

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in Eastgate Village Hall on 1st May 2024

PRESENT:

Cllr D Craig, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr S Smart, Cllr R Lawrie, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes,

Cllr E Buchanan, Cllr Mrs S Thompsom, Cllr M Brewin

Cllr Miss J Carrick – Chairman

Also Present – Cllr Mrs A Savory

Susan Tron – Durham Community Action

Susan Anderson – Clerk

10923

Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr P Turton, Cllr C Burdis

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To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

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Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2024

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

10926

Susan Tron- Durham Community Action – Rural Housing

Cllr Miss Carrick welcomed Susan Tron to the meeting. Durham Community Action has received funding from DEFRA through the ACRE network which is funded until March 2025. Housing needs Surveys would be done which determine the local level of need for housing, both affordable and market and explore community opinion towards new housing development. The rural affordable housing are small scale 5-20 units which have affordable rent of discounted market sales and are delivered by Housing Associations or Local Authority. The Rural Housing Enabling works with rural communities to assess local housing requirements. The report is anonymised and is formally adopted/agreed by the Parish Council. If a local need is identified the Parish Council would then decide what to do about it. A suitable location would be chosen. The Housing Association works with partners to negotiate purchase of the land, prepare designs, submit a planning application, build and manage the new homes. Cllr Mrs Savory mentioned that all of the new houses at Wolsingham have been let. Child care is expensive so families need to be able to live near grandparents. Cllr Mrs Hawkes mentioned the need for bungalows. Depending on the site and planning it can take up to

three years or maybe even seven years. Conservation Areas and AONB areas may take longer but not impossible. Cllr Craig mentioned that some farmers would like to do up old buildings so that family members could move out of the villages which would free up houses. He feels the planners could be more helpful. Susan Tron will send the link to affordable housing for the councillors to read.

10927

Matters Arising

1. **ST JOHNS CHAPEL MARKET PLACE FLAG STONES** – The highways inspector has been out and the flag stones will be repaired on a fourteen notice
2. **WATER METER, EASTGATE VILLAGE HALL** – The highways Inspector has met with a member of the Village Hall who knows roughly where the water meter cover is. This has been reported to the Surfacing Manager who will send a team up to uncover the meter.
3. **SNARES IN FROSTERLEY** – The Neighbourhood Warden has received the complaint from the Parish Council and has taken Cllr Brewins contact number. It was children that had set the snares which are no longer there now.
4. **FROSTERLEY CAR PARK**- The Neighbourhood Warden has had a van removed from the car park and the wall has been reported to Highways as there is a tree in the neighbouring field which is pushing the wall and causing damage.
5. **MOVEMENT OF PIGS** – The Environmental Health department cannot confirm that licences will be applied for but it is a legal requirement to have a licence to move pigs. An inspection would only take place if any information is received concerning the welfare.
6. **WESTGATE CARAVAN** - The caravan is still parked in the lay-by at Westgate, damage has been done trying to get it to its location. It should hopefully be moved soon.
7. **ALLERS LANE**- Cllr Buchanan mentioned the lane has been resurfaced and is smooth.

10928

Correspondence Received

1. An email has been received from Angelina Maddison that the consultation has finished regarding the equipment and the order has been placed for the upgrade of the play equipment at St Johns Chapel. It normally takes around two months for manufacture.
2. A tenant from Willard Grove allotments would like permission for a poly tunnel 14ft by 6 and a half feet. A letter has been sent with a diagram of where the tenant would like to erect the polytunnel. **Resolved:** Councillors agreed the application
3. Cllr Buchanan would like the footpath on the Weardale Way between Allers Lea and Heatherycleugh Bridge inspecting as it is either blocked or impassable.
4. A gentleman is looking to have a simple slim headstone placed on a grave to mark the source of his family. On checking our records the grave is not in the Old Cemetery but I have given the gentleman the contact details of the Church Wardens in case the grave is in the Churchyard.
5. A tenant from Willard Grove Allotments would like permission to keep 5-6 hens in a small hen house measuring 1m x 1m x 1m. The fencing will be six feet tall so the hens cannot escape. The hen run will be located in front of the greenhouse at the rear of the plot. **Resolved:** Councillors agreed the application
6. An email has been sent from the Regional Economic Crime Coordination Centre- RECCC with the offer of police support with Fraud/Scam awareness in our communities. We have been sent a monthly newsletter which will be sent regularly. Information has been sent to all councillors.

7. An email has been received from a resident of Front Street concerning the white lines down the street, Keep Clear etc. These need painting before the summer visitors arrive. The councillors agreed that the lines do need repainting as they are very faint. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC

10929

County Councillor Update

Cllr Mrs Savory mentioned the big issue with Stanhope School. A meeting has been held to stop the myths that the school is going to close, this is not the case. The numbers on the roll are decreasing with 22 going out and 10 coming in. This will affect the finance as each child is allocated an amount. One of the councillors mentioned that they felt that the closure of Scamps did not help. Cllr Mrs Savory felt that a thank you letter should be sent to the AAP for all the work that they do. The AAP have now moved out of the Dales Centre and are based in the Civic Centre, Crook with half a day in The Hub, Stanhope and a Wednesday at the Community Hospital. Wolsingham now have parking charges in the St Annes Centre and the Demense car park. Residents can apply for a £5 yearly pass.

10930

Planning Matters

DM/23/00938/FPA

Ground mounted solar PV system of 28 solar panels of 2 arrays of 14 panels adjacent to school playing field

St Johns Chapel primary School

Burnfoot

St Johns Chapel

Low Carbon Team

DM/23/00897/FPA

Conversion of former agricultural building to habitable accommodation.

Little Allercleugh

Ireshopeburn

DM/23/01002/PNA

Erection of 1 no. general purpose agricultural building for the storage of machinery and hay

New Meadows

Sidehead

Westgate

DM/24/00899/VOC w

Variation of condition 10 (external lighting) pursuant to Planning Permission no DM/22/02878/MIN to allow for temporary lighting

Ludwell

DM/24/00957/MIN

Development of a pilot lithium processing plant using groundwater abstracted from existing ground water wells and associated infrastructure

Site of former

Weardale Works and Quarry

Eastgate

DM/24/00986/FPA

Agricultural building for the storage of plant, trailers, implements, building materials and tools for use in association with the Caravan Park and agricultural holding and for the storage of winter feed for livestock on site of existing timber chalet pitch.

Fineburn Caravan Park
Frosterley

DM/24/01000/FPA and DM/24/01001/LB Listed building consent

Loft conversion with five conservation style rooflights, creation of new doorway opening within the western elevation.

3 Cragside Cottage
Eastgate

DM/24/01022/VOC

Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) condition 3 (materials) and condition 6 (windows and doors) pursuant to DM/20/02778/FPA

Agricultural Building
To the south of Chapel House, Wearhead

10931

Finance

1. I have been to the bank to see about how to send a direct payment from the Parish Councils Bank Account. With needing two signatories on the account, we have to have approval from another councillor before a payment can be sent, the councillor will be linked to the Parish Council account. Usually, I pay the PAYE with a payment slip and a cheque but this year I have not been sent a book. I can pay the PAYE direct from the Real Time HM system that I use to do my salary from the bank account. This needs approval from the councillors. **Resolved:** It was agreed to arrange dual authority for on-line banking
2. The AGAR figures were sent to the councillors on 9th April 2024 along with the Bank Reconciliation figures. All of the information is still within the Internal Auditor so we will approve the accounts at the June meeting.
3. Every year we receive the Section 136 money of £2700. This year we did not receive it when we received the Precept so I have contacted DCC. They apologised for the oversight of the payment.

10932

AAP Report

There has been no meeting yet. Cllr Mrs Savory mentioned that it is a travesty that the AAP have had to move out of Stanhope which is not good for Weardale.

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Accounts for Payment

Eon Next Ashcroft playpark - PAID	£46.98
Npower public lighting	£615.82
Npower public lighting	£3,149.42

CDALC subscription	£723.62
S Anderson Expenses	£27.20
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
S Anderson Salary	£903.28
HM Rev & Customs	£20.96
BT Clerks Phone bill	£82.22
WAVE Daddry Shield Toilets	£70.13
Wave – Allotments Willard Grove	£50.94
Wave – Old Cemetery Stanhope	£20.07
DCC – Lighting repairs Island House	£117.65
Eastgate Village Hall	£30.00
TOTAL	£5893.29

ACCOUNTS FOR RECEIPTS

Precept DCC	£48,994.05
Allotment Rent April	£440.00
Barclays Loyalty Reward	£3.93
TOTAL	£49,437.98

10934

New matters for discussion

1. Councillor Mrs Thompson attended the recent PPG at the surgery. The Practice Manager will email a monthly brief. There is a new self-check in at the desk for those people that can manage it.
2. Councillor Mrs Sutcliff mentioned was there any update on the swimming pool in Stanhope as this will be another summer that the pool will not be open. The last update was that the lease was being negotiated.
3. Councillor Blackett would like to report excessive water on the road up from Killhope. Due to a hip replacement Cllr Blackett will not be able to attend a few Parish Council meetings.
4. Cllr Craig mentioned the gully that it still hasn't been repaired. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
5. Councillor Mrs Hawkes thanked the Parish Council for their patience with her recent breaks.
6. Councillor Miss Carrick mentioned the compliant regarding the solar lights on the Willard Grove allotments. The tenant took the lights down but now they are in his own garden so this is not a Parish Council matter. The Neighbourhood Warden should be contacted.

7. The first allotment inspection will take place towards the end of May.
8. Cllr Turton sent an email mentioning that the cones are still on top of some of the poles between Stanhope and Frosterley. Also with Inspector Turner retiring he thought we should discuss speeding with the new successor.

10935

Clerks Business

Nothing to report

Meeting closed at 8.24pm

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 5th June 2024 at Eastgate Village Hall commencing at 7pm

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