

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 1st September 2021

PRESENT:

Cllr D Craig Chairman arrived during the meeting

Cllr L Blackett arrived during the meeting, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes,
Cllr Mrs A Humble, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Mrs S Thompson
Cllr W Wearmouth arrived during the meeting, Cllr P Turton, Cllr R Lawrie,

S Anderson clerk

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Apologies for Absence

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 August 2021

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

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Police and the Community

No Police were in attendance

10511

Matters Arising

1. **Dog Bags** – The dog bag dispensers are still being filled up regularly. S Lewis rang to order some more bags and he confirmed that they are being looked after.
2. **Dales Centre** – The numbers for the hire of the meeting room are twelve in the Dales Centre meeting room. We can have more than twelve people attending but it is at the Parish Councils own risk. There is no onus on the Dales Centre or Durham County Council. Cllr Mrs Thompson suggested that before a Parish Council meeting, we all take a lateral flow test. **Resolved:** All of the councillors thought that this was a very good idea.
3. **Bondisle Allotments** – The report has been sent to the property owner neighbouring the allotment. Even though the Parish Council has agreed to pay for the neighbouring property to be treated the Parish Council cannot be certain that the JKW originated in the allotments. As of 31st August 2021, no reply has been received from the resident. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the resident to see if he wants the Parish Council to go ahead with the treatment.

4. **Crosshill Allotments** – A tenant has given notice to end her tenancy agreement and would like to give it up by Christmas time if this is possible. At the moment the plot is overgrown.
Resolved: The councillors agreed that the plot could be given up at Christmas.
5. **Police Invite** – Insp Turner has been invited to the November meeting. If there are any issues then Insp Turner will look into them as its three months away.
6. **Frosterley Church** – D Spraggon is to contact the Church Commissioners regarding the ownership of the strip of land in front of Cllr Brewin’s property. He feels that we may have to contact the Durham Land Registry to find out the ownership. DCC are cutting the grass and they are looking into the ownership of it.
7. **Police Van** – The Police van has been in Frosterley and Wolsingham. Cllr Brewin mentioned that vehicles are going over the bridge at Bridge End when the traffic lights are on red. He is concerned that there will be a nasty accident.
8. **Burtreeford Cemetery** – The bushes have not been cut back in the cemetery at Burtreeford.
Resolved: Clerk to contact D Gillett
9. **Doctors Surgery** – A letter has been received from Richard Holden MP that following a large number of concerns from constituents he met with Dr Rowley of the Weardale Practice. Dr Rowley assured the MP that the surgeries in Wolsingham and St John’s Chapel will be reopening on a phased return from early October, Covid permitting. Richard Holden will follow the situation whilst the practice work to find a solution.

10512

Correspondence Received

1. Cllr Craig mentioned that the Wear Rivers Trust and looking at a project on the river banks to identify and treat some Japanese Knotweed
2. An email has been received from the Weardale Museum at High House Chapel. There has been a few near -misses with speeding vehicles on the A689. The Museum would like to see the use of traffic calming measures such as solar powered vehicle activated signs. The email was sent to all of the councillors. Concerns were expressed by the Parish Council when the planning application came in and now with car parking on the other side of the road the danger levels have been raised. If traffic calming was used in one village, then all of the villages would have to have it you couldn’t just do one and it would cost a fortune. A discussion took place on flashing speed signs and the number of accident signs. When Inspector Turner attends the November meeting then this is something that could be raised with him. **Resolved:** Clerk to refer this to DCC and the Police
3. An email has been received from a resident of Westgate who runs a holiday cottage in St Johns Chapel. The house next door is currently undergoing extensive refurbishment and the noise is dreadful. The clerk sent the email to Cllr Shuttleworth who has passed this onto Environmental Health.
4. An email has been received asking if the Parish Council is aware of any complaints regarding an increase in noise from the William Cook factory in Stanhope in relation to volume and duration of activity. The resident has reported this to DCC and spoken to the plant. The resident would like a reply from the Parish Council. None of the Stanhope Councillors have received any complaints. They commented that people should be grateful that it is there providing employment. **Resolved:** Clerk to write
5. Cllr Turton sent two emails on speeding and noise pollution in Weardale. There are no fixed speed cameras in Weardale, hardly any speed camera signs and no vehicle activated speed camera signs anywhere in the dale. There is an interesting article about how a computer programmer used open-source data to establish the frequency of speeding in his area. The emails were sent to all of the councillors.

6. Organisations and groups in Weardale are being invited to bid for thousands of pounds worth of funding through the Weardale Action Partnership. Grants will be considered for any project which helps build stronger and resilient communities.
7. The Post Office have sent information that St Johns Chapel Post Office will close temporarily on 25th August 2021 at 11.00am. Future provision will reflect customer numbers and usage and the Post Office may take the opportunity to establish an alternative type of service. This may be a mobile van service where a postmaster from a nearby branch offers the facility with hours of opening set to reflect the likely number of customers who will use the service. Comments can be sent to the Post Office. **Resolved:** Clerk to ask for the Post Office Van to come to St John's Chapel and Cowshill
8. Community Groups across County Durham have the opportunity of winning 2,000 bulbs to brighten up their area. Email was sent to all of the councillors. **Resolved:** Clerk to apply
9. A resident has reported that there was a horse along the Riverside Walk which left a pile of horse muck. The horse was also nervous and the resident is concerned that horses really should not be ridden alongside the Riverside Walk. There are people walking with young children. The resident would like to know if the Parish Council can help in this matter. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the Neighbourhood Warden and to ask for some No Horses signs
10. A resident is concerned about the Parking signs placed on Cowgarth Hill and would like to know why the smallest street in Stanhope has two parking signs. He was wondering should they not have been on the next level down on the road leading to the Grey Bull. The signs lead to a dead end as per signage which also causes chaos around the side and rear when cars are trying to turn to exit. Cllr Craig, Cllr Blackett, Cllr Wearmouth arrived at the meeting **Resolved:** Councillors agreed to refer this to DCC
11. A letter of reply has been received from a resident / allotment tenant regarding a letter that was sent last month. The letter was read out to all of the councillors. All of the councillors were in agreement that the skip had been hired so that the plot could be cleared of all of the rubbish which had not happened. The councillors do appreciate that a lot of work has been done on the plot. **Resolved:** The Chairman and the councillors agreed unanimously that no apology letter will be sent and the councillors will not be named. A letter to be sent reiterating the points raised in the original letter.

Cllr Craig thanked Cllr Miss Carrick for starting the meeting. Cllr Craig, Cllr Blackett and Cllr Wearmouth had been at a Lithium Presentation at Eastgate Village Hall.

10513

70th Anniversary Beacons

This is something that the councillors are interested in organising. Michael George, Mark Tellright and N Raynor to see if anything could be held on their land. **Resolved:** Clerk to register an interest

10514

County Councillor Update

Cllr Shuttleworth sent his apologies

10515

Planning Matters

Cllr Craig asked the clerk to send in some comments relating to the planning application DM/21/02607/FPA at Brotherlee. He wanted it noted that this application for a machinery shed is a new development in the open countryside and would have been better situated nearer to the buildings at Brotherlee. The application was in the August minutes.

DM/21/02487/OUT

Dwelling

(outline with all matters reserved)

Land to the south of

8 East Lane

Stanhope

A resident on East Lane is concerned about this planning application. She was given the contact details of Cllr J Shuttleworth and Cllr Miss J Carrick

DM/21/02709/FPA

Restoration and extension of existing building to provide

1 no residential dwelling with detached garage and

Associated access, parking and landscaping

Land and ruins to the North of

High Fairhills

Huntshieldford

St John's Chapel

DM/21/02635/FPA

Loft conversion with 2 dormer windows to the front.

5 Church Row

Crawleyside

DM/21/02851/FPA

Internal alterations, sunroom to eastern elevations and raising the roof to allow for loft conversion

9 Vedra Close

Wearhead

DM/21/02673/VOC

Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission DM/19/00202/FRM

(Change of use from a redundant agricultural building to a single dwelling) to

Amend appearance and layout.

Barn East of White

Kirkley Farm Cottage

White Kirkley

Frosterley

DM/21/02677/FPA

Single storey extension to eastern elevation and

Extension of domestic curtilage

3 Wear View

Crawleyside

DM/21/02820/FPA

Change of use of land to domestic curtilage.

Proposed new access road to garage.

Land to the rear of 5

Weardale House

Stanhope

10516
Finance

1. The judging as taken place and the results are under Clerks Business. We need to decide what the winners are to receive. Also, G Dobson gave up his time to judge the flowers which he thoroughly enjoyed. **Resolved:** All the winners to receive a year's free rent in 2022. Clerk to get something for G Dobson as an appreciation for judging.
2. Last meeting a request for a grant was made by Victim Support. The nearest Victim Support is at Bishop Auckland. **Resolved:** Councillors declined
3. P Irwin sends his apologies for the confusion he has caused. The grass was cut on the 22nd June 2021, 6th July 2021 and then 27th July 2021. The invoice total is £180. **Resolved:** Clerk to pay the invoice and in the future an email to be sent when the grass has been cut.
4. External Auditor's Report has been received and on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

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AAP Report

No meeting has taken place yet

10518

Accounts for Payment

DCC hire of meeting room for August	£45.00
JRB Enterprise Ltd	£537.60
E-ON Next Ashcroft Play Park – Paid 23/9/2021	£10.47
Clerk to put E-ON and BT onto Direct Debit	
DCC Hire of meeting room for July	£45.00
Mazars	£360.00
S Anderson Salary	£791.66
HM REV	£7.54
S Anderson Expenses stationery/stamps	£41.96
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
TOTAL	£1874.23

ACCOUNTS FOR RECEIPTS

HSBC Refund	£1147.83
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10519

New matters for discussion

1. The Tour of Britain stage 6 is coming through Killhope and Cowshill. Cllr Mrs Humble would like the War Memorial weeded and tidied up. The seating area needs strimming and the seat painted. Cowshill in general to be spruced up. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt.
2. Cllr Mrs Thompson mentioned that cars are parking on the roadside by the Hen in Stanhope. It is on a bad corner and is causing visibility problems and is narrowing the road. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
3. The road through St Johns Chapel to the surgery needs looking at with all of the parked cars. Large vehicles are having problems in getting through. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
4. There are over hanging trees onto the footpath at Wesley Garth. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
5. Cllr Wearmouth attended the Weardale Lithium presentation. The processing plant will be on the old cement works site. Durham University and Newcastle University are excited about the project. In five years, it is anticipated that the project will provide between 100-150 jobs of which two thirds will be full time jobs. M Tellright will attend a Parish Council meeting at some stage. Northern Lithium is different and will follow the red vein.
6. The poppy wreaths are to be ordered well before November. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Wright
7. Cllr Turton mentioned the cancelation of the two events in Stanhope at short notice. The good news is Stanhope has arranged a Dalesfest Festival on 25th September 2021.
8. Cllr Lawrie was wondering if there is any progress with the selling of the Town Hall in Stanhope. The building is mouldering with grass growing out of the gutters and the paint work is peeling. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
9. Cllr Mrs Hawkes would like the bushes cut back and the overgrown weeds tidied up on the footpath between Frosterley and Stanhope. The path is not safe for people with pushchairs. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
10. Cllr Brewin has been trying without success to get to speak to an official about some disabled parking in Frosterley Car Park. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
11. Cllr Miss Carrick would like to report street light number 1516 at Crosshill. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC.

10520

Clerks Business

The sunflowers were judged by Gordon Dobson, Clerk to Wolsingham Parish Council. The winners are as follows:

1. CROSSHILL – STANHOPE	Malcolm Brown	7ft 6ins
2. BONDISLE - STANHOPE	Charlie Cassidy	10ft 3ins
3. WILLARD GROVE- STANHOPE	Neil Foster	8ft 9ins
4. OLD HALL - STANHOPE	Eric Smith	4ft 4ins
5. IRESHOPEBURN	Adrian Holden	8ft 2ins
6. WESTGATE	Hilly Andrews	8ft 6ins

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Date of next meeting Wednesday 6th October 2021 at the Dales Centre, Stanhope at 7pm

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

