

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in Eastgate Village Hall on 6th September 2023

PRESENT:

Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr D Craig, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr P Turton, Cllr Mrs S Smart,

Cllr R Lawrie, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Mrs Hawkes, Cllr Mrs S Thompson

Cllr Miss J Carrick – Chairman

Susan Anderson – Clerk

10831

Apologies for Absence

Cllr E Buchanan

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To Receive any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

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Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd August 2023

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

10834

Northern Lithium – G Stringer and D Brignall

Gary Stringer and Dave Brignall attended the meeting to give an update to the councillors. Consent has been granted for five years and a discussion has to take place with the Environment Agency. A thirty day continuous pump test will take place, after which the data will be looked at and the next phase will be discussed. There is no provision for lighting so emergency lighting will be discussed with the planning authority. Mr Stringer explained the technical and scientific process of what will be involved. He showed the councillors three jars one of which was lithium which was white and like talcum powder. Both Mr Stringer and Mr Brignall are very excited about this project and their enthusiasm came across when they updated the councillors. Questions were taken on Hydrogen Technology, the investment from the Government and the temperature of the raw brine.

10834

Matters Arising

1. **CROSSHILL ALLOTMENTS** – The rubbish has been cleared from Crosshill, Willard Grove and Westgate Allotments. The fences have also been put up at Crosshill and the elderberry bushes that were pulled out can be removed at a later date with a tractor and trailer or burned onsite.
2. **CROSSHILL NURSING HOME SIGN** – Traffic Assets have submitted an order regarding the missing sign plate so will be replaced. This has now been repaired.
3. **ST JOHNS CHAPEL TOILETS** – The finishing off of the toilets will be done after the school holidays.
4. **ST MICHAELS CHURCH, FROSTERLEY** – The concerns that were sent to Mr Davidson-Brett have been answered by the officer dealing with the fine details of this case. The reply that we received has been sent to the councillors. There is a legal right of access for all those lawfully visiting the churchyard to continue to use the driveway from the gates up to the church building. The remainder of the path is owned the PCC so the future owner will not be able to take this right away. The planning consent allows for parking adjacent to the church buildings as well as in the bays off Church Lane. The footpath is to be widened to 2.4m wide from its current width of about 1.5m. This will be a shallow permeable surface and no excavations that might impact on graves will be necessary. The Yew trees will remain in the ownership and under the care of the PCC. The proposed garden area does have graves and some headstones. A section of overgrown, soft verge opposite the gated entrance will be resurfaced to provide more space for vehicle manoeuvres. Cllr Brewin had met with the Church Commissioners and voiced his concerns.
5. **ASHCROFT MUGA** – a Pre-Start meeting has been arranged for 13th September. EB Sports will confirm the start date currently anticipated to be the end of September.
6. **BONDISLE ALLOTMENT TENANT**- The tenant has found someone to help him with the plot but if ever the tenant gives the plot up the person that is helping him will not automatically get the plot as there is a large waiting list for Bondisle Allotments.
7. **FORESTRY COMMISSION**- The Forestry Commission have thanked us for taking the time to send some comments in.
8. **SIGNAGE AT ST JOHNS CHAPEL**- The road markings will be painted soon.
9. **CASH MACHINE STANHOPE** – Barclays have been written too again and this is on-going. Business Banking at the Post Office is limited to a certain number of transactions. The LINK cash machine in the Co-op is dated and it needs replacing with a new one. It is often out of order and runs out of money.

10835

Correspondence Received

1. Gillian Consulting are writing on behalf of EE Ltd and the Home Office. They are working together to roll out a new 4G emergency services network. Whilst most of the radio network is complete, the Home Office are still acquiring sites to complete the 'air-to-ground' network – this network cannot use the normal ESN network due to the height the radio signal needs to extend to. The proposed site is 25m which is a lot lower than the mast previously on the site which was 46m. This will limit the impacts on the SSSI and minimise impacts on the wider AONB. The mast will be at Collier Law

2. Media Manager for the PCC has sent details of the press releases which we have distributed over the past week. Details were sent to the councillors.
3. Details have been sent to the councillors regarding One. Network, a free website that is a useful source for learning all about current and planned street works, public events and related traffic restrictions, road closures and diversions being undertaken in their local area, which may be of benefit in their capacity as a parish councillor.
4. Northern Powergrid Foundation Fund Launch sent an email which was sent to the councillors.
5. The Auckland Project has recently launched a brand-new offer for groups, making it easier than ever before to visit our unique collection of heritage attractions, galleries and gardens in Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham.
6. Durham Hospitals Radio is celebrating 60 years of broadcasting in 2023. As part of their diamond celebration, they are having a 60 hour non stop broadcast on August Bank Holiday weekend. As a supporter we have been invited to the studio over the three days of the Bank Holiday weekend any time between 10am and 4pm. If we would like to attend then we have to ring the studio or contact by email
7. A local resident has concerns about the riverside down by Unthank Mill, Stanhope when it is being used as beach by tourists and holiday makers. Unfortunately, they are leaving their litter behind and throwing stones which is scaring the ducks and building with the larger stones. The resident feels that it must be causing an impact on this part of the river. This is an Environment Agency issue but it is also happening all over the dale. Received and noted.
8. In accordance with the agreed notification procedures for woodland creation proposals, set out in the Ministerial Statement in May 1996, details have been sent of the new planting at Intake Farm.
9. Cllr Turton asked the clerk to find out why the closure of the cattle grid would take three weeks to complete at Healeyfield, Castleside. DCC sent a detailed explanation of what is involved in the replacing of the cattle grid and it understandable that it will take three weeks.
10. The Methodist Tapestries Collection is an exciting and ambitious project by The Weardale Museum to create a flagship attraction for the refurbished High House Chapel. Thirty completed works are available to view at the Museum. The Launch Event will be held at St Johns Chapel Town Hall on Friday 22nd September, 2pm-7pm and Saturday 23rd September, 11am-4pm.
11. A few months ago a resident put a request in to see if a solar light could be put on the steps at Coronation Avenue. The request was sent to DCC and the resident was wondering if there is any update. DCC don't have any solar lights but the main street light has been altered.
Resolved: Clerk to write to the resident.

10836

County Councillor Update

Cllr Shuttleworth mentioned that DCC are seeking views on budget proposals. The consultation can be accessed via the website. **Resolved:** Clerk to put onto the Agenda for October

10837

Planning Matters

DM/23/02269/VOC

Removal of condition 1 (access track) pursuant to DM/22/01958/PNT

Land to the East of

Fell House Cottage

Rookhope

DM/23/02473/FPA

Demolish existing conservatory and replace with single storey rear extension with balcony flat roof.
8 Butts Crescent
Stanhope

PLANNING GRANTED

DM/23/00138/FPA

Timber built single storey office building
In field adjacent to Burnfield
Bungalow
Daddry Shield

DM/23/00897/FPA

Conversion of former agricultural building to
Habitable accommodation
Little Allercleugh
Ireshopeburn

DM/23/01486/TCA

Crown Lift trees in grounds
Public footpath to the western boundary and
Vehicle access along Broken Way to the North
St Johns Chapel Primary School

PLANNING APPLICATIONS REFUSED

DM/23/01487/FPA

Proposed erection of a new polytunnel
Valley View Farm
Sidehead

10838

Finance

1. St Thomas Heatherycleugh would like to apply for the Annual Churchyard Maintenance Grant of £300. **Resolved:** Agreed
2. I have contacted Npower/ e-on regarding the street lighting bills as they are both out of contract. They have quoted a fixed charge for a year would be 99.41 out of contract 136.12. Unit price 28.42 out of contract 42.928. The monthly direct debits would be £99.41 for the year and £37.34 either for a year or two years. Total would be £1192.95 and £448.08. **Resolved:** Agreed
3. Olivers Tree Services have sent a quote of £230 to crown reduce/reshape by 4m the Elm tree in Willard Grove Allotments. **Resolved:** Agreed

10839

AAP Report

Meeting is Thursday 7th September

10840
CDALC Report
No report

10841
Accounts for Payment

ZURICH INSURANCE POLICY	£1414.44
PAUL IRWIN GRASS CUTTING ASHCROFT	£180.00
ST THOMAS HEATHERLEYCLEUGH	£300.00
S ANDERSON SALARY	£904.08
HM REV	£20.16
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00
S ANDERSON EXPENSES	£12.00
EASTGATE VILLAGE HALL	£60.00
TOTAL	£2925.68

10842
New Matters for Discussion

1. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like the garden weeded on Front Street, Ireshopeburn. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
2. Cllr Mrs Thompson mentioned that some proper signage is needed for the Water Sports at Greenfoot Quarry. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the Weardale Adventure Centre
3. Cllr Craig mentioned that rabbits have caused problems with the safety surface in the Westgate Play Park. Cllr Craig mentioned that he knows someone who would do some vermin control to keep the rabbits down. A letter giving him permission will be needed. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact S Makepeace to check the safety surface.
4. Cllr Blackett mentioned that a sign has appeared on the gate into the playing field that no dogs are allowed. The sign refers to the play park which needs a fence around it so that dogs will be allowed on the football field. **Resolved:** Cllr Shuttleworth will deal with this.
5. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff would like to report that there is a loose step half way down Jacobs Ladder on footpath 12, St Johns Chapel. **Resolved:** Clerk to report
6. Further down by St Johns Chapel School there is a footpath sign that has rotted away and is leaning against the wall. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
7. Cllr Mrs Burdis mentioned the parking again at Frosterley School as the children are back at school.
8. Cllr Mrs Smart would like to report that the pavement is all churned up by Rose Villa following a recent accident. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
9. Cllr Brewin read out a letter from Rachel Maclean the Minister of State, Department for levelling Up, Housing and Communities regarding his concerns on the number of B&B's in Frosterley. You don't need planning permission you contact the house evaluation office to change the council tax to business rates.

- 10. The No Dogs Allowed sign that was put up on the gate into Frosterley Recreational Ground was taken down straight away.
- 11. Cllr Miss Carrick would like to report that the trees on Eastgate Bridge need cutting back.
Resolved: Clerk to report to DCC
- 12. Cllr Miss Carrick would like another allotment inspection and also the pumpkin competition should be judged shortly. G Dobson from Wolsingham would be willing to do the judging.
Resolved: clerk to contact and arrange a day and a time
- 13. The Keep Clear sign by the Lime Tree gallery has faded and needs re-painting. **Resolved:** clerk to contact DCC
- 14. Cllr Carrick brought in the Chairmans Medallion for the other councillors to see.

10843

Clerks for Business

Nothing to report

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 4th October 2023 at Eastgate Village Hall at 7pm

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