

## STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019

### PRESENT:

Cllr D Craig

Cllr B Thompson, Cllr D Ellwood, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr Miss F Graham, Cllr Mrs A Humble,

Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Mrs H Maddison, Cllr M Brewin

S Anderson Clerk

### Also Present:

County Councillor Mrs A Savory

Mr J Ferstenberg – Head Teacher Wolsingham School

Mr Richard Crane – Head of Education and Skills

### 10057

#### Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mrs S Thompson

### 10058

#### To receive any declarations of Interest from Members

Cllr Mrs Savory declared an interest on item 5 as she is Chair of the Governors for Wolsingham School

### 10059

#### Minutes of the meeting held on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2019

Cllr Miss Graham sent her apologies which was noted but was listed as attending as well  
Minutes were moved as a true and correct record and were signed by the chairman

### 10060

#### Police and the Community

No Police were in attendance

### 10061

#### Richard Crane Head of Education and skills – Discussion on future of Wolsingham School

Mr Ferstenberg gave a presentation on the future of Wolsingham School and he explained the possibilities regarding forming a Federation or a Multi-Academy Trust. If a Federation is decided on then the debt still has to be paid off. If the decision is made for a Multi Academy Trust the debt is cleared and several schools would be in the Academy. The MAT does not have to follow the National Curriculum and there are more opportunities for staff. The key factors when choosing partners are location, size, level of centralisation, types of schools, make-up of schools, culture/ethos and central services. There are to be three coffee evenings to be held on 20,21 and 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 6-7.30pm and a coffee morning on 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 9.30. There are five creative possibilities for a sixth form and the Year

10 are involved in this. There could be a college style offering or a town based offering at Bishop Auckland at central hubs linked with King James and other partners. Cllr Mrs Humble mentioned that it is important the schools that are picked must be similar to Wolsingham with children of similar backgrounds. If there is a sixth form at Kings James children must be able to get there from the top of the dale. An arrangement could be agreed where the school pays so much, and the student pays a small amount around a £1. Cllr Brewin pointed out that with a MAT there is no safety net if one of the schools goes bust. Mr Crane started this new post in January and is also an Ofsted Inspector. The key issue is giving children a quality education. Cllr Miss Graham gave Mr Crane a list of questions and as he is new to the post will find out the answers and send them to the clerk. Cllr Mrs Sutcliffe pointed out that the children up the dale were having to get a bus at 6.50 to get to a school for 9 something must be done to help these children. County Councillor Mrs A Savory mentioned that at the meeting the portfolio from O Gunn was that Wolsingham School would go from strength to strength and would be sustained. As Chair of the Governors the school has a good reputation with high standards with an increased intake of students in September. AS a governor she will be scrutinizing every option so that the pupils get the very best and everyone has their best interest at heart. Cllr Mrs Savory would encourage everyone to go to the coffee evenings to see what's going on inside the school and to be kept updated every step of the way

## 10062

### Matters Arising

1. **BRIDGE IN STANHOPE DENE** - An order has been placed to have the rail repaired when the weather is suitable to get a vehicle near
2. **PARKING IN FROSTERLEY CAR PARK** – DCC was contacted and it was passed onto the Street Wardens, but unfortunately, they have no powers where car parking is involved. An email has been sent to the Police to see if they can help. Cllr Brewin and Cllr Mrs Maddison commented that some of the vehicles don't have plates on and one is parked tight to the wall
3. **ASHCROFT MEETING**- Cllr Miss Graham met with Lee Mowbray who has suggested a white solid line with Keep Clear on
4. **STANHOPE URBAN VACANCY** – All three candidates are available to attend the interview on 25<sup>th</sup> April and have been invited at half an hour intervals.
5. **WEARDALE RAILWAY** – DCC have been written too and Mike Ogden is looking into our query. Its not DCC policy to seek the establishment of public access on the railway line, but it is something that Mike would be interested in discussing along with the WAAP. As yet there has been no reply from the Weardale Railway with our suggestion. The councillors agreed that this would be a good idea to have a discussion **Resolved:** Clerk to contact M Ogden and the WAAP
6. **INTRUSIVE TREE AT ROSE VILLA** – The intrusive tree by Rose Villa between Eastgate and Westgate has been added to the work programme.
7. **DUCKS ON THE ALLOTMENTS** - The Old hall site has four ducks on which is the one near the main road so the complaint we received we are assuming it was that site. There is a pond for the ducks, but the greenery has gone, by our new rules that were adopted its states no ducks. The previous rules did not state. Crosshill site has well-kept ducks on. Bondisle has two ducks on but these could have come from the river.
8. **CROSSHILL ALLOTMENTS** - A complaint has been received concerning hens escaping from an allotment and causing problems for the other tenants. The tenant has been spoken to and the hens will have their wings clipped. After speaking to Cllr Miss Carrick, we have given the tenant two weeks to sort the hens out. The situation will be monitored
9. **RIVERSIDE PLAY PARK** – The play park is now finished and the WAAP would like to arrange a day to meet for some photos taken as soon as possible. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned that she

has received good comments on the park. Cllr Miss Graham mentioned that her son thought the new park was brilliant. **Resolved:** Cllr Miss Carrick and Cllr Miss Graham to go to the press release

10. **EASTGATE WARD VACANCY** – Kathleen Hutchinson thanked the Parish Councillors for the lovely basket of flowers that was sent. The notice has expired now and there is no request for an election so we can now advertise the Ward Vacancy. A letter has been received from an Eastgate resident who would like to be Ward Councillor. **Resolved:** As there was one application and the applicant is well known it was proposed and seconded that W Wearmouth be co-opted onto the Parish Council
11. **SMIDDYBURN BRIDGE – STANHOPE COMMON** - On 29<sup>th</sup> March Graziers on Stanhope Common received a letter stating that the Estates had been granted permission to demolish and rebuild SmiddyBurn Bridge and that work is intended to start in May 2019 and footpath 74 will be closed for up to five months. The agent has been written to pointing out that permission was granted to replacement of bridge, erection of retaining wall and repositioned steps in front of shooting box in March 2018. DCC advised the agents for the estate about specific clarification regarding Public Rights of Way which stated: This planning permission does not convey any rights to stop up, divert, obstruct or otherwise effect public rights of way, and appropriate orders must be sought for these purposes before any development starts. A letter from a representative on the behalf of the graziers has been sent to the agent to confirm that MG Group Estates have consent from the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to carry out the works identified in his letter to the graziers. It is hoped that the Parish Council will support the Graziers in ensuring MG Group Estates abide by the law and follow the correct procedures and conditions. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the enforcement officer and to remind the MG Group that they are not above the law
12. **TEMPORARY PUBLIC FOOTPATH CLOSURE** - Footpath 25 is not a priority and will cost a lot of money to repair. In the future there is a chance that it will be done it hasn't been forgotten about
13. **LED LIGHTING** – No reply has been received and a chase up call has been made for a reply
14. **STONE HEAP FOOTPATH** – Cllr Mrs Sutcliff mentioned the footpath to see if there was a date when work would commence **Resolved:** Clerk to chase up

## 10063

### Correspondence Received

1. S Ragg has sent details of a new premises licence application in our area. Its Che Restaurant, Horn Hall Farm, Stanhope. The date for last representations is 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019
2. Any councillors who would like to attend any of the WAAP Task Group meetings are very welcome to join and we just have to let F Barber know
3. Parish Council members have been invited to attend the 2019 Annual Forum of the AONB on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 1.30pm-5pm, at High Force Hotel, Upper Teesdale. Booking is essential to attend by 15<sup>th</sup> May.
4. S Ragg has sent details of a licensing application for a minor variation for the Crazy Bear Hunting Lodge, Stanhope. The Crazy Bear has changed its name **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the licensing department
5. NALC are taking nominations for the NALC Star Council Awards. The awards are looking for individuals and organisations that are making a real, positive difference locally. The winner last year led a major regeneration of the town

**10064**

**Planning Matters**

DM/19/00679/FPA

Erection of a new garage and roof terrace

Rose Cottage

2 East Lane

Stanhope

DM/19/00724/PA

General purpose agricultural building

Weeds Farm

1 Weeds

Westgate

DM/19/00694/FPA + DM/19/00695/LB

External security/safety lighting posts, external childrens play activity frame, external handrails/balustrades, guarding, fencing to stairs, ramps, changes in level and boundaries, external gates, laurel hedge and pin kerb to gravel path, canopy to external hot tub area, canopy to entrance doorway/steps

Land adjacent to

Stanhope Castle

Market Place

Stanhope

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 Johns Chapel

DM/19/00878/MIN

Extraction of crystal specimens and ancillary works

Rogerley Quarry

Frosterley

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS GRANTED**

DM/18/03836/FPA

Insertion of 2 no dormer windows to rear conversion of existing outbuilding to form snug and conversion of existing barn to form annex

Lintzgarth House

Rookhope

DM/18/03873/FPA + DM/18/03874/LB  
Utility Meter Store  
Castle Mews  
Stanhope

DM/18/03856/OUT  
Demolition of garages and erection of one dwelling in outline with all matters reserved  
Garage  
The Fold  
Daddy Shield

DM/19/00141/FPA  
Retention of air source heat pump  
Ambulance Station  
Hood Street  
St Johns Chapel

#### **10065**

##### **Adoption of Complaints Procedure**

All councillors received a copy of the Complaints Procedure it was decided to have a sub-committee and an appeals committee **Resolved:** The Complaints Procedure was adopted

#### **10066**

##### **Parish Council Website**

It was mentioned that we could have links to some of the tourist information sites like Visit Durham Cllr Mrs Savory mentioned that there is to be a Weardale Food and craft festival, and could we advertise it on our website. Cllr Mrs Savory left the meeting

#### **10067**

##### **Finance**

Citizens Advice County Durham would like Stanhope Parish Council to support them financially. The service has main offices in ten towns in the county and twelve community venues where it provides a regular drop in service. A donation would help them to continue to help people in the local community. **Resolved:** IT was agreed to donate £500 which is be used in our area

#### **10068**

##### **AAP Report**

Cllr Thompson mentioned that the Board meeting will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April at the Dales Centre

#### **10069**

##### **CDALC Report**

Cllr Ellwood attended Wolsingham Parish Council's recent meeting and introduced himself as their representative for CDALC. He mentioned Wolsingham School but there was no discussion

**10070****Accounts for Payment**

Weardale Publishing stationery	£22.79
DCC Room hire Feb & Mar	£110.00
William Smith Allotment signs	£58.50
DCC Contribution towards play park	£20,000.00
GF White – N Dawson Ireshopeburn Allotments	£20.00
S Anderson salary	£708.07
HM Rev PAYE	£16.20
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
S Anderson Expenses	£185.40
Makepeace Motors, playgrounds, gate post, allotment wall	£1656.00
Stanhope Parish Council – Scottish Widows To savings account	£48,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£22,811.96</b>

## Accounts for receipts

Allotment Rent	£1255.00
VAT Refund	£3863.35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5118.35</b>

**10071****New Matters for Discussion**

1. Cllr Miss Graham had a walk to Bondisle Allotments which are fine
2. The planters on the Market Place this year are the best they have ever been **Resolved:** Clerk to mention this to DCC
3. Cllr Miss Grahams son thinks the new park is amazing and families of all ages are using it which was what we wanted, the kids love it

4. There is a drain at the bottom of Paragon Street is full of gravel and stone and needs cleaning out **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
5. Part of the fence has a broken rail at the Riverside Play Park **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
6. Cllr Miss Carrick would like to report that the self-seeded tree is still there by Garden Close, also there are seedlings growing out of the walls by Castle Close Flats **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
7. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff would like to report a broken drain cover by Burnfoot near to the School Playing Fields **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
8. Cllr Ellwood mentioned that Wolsingham Parish Council don't provide dog bags. He commented that it would be a big saving if we didn't provide the dog bags. Cllr Miss Graham said that the Riverside Walk is much better now than it used to be
9. The Notice Boards were mentioned, and they are in hand
10. Cllr Mrs Maddison would like a 40mph down to a 30mph on the A689 coming from Wolsingham to Frosterley. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
11. Cllr Craig had a newspaper cutting from 7<sup>th</sup> May 1949 where the roadside trees and shrubs had been planted by Stanhope Rural Council for the children of the village. There is a gap in the trees so we could plant another **Resolved:** Clerk to look into this

## 10072

### Clerks Business

Following the rent collection of the allotments a few questions were asked.

1. There are rats in the allotments at the Crosshill site and the tenant does not want to put poison down in case a dog picks it up. The councillors commented that where there are hens there will always be rats
2. Two tenants would like to know when it is possible to light a bonfire at the Crosshill site. We usually say when the wind is blowing away from the houses, but the site has houses on all sides. **Resolved:** The councillors agreed that after 7pm would be suitable as long as the fire wasn't left over night
3. A tenant from Ireshopeburn would like to put some wood chippings down on the path into the allotment site **Resolved:** The councillors gave permission for the wood chip, but all the tenants must be in agreement

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.20PM

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2019 AT DALES CENTRE, STANHOPE COMMENCING AT 6.30PM**

-----SIGNED-----DATE