

## STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017

### PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs A Humble Chairman

Cllr M Brewin, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr D Craig, Cllr B Thompson, Cllr Mrs K Hutchinson, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff,  
Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr D Ellwood, Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr Mrs H Maddison (took the minutes)

**9796**

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Miss Graham

**9797**

#### **To receive any declarations of Interest from Members**

None received

**9798**

#### **Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017**

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

**9799**

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

No Police in attendance. **Resolved:** Clerk to invite the Police to the October meeting

**9800**

#### **Darren Green, Phil Blance- NE Ambulance**

Due to unforeseen circumstances the representatives were unable to attend the meeting and cancelled at 3pm today but will be attending the October meeting

**9801**

#### **Matters Arising**

- 1. LAURA PIDCOCK VISIT** – Unfortunately the MP is unable to attend as she is back in Parliament. Her secretary is trying to arrange for the November meeting and will give us confirmation of her attendance
- 2. FOOTBRIDGE IN THE DENE** - The bridge condition has been passed onto the Bridges Section to look at the wobbly rail as the posts are a bit rotten and will need replacing at some point
- 3. FENCING IN THE DENE BELOW WIDELY FIELD** - Mike will arrange for the contractor to sort out the fencing
- 4. RIVERSIDE PLAY AREA** – Cllr Miss Carrick is to meet with Barrie Alderson in September to discuss the play equipment
- 5. NE AMBULANCE** - A reply has been received concerning the delay in the ambulance attending the accident up the dale. The letter was read out at the meeting. The call handler had selected the correct pathway on the system, asked all the appropriate questions

relevant to this incident which led to the Green 2 category of the call. The review of the case has highlighted an opportunity in an answer to one question where the call handler would have been expected to seek clinical advice. In this case, the call handler did not seek clinical advice and coaching has now been provided. The second 999 call generated a Green 2 but on this occasion a different call handler took advice and the incident was upgraded. The incident has highlighted an extremely rare type of injury that has flagged a potential improvement required in the NHS Pathways system. The call handler correctly followed the system to assess the injuries but the system did not necessarily accurately assess the mechanism of injury to reach the correct category priority. There is an issue to be addressed over the triage system and we are assured that all other UK ambulance services and the Joint Royal Colleges who oversee NHS Pathways to make sure that another situation does not occur again.

6. **Smiddy Burn Bridge** – An email has been sent to M Watson of Savills that any contact has to be made via the clerk. Cllr Mrs Humble advised Cllr Ellwood to attend no meetings
7. **Freedom of Information request** – The response times have been sent from the NE Ambulance service. These were discussed at the meeting. Cllr Blackett volunteered to input the data into a data base. **Resolved:** Clerk to send out the statistics to all councillors before October's meeting when NEEAS are expected to attend
8. **Operation Spruce Up** – Cllr B Thompson would like to know why the recent 'Operation Spruce Up' was turned into a publicity stunt. The Parish Council would like to know why: Stanhope Parish Councillors were not fully consulted or invited to the photo shoot, the two County Councillors were not officially invited to the photo shoot, Press reports state Parish Councillors were involved with the clean up when they were not. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to Terry Collins at DCC
9. **Parish Website** – The councillors would like to see the website as it is at the minute. **Resolved:** Clerk to ask Northgate to attend the October meeting at 6.30pm to preview the website
10. **Litter signs** – The litter signs are nowhere to be seen. **Resolved:** Clerk to ask D Hunt if they have been removed
11. **Snow Poles** – The snow poles between Rookhope and Allenheads still have not been painted. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC

## 9802

### Correspondence Received

1. A letter has been received concerning a kart, parking cones and notice boards at St Johns Chapel Market Place. These are taking up about six car park spaces up which are needed for the use of the Post Office. **Resolved:** Received and noted
2. The Roof of England Cycling Club wishes to carry out the Winking Sheep cycling sportive on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2017 between 6.00am and 8pm. It will be necessary for a temporary road closure order to be put in place
3. The Digital Durham team has informed S Ragg that the Better Broadband Subsidy Scheme comes to a close at the end of this year. The scheme involves residents applying if they can't reach download speeds of 2mbps in order to receive a £350 voucher to put towards the installation costs of a satellite broadband connection. The team are trying to raise as much awareness of this scheme as they aren't sure whether it will be extended or not and want to give Durham residents the opportunity to access it while they still can,
4. NALC has recently published a new legal briefing LO4-17 on the Reform of Data Protection regulation, General data Protection Regulation and data Protection Bill. This is very important for all organisations including Parish Councils as we need to be aware of its

implications for all meetings. The GDPR requires public authorities which include Parish Councils to appoint a data Protection Officer who is required to have expert knowledge of data protection law and practices. The GDPR will require Parish Councils to allocate significant resource and effort to comply, especially for smaller councils. This was discussed at the recent meeting of the NALC Policy Committee who agreed to write to the government about resource implications and potential impact on precepts. S Ragg is approaching the DCC Data Protection section to see whether they can provide some training for Parish Councils either later this year or very early next year. S Ragg is hoping to arrange two training sessions on the same day, one on the afternoon and another on the evening of the same day. The venue is likely to be Spennymoor Town Hall. The cost may be a little more expensive than the current charging. **Resolved:** The chairman and the clerk will attend this meeting

5. There will be a temporary road closure on the A689 Front Street, Stanhope on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017 for Stanhope Silver Band March to the Show Field
6. There is a temporary road closure and footway closure on the A689 Lime Tree Walk and Church Lane for the Fun Fair for Stanhope Show
7. The County Training Partnership is holding Human Resources Training Sessions in County Hall Durham throughout October. The courses are Employing People, Performance Management, Grievance and Bullying and Sickness Absence. A booking form is attached if any of these courses are of interest at a cost of £27
8. The Frosterley Mobile recycling centre dates have been extended until April 2018. The dates are 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> October, 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> December.
9. Cllr Craig asked the clerk to write to NEAS following the quad bike accident at Westgate. The Air Ambulance was not called out and Cllr Craig would like to know the reason why. Cllr Craig explained the incident and will raise the issue when NEAS attend next month
10. From week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> October, rubbish and recycling bin collection days/weeks will change for some households in the Sedgfield, Teesdale and Wear Valley Areas. All affected households will shortly receive a letter and new collection calendar, by post, to advise residents of any change to their bin collection day/week. Not all properties will be affected and only those who receive a letter and calendar will experience a change
11. Grant schemes are available for electric vehicle charging points and may be of interest in our area as we have no charging point infrastructure at the moment. We may want to check with the local AAP co-ordinator as there may be funding available to assist with this
12. A recent government (Department for Transport) consultation has been released which councils or some councillors may wish to contribute towards. The Consultation is entitled "Accessibility Action Plan" and is asking for feedback on a draft accessibility plan which sets out proposals to improve the travel experience for people with disabilities. The action plan covers a range of transport modes including: aviation, rail, buses, taxis. Responses are required by 15<sup>th</sup> November.
13. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 a free Standards Information Session will be held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham starting at 6pm. This session is aimed at both new and experienced councillors wishing to gain a better grasp on their Code of Conduct and Standards issues arising from any breach of Code of Conduct rules. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact S Ragg for the up to date version and send it to all councillors
14. The 2017 CDALC AGM is to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham starting promptly at 10.00. Every member council is entitled to send two representatives to this meeting although each council will only have one vote. Cllr D Ellwood is our representative for Weardale. The AGM Papers and Annual report has been printed off if anyone wants to attend. The CDALC secretariats position will be discussed along with the new General Data Protection Regulations which are being introduced on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

These regulations will have a major impact on all local authorities including Parish Councils irrespective of size and regulations must be adhered to. **Resolved:** Cllr Ellwood would like to know do the other councils in the area know that he is representing them. Clerk to contact S Ragg to inform them

**9803**

**The Hub – Allotments**

The Hub would like two allotments to use as Community plots for the men. If possible the Bondisle site would be ideal for easy access. There is one not used at the moment if they would like to take it or they can wait until next year when the rents are collected to see what becomes available then.

**Resolved:** Clerk to contact them

**9804**

**Planning Matters**

DM/17/02713/FPA

Temporary parking for the Polar Express event from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 15<sup>th</sup> January annually

Bondisle Playing Field

Stanhope

Weardale Railway CIC

Comments to be received by 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Clerk to contact the Football Club to see their views on this application and if they need any assistance from the Parish Council

DM/17/02466/LB

Listed building consent to remove internal wall

43 Front Street

Frosterley

Ms Sophie Pickup

DM/17/02694/FPA

Additional entrance, separation of dwelling, rear extension

51 Front Street

Stanhope

Mr & Mrs Hintz

DM/17/02695/FPA

Proposed agricultural building for straw storage

West Newlands Hall

Frosterley

Mr Watson

DM/17/02738/FPA

Change of use from Chapel (D1) to dwelling (C3)

Chapel House

1 Bridge End

Frosterley

Miss Stephanie Marriott

DM/17/01331/FPA

Installation of new wind turbine and removal of old turbine, work shop building extension

Quarry Bank Cottage  
Frosterley  
Jill Essam

DM/17/02844/VOV  
Variation of condition 2 of application DM/15/023000/FPA in relation to revised design and positioning  
Petrol Filling Station  
Westgate  
Executive Country Homes Ltd

#### **PLANNING APPROVALS**

DM/17/02195/FPA  
2 storey side extension  
Browns House Barn  
Hill End  
Mr & Mrs Wooton

DM/17/02021/FPA  
2 storey side extension  
Vaila  
Hill End  
Mr & Mrs Little

DM/17/01960/FPA  
Cattle Shed  
Eastgate House  
Mr A Jopling

DM/17/01882/LB  
Repair of gable end  
White Kirkley Farm  
Frosterley  
Mrs De Bon Ville

DM/17/01160/CEO  
Use of land as Static Caravan Park for holiday use only  
With no planning condition restriction on number of static caravans within the site  
Verdant Leisure  
Heather View  
Stanhope

DM/16/03581/FPA  
Cricket pavilion and septic tank  
Stanhope Show Field  
Unthank Park  
Stanhope  
Stanhope Cricket Club

DM/17/02196/FPA

Demolition of conservatory and erection of single story rear extension  
4 Britton Hall  
Westgate  
Mr & Mrs M Forster

**9805**

**Finance**

### **FINANCE**

1. Cllr Mrs Humble advised the clerk to get a skip delivered to Crosshill Allotments to remove the rubbish from the plot that has been taken on recently. Cllr Miss Carrick agreed to this also. The cost of the skip from Wards Skip Hire was £166 which was more reasonable than the quote that was received after the meeting

2. S Ragg is advising its never too early to review the risk assessment in readiness for the completion of the Annual Return which next year will be audited by Mazars. Preliminary talks with the new auditors will take place and intermediate areas they will be testing in year one could be risk management. A review should be completed before 31/3/18 well before if possible ours has been done in May 2017 and is on the agenda for every May. The wording in the minutes should read We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this smaller authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.

3. The annual return has been received from BDO. There was one minor issue arising where the Council Tax Support grant monies were put in box 2, rather than box 3, other receipts. These matters are not raised as formal matters and do not require reporting to the council. A minute should be made to show that the Annual Return including the certificate has been approved and accepted

4. Proposed Skate Park at Wolsingham is looking promising. An application has been submitted to Sport England for £50,000 funding. The WAAP has set aside £20,000 from their Health & Well Being/Young Peoples Budget for 2018/19. Leaving an expected balance of £15k - £20k, the overall cost of the project is estimated to be £85 - £90k. Part of the criteria is the need for a skate park is that 12 -18 year olds find it difficult to have activities which suit their particular needs, and why children in the dale, because of their rural location should be disadvantaged, whereas major towns have these new generation skate parks. Benefits to the youths have been highlighted as improving their health, a deterrent to anti-social behaviour and a sense of inclusion. Pre application advice from DCC has been sought and if the skate park is built in the play area there is every possibility that permission will be granted. Is Stanhope Parish Council in a position to help with funding? **Resolved:** Clerk to write to Wolsingham Parish Council explaining that we support the initiative in principle and we would like to be kept up to date

5. It was agreed that no donation towards tree works would be made to St Thomas Church, Heatherycleugh

**9806**

**AAP Report**

At the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> August there are no changes at present and grant funding remains the same

**9807**

**Accounts for Payment**

CDALC Councillor training

£54.00

NWG Business Public Conv Daddry Shield	£38.03
BDO Annual Return	£360.00
St Johns Chapel PCC (wrong address given lost cheque)	£300.00
Weardale Publishing advert	£23.44
S Anderson expenses	£92.91
S Anderson Salary	£544.70
PAYE HM Revenue	£117.00
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1565.08</b>

## 9808

### New Matters for Discussion

1. Cllr Mrs Maddison has reported that the residents of Frosterley are protesting at the lack of progress. **Resolved:** Clerk to write and request a temporary bridge or a similar one to the original to be installed until all surveys have been completed, as there seems to be a lengthy delay
2. The road up the Elephant trees needs resurfacing as there are a lot of pot holes and grass growing through the tarmac. Cllr Mrs Maddison will send some photographs to forward to DCC. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
3. Cllr Brewin mentioned the fence at Westfield that the cars are crossing over the grass verge on a regular basis sometimes three or four times a week which is very dangerous. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC again
4. The footpath at the back of the Church still needs repairing which has not been done and was first reported in April. There has been a recent incident of a sprained ankle. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
5. There have been reports of anti-social behaviour in Frosterley which has been reported to the Police
6. Cllr Craig mentioned the overhanging trees on the left hand side travelling up the dale need trimming back. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
7. Cllr Thompson mentioned the electric works are still on going in Rookhope
8. The church wall and gutter repairs still have not been done. **Resolved:** Clerk to send another letter off
9. The roadside verges at Bog Bank require strimming. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
10. The construction works on the new bungalows is progressing
11. Cllr Mrs Hutchinson would like to report that the road from Station Road Head to Hagg Bridge bank top needs re-surfacing as it is badly pot holed. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
12. There has been incident with poachers leaving gates open and Cllr Mrs Hutchinson will report this to the Police
13. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like to report that there are some pot holes at Lane Hill, Ireshopeburn that require filling in. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC

14. Cllr Ellwood has received a complaint from a resident regarding Stanhope Dean mine entrances which have been filled in with soil to block them up and the area now looks unsightly. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the Church Commissioners and request that the situation is rectified by removing the soil and putting metal grills in place to block the entrances.
15. Cllr Miss Carrick would like to report that there is a self-seedling in the wall next to the path at Crosshill that needs removing. Also there is seedling by Crosshill flats **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the Community Highways worker
16. The Front Street sign on the Bonny Moor Hen wall and the Cross Street sign both need repainting. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
17. Cllr Miss Graham would like to report some work vans at the bottom of Paragon Street, Stanhope are parking and are causing visual problems. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the Police
18. Cllr Miss Graham would like it noted that in the past three weeks messages have been left at Dale and Valley Homes which have not been returned
19. Cllr Mrs Humble would like to report lamppost number 330 at Whits Hill, St Johns Chapel is on all the time. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
20. Road signs have been left from recent road works from Ireshopeburn to Cowshill. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC

**9809**

**Clerks Business**

The members of the finance committee present recommended that the Clerks contract of employment be issued

I have been in contact with Liz Bregazzi from the County Records Office at County Hall as the paper work that I am storing is mounting up to overflowing

Some of the old planning application forms and the old Wear Valley reports could be destroyed but have names and addresses on so need to be done securely.

She advises that Minutes, Correspondence and Finance is stored down there, some of what I have is going back fifteen to twenty years. Cheque book stubbs and invoices can be shredded securely that are older than seven years. The deeds that we are holding for the Play Areas would be more secure and in the right conditions at County Hall.

**Resolved:** Cllrs were agreeable to the records being removed to County Hall except the title deeds. As a security measure it was suggested that two copies of each of the deeds are taken and kept by two councillors

It appears all villages have Parish Notice Boards with the exception of Stanhope but it would be where it should be placed

**Meeting closed at 9pm**

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at Dales Centre, Stanhope commencing at 7pm**

.....**Signed**.....**Date**



