

## STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in Eastgate Village Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### PRESENT:

Cllr D Craig, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr P Turton, Cllr R Lawrie,

Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr Mrs C Burdis, Cllr Mrs S Smart,

Cllr Miss J Carrick – Chairman

Susan Anderson – Clerk

Also present:

Inspector Michael Sammut

**10977**

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Mrs A Hawkes, Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr E Buchanan, Cllr Mrs A Savory

**10978**

#### **To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members**

None received

**10979**

#### **Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

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

**10980**

#### **Michael Sammut – Police Inspector**

Cllr Miss Carrick welcomed the new Inspector to the meeting. Cllr Brewin is chair at Frosterley Village Hall and he mentioned that some police officers had been there and they were wonderful. The rules and regulations have changed and the police no longer attend Parish Council meetings. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff asked how many police work from the Stanhope Office. There are two Police Officers and four PCSO,s. Non-emergencies can be reported via a new on-line system which will help the 101 telephone lines. If the older people cannot manage then other people should support them. Cllr Lawrie mentioned do the police still use the speed gun for speeding. What normally happens is lines are put across the road and then the data is looked at, surveys are done to assess the average speed.

The next stage is speed watch and after that enforcement. Cllr Mrs Smart mentioned that she had been told that there wasn't a speeding problem it was her perception of speed. She feels that no-one is listening and that when the line was put across the road to collect the information it was done in the quietest months of the year. Insp Sammut explained that the police have no authority to change a speed limit it has to be DCC. Cllr Craig mentioned that there have been two accidents in six weeks on the same stretch of road and feels that these were speed related. He mentioned incidences that have happened and is very frustrated that nothing is being done to reduce the speed limit. Small illegal number plates on motorbikes were also mentioned. Crime in Weardale is low to other areas with a good Rural Watch Group. Weardale and Teasdale now have some drones which are excellent. Cllr Miss Carrick thanked Inspector Sammut for attending the meeting.

## 10981

### Matters Arising

1. **KERB BY THE BONNY MOOR HEN** – The footpath has been inspected and has been added onto the current work programme.
2. **ST JOHNS CHAPEL PLAY AREA**- An update has been received from A Maddison regarding the play areas. The installation team should be on site within the next fortnight at St Johns Chapel play area. Funding has been received from Cllr Shuttleworth's Towns & Neighbourhood Budget £17750 and £24844 from the Weardale AAP Area Budget. The other play areas that are being works on are Frosterley-Totally refurbishment, Wearhead-Flooring and Ireshopeburn-Swing Frame.
3. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN DOG FOULING** – Mr Mills has been in Stanhope along the Riverside Walk and play park as dogs are being taken into the park, Front Street, path from railway bridge to the Butts and Ashcroft Playing field. Some large dog fouling signs have been requested at Ashcroft. If Mr Mills issues any fines then he will contact me. It has been reported that the Riverside Walk is still no better. There is dog mess in the layby at Westgate and Eastgate would like some large dog fouling signs. It was suggested to contact the schools regarding the children doing some dog poo notices. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC and the schools
4. **SUCKERS ON THE LIME TREES** – All of the trees will be trimmed when the Lime Trees are cut back on Front Street, Stanhope ready for the Show. This includes the roadside trees next to Willard Grove and on The Green at Frosterley.
5. **ROAD SWEEPER** – One of the sweepers has been out of action but the road will be swept very shortly ready for the Shows in the dale.
6. **RIVERSIDE TOILETS, STANHOPE** – The toilets are open and have been for a while now
7. **PRESENTATIONS AT OUR MEETINGS** – D Knight the Community Safety Coordinator will be attending the October meeting and J Grant the Flood Resilience Community Engagement Officer and Dan Harsley will be attending the December meeting.
8. **RAGWORT** – An email has been received from a man who has written to the Wear Rivers Trust concerning the Ragwort. Cllr Buchanan has written to DCC asking them to draw up a policy on the control of ragwort.
9. **WEARDALE MUSUEM** – The Trustees of the Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust have generously agreed a pledge of £50,000 towards the restoration of the CJ Vincent Organ at High House Chapel.
10. **WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE** – No reply has been received yet from the MP
11. **TOILETS IN FROSTERLY** – Cllr Mrs Burdis would like some toilets in Frosterley again. Visitors need toilets and they cannot use the Co-ops toilets. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
12. **TAPESTRIES** – Cllr Mrs Thompson went to see the tapestries which she said were very good.

## 10982

### Correspondence Received

1. A tenant from Bondisle would like permission to keep three hens in a 3m x 3m hen house. **Resolved:** Permission was granted
2. Cllr Mrs Thompson asked the clerk to contact S Lewis to sweep the path outside of the Co-op in St Johns Chapel.
3. S Lewis mentioned that there was a repair needed in Westgate Playpark and also the safety surface was dipping in places. S Makepeace has mentioned that the climbing frame needs the rope ladder replaced after it has been inspected. The safety surface is uneven due to rabbits going underneath the surface. A councillor knows someone with a ferret. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC for permission
4. The Tree Council is inviting applications through the Branching Out Fund for schools, community groups, Parish & Town Councils to be able to apply for grants of between £250 and £2500 to get communities and young people up to the age of 21 involved in planting and caring for trees, hedges and orchards. There are specific criteria for grants under £500 and those above £500.
5. An email has been received regarding a section of the river under the footbridge next to the show field. The footway down is not the best and the resident was wondering if it would be possible to get some steps down, he would be willing to put some slabs himself. Cllr Shuttleworth dealt with this.
6. An email from the Regional Economic Crime Coordination Centre have sent the July 2024 edition of the Monthly Threat Update providing an overview of Economic and Cyber trends within the North East.
7. CDALC have sent an email on the benefits of moving to a .gov.uk domain. There is a Parish Council Domains Helper Service which provides information and a shortlist of 35 .gov.uk Approved Registrars. I have signed up to attend a free, no obligation online session on how to move the council successfully to a .gov.uk domain. We have to do this as stated in the information that has come back from Mazars, the external auditor. We would have to apply for a .gov domain and then all councillors will have a .gov email address for Parish Council use. We can still stay with Northgate Systems for the website which I hope you will agree to as they are so helpful if I have any problems. **Resolved:** It was agreed to stay with Northgate for the website
8. DCC are seeking views on a proposal to change the use of the land of the former Rookhope Primary School and playing fields. The proposal is for the school to be a business centre and the field an open space for use by the public. A discussion took place and the councillors were annoyed that they had been given such short notice to look at the proposal. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact Cllr Shuttleworth for more information and to write to DCC and also to ask for an extension of the date on the proposal deadline.
9. An email was received regarding a meeting on works to be undertaken at Middlehopesfield. The works will be funded by UK Gov through UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and DFRA though Farming in Protected Landscapes as part of a project called the Land of Lead and Silver delivered by North Pennines National landscape and running until 2027. Cllr Craig attended the meeting.
10. We have received an invitation to the Durham City Remembrance Fundraising Dinner on 19<sup>th</sup> October at the Masonic Hall in Durham City. The cost is £28 per head and is a black tie event.

## 10983

### County Councillor Update

No update this month

## 10984

### Planning Matters

DM/24/02130/FPA

Construction of concrete road to replace existing gravel farm track

High House Farm

Huntshieldford

St Johns Chapel

DM/24/02159/VOC

Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) and 5 (window) pursuant to planning permission DM/17/02989/FPA. Alterations to include the introduction of PVC windows in the side elevations, removal of openings on rear elevation, fence to rear and removal of rooflights in main roof.

St Johns Methodist Chapel

Hood Street

St. Johns Chapel

DM/24/02261/FPA

Replacement of roof covering and provision of solar panels to front and rear roofs

Rose Cottage

Front Street

Frosterley

## PLANNING APPROVALS

DM/23/00510/FPA

Conservatory to side, vehicular hardstanding details landscaping and retention of detached shed (part retrospective)

Riggside

St Johns Chapel

## 10985

### Finance

1. The E-On bill for Ashcroft Playpark would have been £621.06 per year. I have now put the Parish Council into a 1 year fixed business plan which will be just over £357. Its 56p per day standing charge and 40.6 per kwh. There will be a smart meter fitted on the 26<sup>th</sup> September as the one at the play park has now come to its end of its life.
2. The Annual Return is now completed and has been sent to all of the councillors.
3. The Rural Services Network have sent some information which was sent to the councillors. Last meeting it was agreed to join but there is a charge of £50 +vat a year to join. The councillors were only going to join if there was no charge. Resolved: It was decided not to join this time
4. Cllr Miss Carrick and the clerk went to Bondisle Allotments. There were entries from two tenants (three from one family including a child) and a joint one from an adult and child. There is one to judge at Westgate which will be done shortly. An inspection took place at the same time. Next years allotment competition will be the tallest sunflower **Resolved:** As there was only a few entries it was agreed for the entrants to have free rent and the two children to receive a packet of seeds and some sweets.
5. The detailed Budget Summary has been sent across to all councillors.

6. The monthly invoice to Eastgate Village Hall might be better put onto standing order.  
**Resolved:** Clerk to see if it can be done as only eleven months

**10986**

**CDALC**

No report this month

**10987**

**AAP Report**

Meeting postponed

**10988**

**Accounts for payment**

S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
S Anderson Expenses	£48.99
S Anderson Salary	£903.28
HM Rev	£20.96
Eastgate Village Hall	£30.00
Northgate systems mislaid cheque	£24.00

**DIRECT DEBITS PAID**

21/8 E-ON	£43.50
16/8 Vodafone	£44.50
14/8 Anglian Water	£22.61
14/8 Anglian Water	£12.15
7/8 Anglian water	£74.66
5/8 Comm Charges	£15.55

**ACCOUNTS FOR RECEIPTS**

5/8 Business banking loyalty	£1.14
Accounts agreed	

**10989**

**New Matters for Discussion**

1. Cllr Mrs Smart mentioned that a dog bin at Eastgate had not been emptied. This is due to one of the lads being unwell and not everyone else knows where all of the bins are that need emptying.
2. Cllr Craig mentioned that the gate onto the tennis court area is locked. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC.
3. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff is concerned about the number of residents at the top end of the dale who are not applying for planning permission. Things are going up and being taken down and grass verges are being used as their own. After contacting the planning department Cllr Mrs Sutcliff was told that there was only one officer in that department who dealt with this.
4. Cllr Brewin brought up the caravan park over the bridge in Frosterley. There is a hot tub but no shed that had been applied for. This was mentioned at the May meeting.
5. There is a sign on Front Street directing people to the Methodist Chapel which is no longer there so needs to be taken down. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
6. The Church at Frosterley has now been officially sold and the new owner has no problem in people using the footpath to visit the graves. The Church Commissioners have sent the required paperwork to DCC so that the footpath is official.
7. Cllr Miss Carrick would like to report that the sign for Osborne Terrace needs painting. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
8. A resident has reported the weeds from the fire station to front street in Stanhope need either spraying or pulling out. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC

**10990**

**Clerks Business**

Nothing to report

**MEETING CLOSED AT 8.40PM**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2024 AT EASTGATE VILLAGE HALL  
COMMENCING AT 7PM**

-----Signed.....Date