

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 8th August 2019

PRESENT:

Cllr D Craig Chairman

Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Mrs A Humble, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr B Thompson, Cllr W Wearmouth, Cllr D Ellwood

Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr A Hawkes, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Miss F Graham, Cllr Miss J Carrick

S Anderson Clerk

Chris Elms and Jamie Clarkson - Tri Responders

Anna Caugill – Environment Agency

10105

Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Mrs Maddison

10106

To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

10107

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2019

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

10108

Police and the Community

Cllr Craig welcomed the two tri-responders to the meeting. There had been a theft from an out-building where some copper had been stolen. A theft from Gardiners at Frosterley had taken place and two vehicle crimes had been reported. Three bikers had been issued with notices that had been in Newlandside Quarry. The crime in Weardale is low. Farm Watch has been rebranded as Rural Watch which now has new members. Poaching is still on-going. The councillors were thanked for their donation to the Young Hero's Awards. A young boy saved his sister and received £50 and two children one from Stanhope and one from Wolsingham will also receive an award. Cllr Craig mentioned that a 4x4 had tried to follow a track at Westgate but had to go back. It looks like the 4x4 vehicles are looking for more tracks as a one at Wolsingham has been closed. Cllr Blackett, Cllr Mrs Humble and Cllr Mrs Sutcliff also mentioned tracks that were being used by 4x4 vehicles and motorbikes. Cllr Brewin mentioned the parking at Frosterley, and it seemed to be one persistent person parking inconsiderately. Warning notices have been issued so when another police visit takes place then fines will be issued. Cllr Mrs Thompson reported that Ireshopeburn has the same problem with vehicles parking on the pavement, this will be looked into. Cllr Mrs Hawkes mentioned the parking on the Market Place, Stanhope and some people were triple parking. This is dealt with by the civil enforcement officers.

10109

Environment Agency – Anna Caugill

Cllr Craig welcomed Anna to the meeting who is a community engagement officer dealing with flood risk. She gave a presentation on the weather/climate that is changing, the Weardale Community Resilience project trying to identify vulnerable people and working with the schools in the dale. A meeting which is to be confirmed will be at Bondisle on 19th Aug. Anna will be at St Johns Chapel Show on 31st Aug and drop in events have been arranged for 24th Sept at Cowshill 2.30-7pm, 25th Sept at Stanhope Community Centre 2.30-7pm and 26th Sept at Westgate Village Hall 2.30-7pm. Cllr Craig asked if it was the Environment Agency that were holding things up on the cement works site and Cllr Mrs Humble mentioned the loss of mobile phone signal and how it could be tackled. Cllr Craig thanked Anna for the information

10110

Matters Arising

1. **Weardale Railway** – An email was sent asking Mr E Green-Hughes for assurances that no coaches would go down Bondisle this year
2. **New seat by Play Park, Stanhope** – The area has been looked at and there are plenty of seats so DCC will not provide an additional seat. If the Parish Council want to provide a seat then we should contact D Gillett. **Resolved:** Clerk to ask for a price
3. **Stanhope Dene** – The new owner of the Dene is proposing to move the existing gate about 20ft so that a galvanised steel kissing gate can be installed which will be pushchair friendly and wheelchairs. Hopefully this will deter vandalism and graffiti of the existing buildings. A fence will be erected parallel to the road. The new owner hopes that these proposals are acceptable and welcomed by the community in safeguarding the Dene. DCC have no issues with the proposals. Cllr Mrs Hawkes had concerns that if the gate was locked and there was an accident with the climbers how would the emergency services gain access.
4. **Rookhope Pay Phone** – Information has been requested to see if the phone box can be moved or if it as to stay in its original location and also if it can be moved if planning permission is needed
5. **Ashes Quarry Footbridges** – The bridges in question are private, so it is up to the landowner to repair. Information has been sent to the owner and DCC would offer a percentage of costs as they carry a public right of way. DCC will contact again to see if there is a way forward
6. **Wolsingham School reply to questions** – A reply has been received from Mr Crane to the three questions that needed more detail. A discussion took place and it was felt that an F.O.I. should be requested to find out who signed the contract from the school regarding the Lifestyle Fitness. **Resolved:** Clerk to ask for the information under a F.O.I
7. **Eastgate grass verge** – The councillors would like strategic to look into this as DCC maintain the grass verge
8. **Smiddyburn Bridge** – The bridge is complete and has been granted a Practical Completion Certificate. The public footpath was formally opened on 17th July, photographs have been sent and have been emailed to all the councillors
9. **Neighbourhood Plan** – a representative from Allendale will attend a meeting when a date has been arranged. A meeting to be arranged with the councillors who are interested **Resolved:** Clerk to arrange the meeting
10. **EE Emergency Services Bollihope** – A site meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 13th August at 11am
11. **Rookhope Play Park** – The group are looking at a bigger project so Cllr Shuttleworth will get back to us at a later date when more costings have been sent.
12. **Velo North** – Some of the councillors would like to know how much did DCC spent on this event before it was cancelled **Resolved:** Clerk to find out

13. **NHS Hubs** – If you need to see a doctor out of hours dial 111 and ask the call handler to arrange an appointment at Stanhope. Many people do not know that there is an out of hours service at Stanhope Surgery. There has been an issue with training of the call handlers. It has recently been in the newspaper that the service will close and everyone will have to attend Bishop Auckland. A petition has been organised for the CCG to reconsider the decision. **Resolved:** Clerk to write a letter asking the CCG to reconsider the decision to close the out of hours at Stanhope
14. **BT Kiosk, Frosterley** – Cllr Brewin mentioned that as the telephone kiosk is a new type so it can only be used to hold a defibrillator. The Village Hall Committee will not be adopting it now
15. **Lime Trees on the Green, Frosterley** – The suckers have not been cut off the trees **Resolved:** The clerk to report this again and also that the area around the bench needs cutting
16. **Sign Painting** – The Green sign painting has also not been done **Resolved:** Clerk to contact S Makepeace

10111

Correspondence Received

1. A resident contacted the clerk via the website enquiring where the dog bag dispensers were located, if they are biodegradable, the yearly cost and how much the percentage was of the spend out of the precept. A reply was sent that we have dog dispensers in Wearhead, St Johns Chapel, Daddry Shield, Eastgate, Rookhope, Stanhope and Frosterley. The bags are biodegradable, and the cost last year was £1792.00 out of our precept of £48,000 which is 3.73%. A resident has requested a dog bin at the entrance to Slitt Wood. **Resolved:** Clerk to price a dispenser and the cost of the dog bags
2. An invitation has been received to attend the Town Mayors Civic Service on Sunday 22nd September 2019 at 3pm in St Pauls Church, Spennymoor
3. Mr Brownson has sent an update on the Auckland Project. They are in the final stages of the full restoration work inside Auckland Castle and are on track to fully open by the end of this year. There are some great volunteer opportunities including the Auckland Castle Engager, The Bishops Kitchen Smile, Serve, Enjoy volunteer and Transporter of Delicious Delights. The new Bishop Trevor Gallery has been open since 1st June, a new part of the castle which has never been opened to the public before. Both the Auckland Tower and Mining Art Gallery are open Wednesday to Sunday 10am till 4pm.
4. The OVO Energy Tour of Britain will be passing our Parish on Tuesday 10th September 2019. The stage is expected to start in Gateshead at 11.00am and due to finish in Kendal at approximately 15.30. Full timings will be published in the coming weeks so that we will know exactly when the race will pass Bollihope
5. S Ragg has sent details on avoiding the risks of harassment, intimidation and abuse in both the real world and virtual online world. Details of the email have been sent to all the councillors
6. Overview and Scrutiny in DCC has had a very busy year. The annual report gives an update of the work that has been undertaken during 2018/19 and highlights some of the work that will be undertaken in the coming year. The report has been sent to all the councillors
7. A resident from Frosterley has sent a letter concerning the car parking in Frosterley. This letter was sent to all the councillors to read and also the resident sent a letter to the Police.
8. DCC is reviewing their policy relating to council tax charges for empty properties. The consultation is commencing on 6th October 2019 Following change in the law in April 2019 DCC can now charge a larger percentage of premium for empty properties. Evidence shows that the premium provides an incentive to the owners of long-term empty properties to

bring them back into use and could potentially boost the supply of properties available to rent in the county

9. An email was received from DCC Bereavement that a man had complained about the untidy churchyard. The Parish Council is responsible for the Old Cemetery and not the Churchyard. The email was forwarded to the Church Warden
10. The County Council of Durham (Middleton Lane Wolsingham South Moor) Public Path Extinguishment and Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2019. We have been sent a notice of confirmation for the Orders together with a copy of the Orders and relevant plans.
11. A resident has reported the state of the weeds on the escape lane on Crawleyside, these needs removing urgently in case someone thinks it is a layby and pulls in **Resolved:** Clerk to report to D Hunt
12. A resident is having trouble with a holiday cottage let with families having BBQs and not being thoughtful to the neighbours, do the councillors have any thoughts on the problem on what can be done. The councillors commented that it is a Police matter

10112

Planning Matters

DM/19/02082/FPA

Two storey rear extension and new access from existing highway
6 Britton Hall
Westgate

DM/19/01787/LB

Listed building application for replacement windows to front
Forge Cottage
39 Front Street
Ireshopeburn

DM/19/02008/FPA

External addition to front of existing property (retrospective)
Burnbrae
Hood Street
St Johns Chapel

DM/19/02046/FPA

Change of use of 2 no holiday cottages to permanent dwellings
Morningside
East Lane
Stanhope

DM/19/01733/AD

Fascia Sign
51 Front Street
Stanhope

DM/19/02246/LB

Alterations to windows on side elevations of the cottage
Low Allers Cottage
Cowshill

DM/19/02338/FPA

Single storey side extension and single storey infill property and existing rear extension
70 Ashcroft
Stanhope

DM/19/02408/AD

Internally illuminated advertisement
Horn Hall Farm
Stanhope

A councillor would like to make a comment that the size is actually bigger than stated

PLANNING APPROVALS

DM/19/01183/FPA

Demolition of part of dwelling and extension of opposite side. New access to land, stables, haystore and equestrian arena
Hood Street
St Johns Chapel

DM/19/00441/FPA

Storage building
Far Cornriggs
Cowshill

DM/19/01420/FPA

Storage building
The Paddock
Crawleyside

DM/19/01483/FPA

Walkers Shelter
Quarry Bank Cottage
Harehope Quarry

DM/19/01780/FPA

Replace existing agricultural building with agricultural building for cattle
Bollihope Shield Farm
Frosterley

DM/19/01824/FPA

Change of use of part of dwelling C3 to retail (A1)
2 Market Place
Stanhope

DM/19/02044/FPA

Extension to barn (retrospective)
Steels Cottage Barn
Daddry Shield

DM/19/00943/FPA

Demolition of single storey agricultural building with the provision of one dwelling
Land and buildings to the south of
45 Hood Street
St John's Chapel

DM/19/01572/FPA

Change of use from residential ground floor to sui generis Beautician Studio and first floor to
ancillary storage for existing business uses
39 Front Street
Stanhope

DM/19/01586/VOC

Variation of condition of planning application DM/17/01912/FPA
For alterations to detached garage
Land to the rear of
Forest Lea
Front Street
Frosterley

DM/19/01154/FPA

Dormer window to front
8 School Close
St Johns Chapel

DM/19/01179/FPA

Single storey extension
3 Wear Terrace
Stanhope

10113

Parish Council Website

Nothing to report

10114

Finance

1. Stanhope Methodist Church would like to apply for the Village Hall Grant money of £500
Resolved: Clerk to send £500
2. The furniture maker has sent a quote of £1,405 plus £130 if mounting posts are required.
The cost is inclusive of design, build and delivery, but is exclusive of fitting and Vat **Resolved:**
Clerk to put it out to tender
3. Zurich have sent the renewal policy the schedule has been read through and a few
reductions have been made
4. This year we received £24 from the LCTRS (Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme) grant
money. Next year 2020/21 it is forecast it will be nil

5. An estimate has been received for a second tap at Crosshill Allotments £350 - £400.
Resolved: Cllr Miss Graham and the clerk when doing the Allotment Inspection will have a look at this.
6. All councillors were sent the Bank reconciliation figures ending 30th June 2019
7. A discussion took place on Rookhope Play Park and it was suggested that if the Parish Council donated £7500 then the WAAP would match that with £7500 so Cllr Shuttleworth would put in £7500. It was mentioned about our budget figures. **Resolved:** The project would be supported in principle and the clerk to do some figures for next meeting

10115

AAP Report

Nothing to report

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CDALC

Nothing to report

10117

Accounts for Payment

DCC Comm Highways Worker 1/4/19 to 31/3/2020	£14,972.21
JRB Enterprise Ltd	£537.60
Smith of Derby Wearhead Memorial Clock	£236.40
Smith of Derby Westgate Memorial Clock	£236.40
Smith of Derby Frosterley Village Hall Clock	£236.40
Zurich Municipal Insurance	£1,243.82
Wave – Daddry Shield Public Conv	£53.98
BT Clerks Phone bill	£200.88
Wave – Allotments Willard Grove	£66.48
Wave – Old Cemetery, Stanhope	£12.42
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
S Anderson Salary	£725.23
HM Rev	£28.47
S Anderson Expenses	£49.49
TOTAL	£18,634.78

10118

New Matters for Discussion

1. Cllr Brewin mentioned that there is an empty property in Front Street, Frosterley that needs reporting to DCC **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
2. Where The Green meets Front Street the cobbles need repairing as they have collapsed **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
3. There are no bins at Bollihope Common bottom and the rubbish is being left **Resolved:** Clerk to ask for some bins as there used to be some there
4. Cllr Mrs Humble would like the war memorial weeded and also the area from Cowshill Bus stop to the Church **Resolved:** Clerk to report to D Hunt
5. Teasdale has had two events sponsored by the AONB it is time that Weardale had something at some point. **Resolved:** Cllr Ellwood will contact the AONB
6. Cllr Blackett mentioned that Burnhope Reservoir is a disgrace and needs immediate attention to tidy it up **Resolved:** Clerk to contact Northumbrian Water
7. Cllr Ellwood would like to report that the seating area near Frosterley House needs planting and tidying up **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
8. Cllr Mrs Thompson is concerned that the Community Paramedic will work between Willington/Crook/Stanhope. It's a long way from the top of the dale if the Community Paramedic is out of the dale, there will be no cover. **Resolved:** Clerk to write
9. Ireshopeburn Play Park needs a good clean along with the safety matting **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
10. The parking on Hood Street, St John's Chapel was mentioned and that could DCC purchase the land that is up for sale at the moment. It would ease the parking slightly and get a few cars off Hood Street. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
11. Cllr Miss Graham mentioned Newtown House and asked is it opening as a Care Home. Cllr Thompson said it was moving in the right direction and it had been leased off to another company. DCC have the power to take Newtown House back if it does not open as a care home. Cllr Thompson will be kept informed
12. In Paragon Street on the footpath a small manhole cover has been patched where a hole appeared, but it needs doing properly as it is sinking again **Resolved:** Clerk to report it
13. Stanhope Silver Band was mentioned, and Cllr Miss Graham wanted to know if we could make voluntary donations without a request for a donation. Cllr Craig declared an interest. The road closure for the band march on Show Day has been paid for now
14. Cllr Miss Carrick has had a report that the lock on the toilet is faulty in the Riverside Playpark and that the condition of them is not very good **Resolved:** Clerk to report to D Hunt
15. The dog bin down Bondisle near to the railway is overflowing with rubbish **Resolved:** Clerk to report to D Hunt
16. It was mentioned that there is a possibility that the Bonny Moor Hen has been bought by a developer. A close watch on the planning applications must take place
17. The tubs at St Johns Chapel at the Town Hall are the same ones that are at the end of St Johns Chapel, Wearhead and Cowshill and they are planted. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff commented that it will be because they are not on DCC land. **Resolved:** Clerk to try again
18. The trailers are back on the roadside at Willow Green again
19. Cllr Craig mentioned the motorbikes and that the quarry entrance was a good place for the police to park, but the inspector did not agree. A discussion took place which was constructive, and it sounded positive

10119

Clerks Business

The allotment inspection and judging will take place on Thursday 8th August 2019

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 4th September 2019 at the Dales Centre, Stanhope commencing at 7pm

-----Signed-----date