

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in Eastgate Village Hall on 5th June 2024

PRESENT:

Cllr D Craig, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr S Smart, Cllr R Lawrie, Cllr Mrs S Thompson

Cllr M Brewin, Cllr E Buchanan

Cllr Miss J Carrick – Chairman

Susan Anderson – Clerk

10936

Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr Mrs A Savory, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr P Turton, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes, Cllr Mrs C Burdis

10937

To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

10938

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st May 2024

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

Annual Parish Meeting

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

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

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10939

Matters Arising

1. **Playground Warning Sign, Wearhead** – The playground warning sign at Wearhead has now been replaced with thanks to Cllr Shuttleworth.
2. **Footpath between Allers Lea and Heatherycleugh Bridge** – The footpath officer will walk the area concerned.

10940

Correspondence Received

1. As part of the Environment Agency North East Area flood defence asset structural assessment programme, the Environment Agency will be carrying out intrusive Ground Investigation work at The Butts House floodwall, Stanhope. The proposed works will consist of excavating a trial pit at The Butts House floodwall to allow assessment of the wall foundation and geotechnical analysis. The work will include the reinstatement of the excavated area and access route where necessary.
2. A message has been received from someone trying to walk from Greenhead Farm to East Bewdley. There was a padlocked gate at Greenhead and a fence with barbed wire at Middle Farm. This has been reported to the Rights of Way Officer.
3. D Hunt has sent an email regarding the amount of vandalism at the public toilets at Waterside Court, Stanhope. It is felt that the toilets will have to be locked on an evening. The local police officers in Stanhope have been contacted and also the Neighbourhood Wardens. The toilets were closed over the Bank Holiday weekend due to vandalism again. The councillors were wondering if CCTV cameras would be an option as they would not like to see the toilets closed permanently. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
4. A tenant from Crosshill would like permission to add a 4x8 shed onto his allotment plot for the storage of tools. **Resolved:** Permission granted
5. A tenant from Westgate would like permission for a 7x5 shed for the storage of garden tools. **Resolved:** permission granted
6. The King Charles 111 charitable fund closed for applications this year on 15th May 2024. We did consider applying for the funding, this is a yearly grant .
7. The top plot at Crosshill allotments which is eight plots altogether is unlet. There has been some interest in it and this person would use it and give the produce away. Last year it was mentioned about doing something with it as there are people wanting plots at Crosshill.
8. A resident contacted Cllr Miss Carrick concerning a problem down The Batts, Frosterley. The area concerned has had bolders placed and a concrete slab removed. The road is in a dreadful condition and these have been placed there to try and protect the road verges. This is not a Parish Council matter and the land is not owned by DCC either.
9. A letter was received regarding a property at Rookhope from the residents who are complaining to Northern Powergrid who are wanting to place a mast on their property. This is neither a parish council or county council matter. Cllr Shuttleworth wrote to the residents.
10. Westgate Village Hall would like me to pass on their grateful thanks to members for the grant money. It makes the committee feel that their efforts are appreciated and recognised by others. Thank you, letters have also been, received from Weardale Methodist Church and Cowshill Village Hall.
11. An email has been received regarding Solar Planning in the UK – Invitation to Join National Research Project. The University of Aberdeen are currently focusing on the North East of England and are aiming to collect peoples lived experiences with and expectations of solar planning involving ground mounted panels. We have been invited to Durham Town Hall on 17th July 2024. More details will be shared about the research and to allow a panel of community members, planners, and private developers to discuss how they envision the future of solar farm planning in the region.
12. The government department Building Digital UK have approved a Gigabit Broadband voucher project for west Weardale with Broadband for the Rural North. This project considers the geography west of Stanhope. The east is expected to be included in future Openreach commercial delivery plans. B4RN are unique in terms of broadband providers as they operate as a community benefit society. It is very much a community focussed approach and they will be looking for help from local volunteers, investors and supportive landowners. The Parish

Councils input will be vital to the success of the project. Tom Hirst from B4RN is looking to meet on 10/11th June to provide an overview ahead of them making announcements about the project via a Teams meeting. We have to let Digital Durham Manager our availability. Cllr Craig commented that the solar panels should be on roofs and not on agricultural land
Resolved: Clerk will attend the meeting on the 11th and report back to the councillors.

13. It has been reported about the state of the weeds on Front Street and High Street in Stanhope. The weeds are usually sprayed but as yet this has not happened. When the chairman and the clerk had been at Crosshill allotments the chairman commented on the uncut grass verges by the cemetery entrance. The roadside verges have not been cut yet either. Harperley roundabout looks terrible as it has been disced. The flowers would of self-seeded. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
14. An email has been received asking the Parish Council to support the campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries used in e-bike and e-scooters and their disposal. Mr Bailey is the researcher for Lord Foster who has been campaigning on this issue in the House of Lords. The first reading of the bill is 5th June 2024. There is support from national organisations so now locally based organisations are being contacted for support.
15. The Weardale Practice has sent the monthly newsletter through which has been sent to all of the councillors.

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County Councillor Update

No update this month

10942

Planning Matters

DM/24/01131/TPO

Tree works to one beech tree – TPO/336/2023

The Stables

2 Allerton Court

Stanhope

DM/24/011671/FPA

Conversion of outbuildings to create annexe with external alterations including the raising of the roof and additional fenestration (resubmission)

Newlands Hall

Frosterley

DM/24/01178/PN56

Prior notification under Class Q for the change of use of an agricultural building (named A0 to 1 no dwelling house C3 and associated works

Land North east of

Horsley House

Eastgate

DM/24/01018/FPA

Creation of dropped kerb onto classified road

The Manse

22 East End

Stanhope

The planning used to be easy to read when it was in areas (SW Durham) or even alphabetical . Lately it has been all over the place. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the Planning department

PLANNING APPROVALS FOR JUNE MEETING

DM/23/01366/FPA

Detached garden room and stainless-steel flue to the main roof of the existing dwelling
The Forge
Newhouse
Ireshopeburn

DM/24/00368/FPA

Proposed glazed link to rear of dwelling and detached annex
Westfall Farm
North Grain
Wearhead

DM/24/00378/LB

Listed building consent for replacement windows, alterations to layout (first and second floor) and installation of bathroom
1 The Butts
Stanhope

10943

Finance – Approval of the Annual Return

1. The Annual Internal Audit Report was received and approved. The Annual Governance Statement and the Accounts were approved and signed. The exercise of public rights to commence 17th June 2024 to 26th July 2024.
2. If the councillors are in agreement I would like to put BT Phone Bill, E-on Ashcroft and water bills onto Direct Debit.
3. There are new Model Financial Regulations that have been sent from NALC for councils of all sizes to develop their own financial regulations, suitable for the size of the council and the activities it undertakes. I am working my way through it and I will send it to all councillors well before the July meeting so you have time to go through it.
4. A second signatory is needed for the dual authorisation of on-line payments. **Resolved:** It was agreed that Cllr Miss J Carrick would do this.

10944

AAP Report

The AGM took place and the new chairman is Cllr Mrs A Savory. The AAP will be in Stanhope the day and the time to be confirmed. A councillor asked if the telephone number will still be the same.

10945

Accounts for Payment

DCC LIGHTING REPAIRS EAST BLACKDENE	£109.62
JRB ENTERPRISE DOG BAGS	£322.56

E-ON NEXT ASHCROFT PLAYGROUND	£44.53
SCRIBE 2024/2025 RENEWAL	£489.60
PAUL IRWIN	£180.00
S ANDERSON SALARY	£903.28
HM REV & CUSTOMS	£20.96
S ANDERSON EXPENSES	£24.54
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00
STANDING ORDERS FOR VILLAGE HALL AND CHURCHYARD GRANTS PAID 1 ST MAY	£7000.00
DIRECT DEBIT – ICO PAID 7 TH MAY	£35.00
BANK COMMISSION CHARGES PAID 7 TH MAY	£30.96
DIRECT DEBIT – VODAFONE PAID 16 TH MAY	£44.50
MAKEPEACE MOTORS CROSSHILL ALLOTMENTS CLEARANCE	£1500.00
EASTGATE VILLAGE HALL – HALL HIRE	£30.00
TOTAL	£10,770.55

Accounts for receipts

ALLOTMENT RENT	£45.00
BUSINESS BANKING LOYALTY	£3.45
NETWORK RAIL	£2.58
DCC SECTION 136	£2700.00
TOTAL	£2751.03

10946

New Matters for Discussion

1. Cllr Craig would like to report that a new Farm Sign is needed on the west side of New Park as it has a three-inch hole in the pole. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
2. Cllr Mrs Smart would like a Dog Poo notice opposite the Cross Keys leading into the wood. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt
3. Cllr Mrs Smart would like to comment that the gamekeeper is enforcing trespassing down by the cricket field to the cement works. He is tightening up but this is due to thieves that have been in the club house. The Police are aware of the thefts.

4. The fly-tipping down Allers Lane has been investigated by the Neighbourhood Warden and the case has been closed, the stone that was tipped was for the road.
5. Cllr Lawrie would like to report a drain that is blocked on the corner of East Lane.
6. Cllr Lawrie mentioned the Town Hall in Stanhope. The metal high fencing that had been put up was due to the door had been damaged and it had to be made secure. **Resolved:** Cllr Miss Carrick will try and contact the owner.
7. Cllr Mrs Thompson mentioned a broken wooden fence by Crosshill flats. **Resolved:** Clerk to report
8. Cllr Miss Carrick would like to report a half-decayed tree on the left-hand side of Eastgate Bridge. If it comes down it will bring the electric wires down.

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Clerks Business

Nothing to report

Meeting closed at 7.50pm

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at Eastgate Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

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