

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in the Dales Centre, Stanhope on 7th September 2022

PRESENT:

Cllr Miss Joan Carrick Chairman

Cllr D Craig, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes, Cllr P Turton,
Cllr R Lawrie

Also present: Charlene Burdis

S Anderson Clerk

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Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr Mrs A Savory

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To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members

Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff

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Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd August 2022

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

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Police and the Community

The police no longer will attend a meeting unless there is a specific issue that needs discussing and then it would be the Inspector that would attend the meeting.

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Matters Arising

1. **CO-OPTION OF WARD COUNCILLOR FOR FROSTERLEY** – Charlene Burdis co-opted onto Parish Council as Ward Councillor for Frosterley. **Resolved:** All councillors were in agreement
2. **APPLICATIONS FOR COWSHILL/LANEHEAD WARD AND EASTGATE WARD** – Two letters have been received for Cowshill/Lanehead Ward and one for Eastgate. **Resolved:** Clerk to invite the Eastgate applicant to be co-opted onto the Parish Council at the October meeting. The two applicants for Cowshill Ward to be invited for an interview at the October meeting. Meeting to start at 6.30pm
3. **RIVERBANK, IRESHOPEBURN** – An email was sent to the environment agency with some photographs of the area where the bankside has slipped away.

4. **ASHCROFT PLAYPARK** – A meeting took place on 24th August at Ashcroft Play Park with John Bennett from Surfacing Standards. Mr Bennett is a consultant and he would look after the whole project. He will set out the specifications for the companies so that they can provide like for like quotes. They will also provide start dates and completion dates. Mr Bennett will also do the necessary Health and Safety paperwork before the contractor starts and spot checks will take place when the contractor has begun. The contractor will be responsible for any of the fencing that will be taken down. Mr Bennett will get a lighting contractor to inspect the lights to see if they are fit for purpose and up to date. The Parish Council have to agree for Surfacing Standards to manage the project. The funding form has been completed and the required information has been sent with it. The Parish Council has the lease on the play park and it states in the lease that no improvements are to take place without written permission from the Landlord who is DCC. The email has been sent with the form and once the plans are in place, they will be sent to DCC for permission. Proof of the £10,000 that the Parish Council agreed was also sent. **Resolved:** It was agreed to instruct Mr Bennett to look after the project.
5. **IRESHOPEBURN PLAY PARK / WEARHEAD**– DCC are aware surfaces in the play area are in need of refurbishment and they are currently in the process of obtaining quotes to look for funding. The issues with the surfacing are classed as a low risk finding but if issues deteriorate, they will automatically take corrective action to make any areas safe. The worn rubber damper under the spring rider is logged and again is classed as a low risk to monitor during weekly inspections. All equipment has been painted to prolong its life and parts are ordered for the play area at Wearhead to carry out essential repairs.
6. **NEAS** – A letter has been sent off but no reply has been received yet.
7. **OLD CEMETERY, STANHOPE** – A relative is to place a small casket of ashes into a family plot. All the details have been taken which will be sent to the archive department as they now have the burial books.
8. **ALLOTMENT INSPECTION** – Cllr Brewin mentioned that another allotment inspection is due. **Resolved:** Clerk to arrange another inspection.
9. **SOCIAL MEDIA** – This will be re-visited Feb/March next year.
10. **ALLOTMENT JUDGING** – No judging took place this year but Cllr Miss Carrick thought next year that maybe there could be a biggest pumpkin competition. The Parish Council would get the seeds which would be given out when the rent is being collected. **Resolved:** Cllr M Brewin would order the seeds.

10673

Correspondence Received

1. A resident from Westgate is concerned about some trees in the allotments that are nearly touching the telephone wires. Also, at the top a tenant has trouble keeping back some brambles and trees which are coming through the fence. **Resolved:** It was agreed for Oliver's Tree Services to inspect the trees as the bi-annual inspection is due.
2. Cllr Mrs Hawkes had a resident complain about some rave music coming from cars parked down Dales Terrace. We have been assured that this won't happen again.
3. A resident sent an email with some pictures of some bushes that need cutting back in front of the seats down The Butts, Stanhope so that people can see the river again. This has been done and a thank you email has been received from the resident.
4. The Tour of Britain cycle race came through the dale on 6th September 2022. The email with the route on was sent to the councillors.

5. Permission has been received from DCC for the memorial planter for Crawleyside. Cllr Mrs Savory will contact Cornerstones.
6. An email has been received from a walker of Stanhopeburn footpath who is concerned about the amount of barbed wire in the area. The narrow path up from the Old Hall is giving him concern as it has barbed wire on one side and a hedge on the other. He feels if you tripped then a nasty accident could happen. The councillors mentioned that in Weardale it is Agricultural practices to fence with barbed wire on the top. **Resolved:** Clerk to write a reply
7. Cllr Turton sent an email around everyone concerning the government's proposal to ban the sale of oil boilers from 2026. If you need a new boiler from that period then you will have to get a ground/air source pump installed as an alternative. Given the enormous cost of installing an air source heat pump, and their inefficiency in older, poorly insulated properties, such a ban could have a huge impact in Weardale. Cllr Turton mentioned that this needs looking into further.
8. We have received an email from DCC who have received an application from Stanhope Swimming Pool Ltd to have the above property listed as an Asset of Community Value under the Community Right to Bid legislation brought in under the Localism Act 2011 and the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012. The Council has to decide whether or not to list the asset within 8 weeks following receipt of the nomination. The decision as to whether the nominated assets are of community value being taken by the Head of Corporate Property and Land. If we would like to submit any comments then they have to be sent by 22nd September 2022. The email was sent to all of the councillors. **Resolved:** Clerk to invite a representative from the swimming pool to the October meeting.
9. Cllr Mrs Thompson reported to the clerk that some children had tied a rope around a piece of play equipment in the Riverside Play Park and they were swinging on it. This was reported to DCC and to the Police on 2nd Sept 2022.
10. An email has been sent to all councillors regarding the Request for councils to consider "Taking the Pledge". This can be added onto the October Agenda if the Parish Council decide to. The Civility & Respect Pledge is to treat other councillors, clerks, all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles. **Resolved:** This was agreed to sign up to and will be put onto the October agenda
11. In 2020 the Department for Transport announced that they would be accepting Expressions of Interest for early-stage ideas to reconnect communities and restore local rail services. DCC with support from The Auckland Project, took this opportunity to submit an EIO to explore the feasibility of improved connectivity along the Darlington-Dales Corridor which would see a step change in connectivity and an enhance, convenient and accessible travel opportunity between Darlington and Eastgate via Bishop Auckland, including improved economic standing for smaller communities along the corridor. DCC have been working on a Strategic Outline Business Case which is now almost ready to submit. DCC would like to share the information with the Parish Council but the information must not be shared with the public. We have two options: DCC can share slides outlining the contents of the SOBC or a member can arrange a standalone Teams meeting with us to present the slides and answer any queries. **Resolved:** it was agreed to ask for the slides to be shared
12. An allotment tenant would like a councillor to come down to Bondisle Allotments to discuss the best place to tip a small load of wood chippings for allotment tenants to use for pathways. **Resolved:** This will be looked at during an inspection

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Crawleyside Memorial

Cllr Miss Carrick thanked Cllr Lawrie and Cllr Turton for attending the Memorial Service. A special thank you for Cllr Mrs Thompson for helping with the tea. A letter of thanks to go to Cllr Miss Carrick's friend who also helped serve the tea. Cllr Miss Carrick took a photo of the plaque and has

had a canvass done for the Bowls Club at Blackhall. Some lovely emails from the relatives have been received which were sent to all of the councillors. The Silver Band have said that they do not want paying for their services but the councillors feel that they should receive something. Cllr D Craig and Cllr Mrs Burdis declared an interest. **Resolved:** It was agreed to make a donation.

10675

County Councillor Update

No County Councillors were present

10676

Planning Matters

DM/22/02141/FPA

Replacement of existing roof with reclaimed slate roof with repairs to chimney and proposed roof light to be installed to west elevation of roof.

Little Allercleugh

Ireshopeburn

DM/22/02269/FPA – DM/22/02270/LB

Restoration and re-modelling of museum and chapel to form a Heritage Centre, single story visitor centre building, new changing places facility, renovation of nettie and creation of car park to east.

High House Chapel

Ireshopeburn

Cllr Mrs Sutcliff declared an interest

Comments last date is 8th September 2022.

Concerns are the pedestrian access from the proposed car park to the chapel, the footway is very narrow barely wider than 2ft and in even less in some places. Drivers of vehicles with visitors who have children or who have disabilities may be tempted to drop off or pick up at the museum entrance. With bends and restricted visibility on the A689 by the museum entrance this will create a serious road safety hazard. The proposed car park does not have any provision for buses or vehicles larger than cars. Parking these vehicles within walking distance of the museum will cause problems for traffic movement along the A689 and road safety issues. These issues need to be addressed by a risk assessment. The application should be scaled down and then there would be no need for a new car park. Local resident's views must be taken into consideration. **Resolved:** The councillors decided to object to the application and for it to go to committee.

DM/22/02338/ VOC

Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to permission

DM/15/00486/FPA (4 dwellings)

Land east of Longdale Grove

St Johns Chapel

DM/22/02261/FPA

Change of use from barn to holiday let accommodation and single storey extension to north elevation – (retrospective)

Island House

East Blackdene

St Johns Chapel

10677**Finance**

1. St Thomas Church would like to apply for the £300 churchyard maintenance grant and St Thomas Church Hall would like to apply for the £500 grant money. **Resolved:** Agreed
2. The certified Annual Governance and Accountability Return has been sent back and there are no significant matters arising. A minor scope was the Bank Reconciliation should state figures as at 31 march 2022 and the Internal Auditor had ticked a box that shouldn't have been.

10678**AAP Report**

Meeting not until Thursday evening

10679**Accounts for payment**

E-ON NEXT PLAY PARK ASHCROFT PAID 20 TH AUGUST	£15.48
DCC HIRE OF MEETING ROOM FOR AUGUST	£50.63
STANHOPE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY – PAVILION HIRE	£50.00
BAKERS LOAF	£194.69
COUNTY DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS	£10.00
MAZARS LLP EXTERNAL AUDITOR	£360.00
S ANDERSON SALARY	£815.36
HM REV	£8.63
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00
S ANDERSON EXPENSES	£ 175.04
CLLR JOAN CARRICK – CHAIRMANS ALLOWANCE	£250.00
ZURICH MUNICIPAL INSURANCE	£1314.51
CLLR MISS CARRICK CANVASS	£19.17
TOTAL	£3298.51

10680**New Matters for Discussion**

1. Cllr Craig mentioned the speed limit on the A689 again and that there should be a speed limit of 50mph on the road from Frosterley to Killhope Top. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to Highways and the Police.
2. Cllr Brewin mentioned the fence at the cattlegrid at Hill End, Frosterley that the sheep were coming off the fell. Many years ago, the fence was repaired by the Parish Council as no-one would accept responsibility for it so the Parish Council stepped in to resolve the problem.

Cllr Mrs Burdis reported that a resident has said that the problem is not the fence but that the cattlegrid is full so that the sheep are walking across it. **Resolved:** The cattlegrid will be reported to DCC to be cleaned out.

3. Cllr Turton mentioned that there is still no application in for a property on Crawleyside that could cause light issues for a neighbouring property.
4. The new house that was built behind the old police station have gates fitted that open outward onto the road. Sometimes these gates are left open so people are having to walk onto the road. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
5. The notice boards at Stanhope and Cowshill need a coat of varnish. **Resolved;** Clerk to contact S Makepeace
6. Cllr Mrs Hawkes attended the CDALC meeting and will report back at the October meeting. She is also the representative for AONB on CDALC.
7. Cllr Miss Carrick would like to report a light off on the footpath down Bondisle near allotments number 735. Also, light numbers at the top of Bondisle Bank 73/99 and 152 are not working. Light number 686 is on constantly at Cowgarth Hill, Stanhope. Also, there is a trail of red paint on the footpath from the Church to the Dales Centre in Stanhope.
Resolved: Clerk to report to DCC

10681

Clerks Business

1. The Health and Safety Policy and the Child Protection Policy have been sent to all councillors for approval. **Resolved:** Both policies were agreed

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.30PM

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2022 AT THE DALES CENTRE, STANHOPE
COMMENCING AT 7PM.**

.....SIGNED.....DATE