Vacancy** – Following the advert in the Weardale Gazette there were no applications. One application has been received at the meeting. **Resolved:** Clerk to invite both candidates to the November meeting for an interview
15. **Northgate Parish Website** – Northgate are unable to attend due to holidays anything that we want added we have to let them know. A working party has been set up consisting of Cllr Mrs H Maddison, Cllr D Ellwood, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr Mrs A Humble to move this forward
16. **Code of Conduct** - All councillors have received a copy of the Code of Conduct those that have email have been sent via that, otherwise four councillors have received their copy at the meeting. Cllr Mrs Humble advised that the Code of Conduct had been adopted in September 2012
17. **Laura Pidcock Visit** – The MP has confirmed her attendance for the December meeting
18. **Snow Poles** – Cllr Thompson queried why this had been referred to highways as he thought K Graham used to do this
19. **CDALC AGM** – Cllr D Ellwood confirmed his attendance
20. **Roadside Verges at Bog Bank, Rookhope** – Cllr Thompson would like this verge added to D Hunt works schedule so it is done next spring **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
21. **Grass verges west side of Heights Quarry** – Cllr Craig would like grass verges strimmed every year **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
22. **Kenneths Bridge, Frosterley** – Following the last reply Cllr Mrs Humble suggested a site meeting. An email has been sent off with no reply. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC for a site meeting with them
23. **Frosterley Councillor Police Contact** – Cllr M Brewin would like to speak to PC B Crampsie **Resolved:** Clerk to contact PC Crampsie
24. **Overhanging Trees** – Cllr Craig has spoken to J Hodges and the trees are the responsibility of the land owner, J Hodges is dealing with this
25. **Sign Painting** – The repainting of the signs on the Bonny Moor Hen wall and Cross Street have not been done. Also West Terrace to be added. **Resolved:** Clerk to chase up

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Correspondence Received

1. Stanhope Hartwell Educational Foundation have sent two copies of the Receipts and Payments Account for the financial year ending 31st March 2017
2. There is grant money available for the Village Halls and Community Buildings in Weardale and the WAAP has set aside £20,000 of its budget. Applications should be sent to A Maddison at the Dales Centre
3. The DCLG has launched a consultation called Planning for the right homes in the right places consultation proposals. This consultation deals with proposed changes to planning policy design and legislation arising from the publication of their housing White Paper. In the consultation NALC is minded to agree with most of the proposals and would especially like to hear from PC regarding question 11 which concerns Neighbourhood Plans.
4. A letter has been received on the Proposed Stopping Up Grass Verge to the front of the New Development on the former Filling Station Site, Westgate. We need to send a written response, by Thursday 26th October 2017 that the Parish Council has no objection to the stopping up of the public rights of the said highway. Cllr Craig has been contacted and the paperwork has been given to him, he has no problem with this application
5. Cllr Mrs Maddison has sent some photographs of some signs that need replacing at Frosterley. These have been forwarded onto D Hunt
6. Cllr Mrs Maddison would like a mound of soil flattening out and returned to ground level in the Churchyard at Frosterley as the children are climbing up it and onto the wall. This has been forwarded onto Dave Gillett

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Planning Matters

DM/17/02933/FPA

Replace timber windows and doors with UPVC

14 Kirk Rise

Frosterley

Mr & Mrs P Jackson

DM/17/02937/FPA

Renovation of dwelling to include two storey extension to side and two storey

Extension to rear

Crag Stile

Lanehead

A Lees

PLANNING APPROVALS

DM/17/02442/TPO

Reduction of lateral branches by 1.5 – 2 metres and crown thin by 10% of sycamore covered by TPO

Norlands

Cowshill

Mrs Yasmin Hussan

9818

Finance

Cllr Mrs Humble read out a letter ‘Light up the Dale’ Cllr D Ellwood, Cllr Mrs H Maddison, Cllr Miss J Carrick declared an interest. This is a new initiative set up to bring Weardale Communities together by helping them provide Christmas trees and decorations. This first year the group are looking to provide a Christmas tree in Stanhope. **Resolved:** It was proposed and seconded that £200 be donated to Light Up the Dale

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AAP Report

At the Board meeting of the 14th September there was a presentation to bring culture to the Dale and a presentation from the environment agency

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Accounts for Payment

DCC Hire of meeting room July + three coffees	£64.00
T Johnson Grass cutting Ashcroft 2 cuts	£100.00
Ward Bros Skip Hire Crosshill	£166.00
Weardale publishing – stationery	£54.84

DCC Hire of meeting room for Aug 7-9.30pm	£50.00
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
S Anderson Expenses	£22.44
S Anderson Salary	£544.70
HM Rev PAYE	£117.00
JRB Enterprise Ltd	£537.60
Light up the Dale	£200.00
TOTAL	£1891.58

ACCOUNTS FOR RECEIPTS

Northern Powergrid Wayleaves	£167.36
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New Matters for Discussion

1. Cllr Brewin mentioned there are parking issues in Frosterley with cars parking on the pavements. **Resolved:** Clerk to forward onto the Police
2. The co-op lorry and cars parked on the roadside are causing problems would it be possible to have a loading bay outside the Co-Op. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
3. Westfield residents are complaining about people parking outside their houses who are at the Black Bull Frosterley. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
4. Cllr Mrs Maddison mentioned the mound in the churchyard that it urgently needs removing due to ASB with the young people. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to the Police and to chase D Gillett to have the mound removed
5. Frosterley House to the caravan entrance the road is dipped so the water gathers and splashes pedestrians as vehicles pass. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to highways
6. Cllr Blackett would like to report that at St Johns Chapel people are parking on the footpath outside the surgery and down the street. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to the police
7. There are no street lights on at St Johns Chapel to Ireshopeburn **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
8. In Stanhope Town Hall there is a War Memorial Plaque and other memorial things. Cllr Blackett would like to know where they are **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
9. Cllr Craig would like to know when the second grass cut will be taking place of the grass verges **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
10. There are self seeding trees pushing down the walls on the roadside between Eastgate and Westgate **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
11. Slit Wood is now finished and is looking good
12. Cllr Mrs Hutchinson reported to DCC that the bridge at Eastgate had been hit by a wagon during the night, this will be repaired
13. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff would like to know if the ANPR has been in place in the Dale **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the Police

14. Cllr Miss Carrick would like to report that the steps next to the Ford on the Showfield side need digging out **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
15. The hedge on the roadside on the A689 next to the school field needs trimming back **Resolved:** Clerk to report
16. During Operation Spruce Up Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned that the flower beds at either end of Stanhope need replanting, nothing has happened yet **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Gillett
17. Cllr Miss Graham would like an update on any progress on Newtown House **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
18. An update is needed on the land slip in Ashes Quarry for the resident of Ashcroft **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
19. Cllr Mrs Humble would like to report light number 330 at Whits Hill is on twenty four hours **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
20. There is a light out number 378 at the top of Burtree Bank **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
21. In Burtreeford Cemetery the hedge needs reducing in height this winter **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
22. The rotten plank on the footbridge between Bridge End Cottage and Low Allers has not been replaced, opposite the quarry **Resolved:** Clerk to report again

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Clerks Business

The training session at Spennymoor is due to be held on 1st November the day of the next meeting. It was agreed to hold the meeting on Thursday 2nd November 2017 at 6.30pm

Resolved: Clerk to ask Northgate to attend at 6.30pm

The clerk has asked D Hunt for his replies / worksheets by the end of Monday preceding the monthly meeting, in order to give sufficient time for distribution

Cllr Mrs Humble thanked Cllr Mrs H Maddison and Cllr Miss F Graham for taking the minutes over the last few months

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Next meeting Thursday 2nd November 2017 at Dales Centre commencing at 6.30pm

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