**STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL**

**At a meeting via ZOOM of the Council held on 7th April 2021**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Mrs A Humble, Cllr D Ellwood, Cllr B Thompson,

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

Cllr W Wearmouth, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Mrs H Maddison

Cllr D Craig – Chairman

Susan Anderson – Clerk

**10434**

**Apologies for Absence**

Cllr L Blackett

**10435**

**To Receive any Declarations of Interest from Members**

None received.

**10436**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2021.**

Minutes were moved as a true and correct record and will be signed by the chairman when a face-to-face meeting can be held.

**10437**

**Police and the Community**

No Police were in attendance.

**10438**

**Matters Arising**

1. **Land over the railway line at Bondisle –** It was agreed at the last meeting to refer to Durham County Council. After speaking to the Chairman, it was felt that a site meeting would be beneficial to assess the situation, which was held. Durham County Council are dealing with this.
2. **Pothole by Barrington House, Stanhope –** The pothole has been added onto a list of works programme. The pothole was filled in very quickly.
3. **Potholes at Newhouse, Ireshopeburn –** The potholes have been added onto a list of works programme.
4. **Garden wall, Ireshopeburn –** DCC are unable to do anything about the tree roots that are coming through the garden wall at a house in Ireshopeburn as it is privately owned.
5. **New Pigeon Shed, Bondisle –** We have been asked to re-consider the decision regarding a new pigeon shed at Bondisle Allotments. Images and drawings have been sent which have been sent to the councillors. A letter of support has been received from the allotment tenants. Most of the councillors agreed that the application should be given permission under special circumstances and that the rotten shed must come down and that the permission is for the tenants lifetime use only.
6. **John Wesley Monument, Ireshopeburn –** The Parish Council has been notified that the John Wesley Monument has been added onto the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest and remains listed at Grade 11. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff would like to know who is responsible for the monument as works are needed. **Resolved:** Clerk to write and find out who is responsible for the monument.
7. **Footpath at Ireshopeburn –** The footpath officer has been to inspect the loose dogs and the gate. As the gate is openable there is not a lot that can be done. The question over the dogs loose sign is being referred higher. At the time of the visit there were no dogs running loose. Cllr Mrs Thompson has had another complaint regarding the dogs running loose. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the Rights of Way Officer again
8. **Ditch on Newhouse Bank, Ireshopeburn –** J Hodges will deal with this.
9. **Permanent Toilet Provision in Stanhope –** A few months ago Cllr Miss Carrick suggested that Stanhope needs more toilet provision. It was referred to DCC but after speaking to D Hunt he suggested that we write to Oliver Sherratt and suggest a Unisex Toilet in the gardened area of Garden Close down from the fire station as this area is owned by DCC. **Resolved:** The location was agreed by the councillors so the clerk to write to DCC.
10. **Planning Notices –** When the planning department carry out reconsultations on amended plans as part of a planning application they are not required to post a second site notice. In the application regarding the church at Frosterley the amended plans were submitted DCC sent notification letters to local residents to let them know amended plans had been received.
11. **Frosterley Caravan Sites –** The Police visited the sites and the cars that were there the owners were restocking their caravans. Shortly they will be able stay as long as they use their own showers and toilets.
12. **Dog Fouling Notices –** Cllr Mrs Humble has not received the Dog Fouling Notices to put up. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt

**10439**

**Correspondence Received**

1. CDALC information has been sent to all of the councillors along with DCC updates.
2. People with health conditions are to receive guidance on how they can vote in the forthcoming elections. The letter will inform them of the voting options available and aims to support them making the right decision about how to cast their vote in May. There are three ways that voters can cast their vote – by visiting polling station or registering for a postal vote or by proxy vote. Electoral services can be contacted on 03000 261 212.
3. The owner of the Dene has informed us that DCC are to be repairing the bridge at Widley, but as yet no confirmed date has been set.
4. Cllr Thompson sent some information to all of the councillors from the recent WAAP meeting.
5. An order has been made to Divert Public Footpath No 24 Wearhead Ward, Stanhope Parish. Any representations about or objection to the Order may be sent to County Hall by 27th April 2021. The email was sent to all of the councillors. Cllr Mrs Humble has no problem with this diversion but insists that the path is properly way marked to the ward boundary, the field gate and kissing gates are repaired, and the obstruction is removed.
6. Cllr Miss Graham has had a report that someone was seen using the bus shelter, Market Place, Stanhope as a toilet. She was wondering if a port a loo could be placed on the Market Place as no toilets are open at the moment. D Hunt has been contacted and the Riverside Toilets are open 24/7.
7. It has been identified that a BT payphone in Rookhope is no longer required and therefore could be removed. BT has asked DCC to collate any comments regarding the matter and to relay these back to BT for consideration. BT offers local communities the facility to adopt a traditional red heritage phone box and make them an asset that local people can enjoy for just £1 thereby protecting the heritage of the community.
8. D Hunt has arranged for two bins to be placed at Bollihope which will remain there until after the summer holidays. Extra cover had been arranged to cover the bins and litter over Easter. The toilets in the Dales Centre will re-open on 12th April 2021.
9. It has been reported that a tent and rubbish had been left in Slitt Wood, Westgate. Someone has gathered it all up and covered it with the ground sheet. D Hunt has been contacted to send the lads there.
10. A councillor who used to be on the Parish Council had read in the minutes about Ashes Quarry Bridges. He would like it bringing to the councillor’s attention that the responsibility for bridges on private land lies with the County Council. In the 1980’s the bridges were repaired by the County Council. This set a precedent that they accepted responsibility for maintenance and repair of the Ashes Footbridge. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC.
11. An allotment tenant at Crosshill would like permission to put a small 3ft x 5ft shed on the plot along with a small fenced off area for 4-5 hens and a 3ft x 3ft 6ins hen house. To be discussed under Allotments.
12. The Good Councillors Guide is available in hard copy. CDALC would like to know if we would like to order any copies.  **Resolved:** Clerk to order some Good Councillor Guides
13. An email has been received from some of the tenants on the Crosshill Allotments called the Crosshill Allotment Group which has been sent to all of the councillors. It was felt that to discuss this properly it needed a separate meeting. The councillors would like to know the specific concerns of the Crosshill Allotment Group. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the Allotment Group asking for the specific concerns and to give a deadline date for a reply. Clerk to organise a Special Meeting of the Parish Council so that all of the councillors have the opportunity to discuss the reply from the Crosshill Allotment Group and to look at the Tenancy Agreement. This Tenancy Agreement relates to all six of the Allotment Sites in Stanhope Parish. Cllr Craig and Cllr Miss Carrick felt it would be beneficial to discuss at a full council meeting.

**10440**

**Allotment Tenancy Agreement – Amendments**

1. Stanhope Parish Council can amend our Tenancy Agreement at any point of the year. No decision was made to be discussed at the Allotment meeting.
2. Tenants are responsible for their own vermin control. To be discussed at the Allotment meeting.
3. For Insurance purposes tenants enter these allotments at their own risk – Community Garden . To be discussed at the Allotment meeting.
4. Electricity poles to be inspected by Northern PowerGrid as the plot to be halved at the Old Hall Site has one in it. The inspector took some photographs of the plot and he advised where a small hen hut could be placed and the gateway into the plot. He advised that we need to put something in the Tenancy Agreement that in the future there is only one place where a small hen coup can be placed on that plot. It has been referred to his manager for approval.
5. Apparently, there are two more wells on the Crosshill Allotment Site that need covering over. DCC have been contacted as they might be able to cap them if not S Makepeace will need to cover them. We are waiting to be contacted by DCC from someone with relevant experience.
6. Any rent increase can be discussed now which would come into effect 1st April 2023 **Resolved:** It was agreed to increase the rent to £25 per plot

**10441**

**Planning Matters**

DM/21/00520/FPA

Conversion/1st floor extension to existing

Storage building/barn to 2-bedroom holiday cottage/

Let accommodation.

Land & buildings to

The South of 11

Market Place

St Johns Chapel

DM/21/00667/VOC

Removal of condition 6 (Occupancy restriction)

Of planning permission 3/1985/00596 to allow

Unrestricted occupation

West Winds

Lanehead

DM/21/00940/FPA

Single and two storey extensions to the front and the rear

East End

Stanhope

**PLANNING REFUSALS**

DM/20/01997/FPA

Retention of 3 no timber stable/feedstore for the shelter of

Rescue donkeys, goats and birds in cages

Fernleigh

Front Street

Frosterley

**PLANNING APPROVALS**

DM/20/02182/FPA – DM/20/02183/LB

Conversion of former church to dwelling, associated access and parking.

 amended plans received 13/1/2021.

St Michael and All Angels

Frosterley

DM/20/02203/FPA

Construction of single storey storage shed with workshop for domestic use &

Feed store in connection with land holding

Land North West of 6

Newhouse

DM/20/03746/FPM

Alteration of windows on the front (Northern) elevation.

15 Hood Street

St Johns Chapel

DM/20/03819/LB

Replacement illuminated and non-illuminated signs.

Replacement of 2 door and 2 windows

Bonny Moor Hen

Stanhope

DM/21/00053/FPA

Prior approval for erection of building for storage of farm equipment and machinery

Pinfold House

Daddry Shield

DM/21/00167/LB

Internal alterations

61 Front Street

Frosterley

DM/20/03380/VOC

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission DM/19/02687/FPA

To amend layout and appearance of dwellings

Land between 61 & 67

Hood Street

St Johns Chapel

DM/20/03680/FPA

Retention of turning head and recladding of existing farm buildings

Sunny Bank Farm

St Johns Chapel

DM/20/03136/FPA

Replacement summerhouse

Eastdale

White Kirkley

Frosterley

DM/20/03820/AD

Replacement illuminated and non-illuminated signs

Bonny Moor Hen

Stanhope

**10442**

**Financial Regulations – Review**

Cllr Mrs Hawkes would like some guidelines embodied in the regulations. She will draft some sentences to add which will be circulated around the councillors. This will be re-visited at the May meeting.

**10443**

**Finance**

1. The Friends of Stanhope Barrington School would like to take every class to the Weardale Outdoor Education Centre for a day of outdoor learning experiences. The cost will be in the region of £6500 and to gain maximum benefit they would like to take every child twice totalling £13,000. A discussion took place on this. It was felt the only fair way of doing this would be to allocate so much money per head and contact the other schools to let them know that there is money available for a school trip. We have never been approached by a school before for a school trip. No decision was made on this request and it will be looked at in May.
2. The clerk is having problems with the laptop. Advice is needed on a good make with plenty of memory. **Resolved:** It was agreed for the clerk to get a new laptop and to contact Northgate for them to order it and install it.

**10444**

**AAP Report**

Cllr Thompson reported that the County Councillors have now spent all of their money. There is some Government money coming to the AAP’s which will be taken up over the next three years. This will be available to the private sector as well as groups. More will be made clear after purdah.

**10445**

**CDALC Report**

No meeting has been held.

**10446**

**Accounts for Payment**

Northgate systems IT Support 2nd Fix £48.00

E-ON Next Ashcroft Playground- due date 22/3/2021 £11.66 PAID

DCC Business Rates – Cemetery, Stanhope £195.26

County Durham & Cleveland County Training Partnership £10.00

GF White LLP Allotments at Ireshopeburn £20.00

S Anderson Salary £737.63

HM REV Paye £38.56

S Anderson Expenses £184.99

S Anderson Home as Office £35.00

Total £1281.10

**Accounts for Receipts**

Allotment Rent £666.00

Allotment Rent £396.00

Allotment Rent £252.00

Allotment Rent £45.00

Total £1359.00

**10447**

**New Matters for Discussion**

1. Councillor Thompson mentioned that the War Memorial has been tidied up in Rookhope and they have done a good job.
2. Cllr Miss Carrick would like a dog bin at Cross Street, Stanhope which is near to Eastcroft and Westcroft. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
3. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff would like the dog bin removing by the seat at Huntshieldford as it smells. **Resolved:** Clerk to ask D Hunt again
4. Cllr Brewin would like to thank Cllr Thompson for taking in his election papers to County Hall.
5. Cllr Brewin would like a designated disability car park space in the car park at Frosterley. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC
6. Cllr Brewin would like a site meeting with Cllr Ellwood at the caravan park on the other side of the bridge at Frosterley.
7. Cllr Miss Graham would like a skip for Bondisle Allotments so that any rubbish can be cleared away from the back of the plots. **Resolved:** It was agreed for the clerk to order a skip.
8. Cllr Miss Graham mentioned that after ten years she will be stepping down and not standing for Ward councillor for Stanhope. She thanked the clerk and the councillors for her time on the Parish Council which she had enjoyed.
9. Cllr Ellwood mentioned that he had never missed a meeting in four years but will not be standing again for Ward councillor for Stanhope Rural. He will be sorry to be going and leaving CDALC, ANOB and the WAAP.
10. Cllr Mrs Humble was shocked at the resignations and that both councillors had contributed a lot.
11. Cllr Mrs Humble would like to know what is happening at Killhope Lead Mining as there are some unsafe structures. She would like to know when they are opening again. **Resolved:** Clerk to write and find out.
12. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like to report a fallen tree over the footpath that runs behind the Ranch to Coronation Bridge. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the footpath officer
13. Cllr Mrs Hawkes mentioned that Cllr Miss Graham and Cllr Ellwood would have their own personal reasons for resigning and had been valuable members. She thanked Cllr Ellwood and Cllr Miss Graham for their help and for what she had learned from them during her short time with the Parish Council as a Stanhope Councillor.
14. Cllr Mrs Maddison will also not be standing again as Ward councillor for Frosterley.
15. Cllr Craig mentioned that he will miss everyone and that it was a pity to be losing three councillors in one go.

**10448**

**Clerks Business**

Nothing to report.

Meeting closed at 9pm

Date of the next meeting will be Wednesday May 12th, 2021 commencing at 6.30pm for the

 Annual Meeting, 6.45pm for the AGM, 7pm for the May meeting at Rookhope Club.

………………………………………………………………………………………Signed…………………………………………Date