

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in Eastgate Village Hall on 3rd July 2024

PRESENT:

Cllr D Craig, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr R Lawrie, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr P Turton, Cllr Mrs C Burdis

Cllr Miss J Carrick – Chairman

Susan Anderson - Clerk

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Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr Mrs A Savory, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes, Cllr E Buchanan, Cllr Mrs S Smart

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To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

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Minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2024

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

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Matters Arising

1. **PAINTING OF WHITE LINES AND KEEP CLEARS** – The white markings on the road have been painted at Frosterley. An email has been sent to DCC to see when the markings will be painted in Stanhope.
2. **ROAD SIGN WESTGATE** – The sign down from New Park has been added onto the current work programme. Cllr Craig mentioned that a new sign has been put in place.
3. **STONE HEAP, DADDRY SHIELD** – The repairs have been added onto the current work programme. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff mentioned that the repairs have been done to the damaged road.
4. **CHURCH BELLS- EASTGATE-** Cllr Mrs Smart sent an email that the church bells were rung for the remembrance of D-Day
5. **DOG POO NOTICE EASTGATE-** A location has been found for a small notice and this is now in place.

6. **FENCING DOWN THE BUTTS, STANHOPE** – The broken fencing by the riverside has been added onto the current years work to be done.
7. **RIVERSIDE TOILETS, STANHOPE** - After speaking to D Hunt regarding the possible CCTV he mentioned that there really isn't anywhere that a camera could be fitted and then it would have to be monitored. Also, there is the legal side of it. The toilets are still locked but hopefully the repairs will be done shortly so that the toilets can be reopened.
8. **PLANTERS AT THE CEMETERY ENTRANCE STANHOPE**- This is still being talked about so is in hand.
9. **DIGITAL DURHAM** – The Teams meeting took place on 11th June with Tom Hurst from B4RN, Alli Walker, Mark McCrory, Trevor Dugdale from Digital Durham, Angelina Maddison and Louise Porter. The project is to get rural outlying places fibre optic broadband and the voucher project has been secured. The first starting point is to get the landowners on board and then the investors. The profits will be reinvested back into the community. There are no wayleave payments but the investors will get 5% on their money over three years. After that it can be withdrawn or left in as a long-term investment. To get the project started £600,000 is needed from investors.

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Correspondence Received

1. Cllr Mrs Hawkes has heard back from CDALC regarding the clerks salary. As yet the 24/25 pay award has not been agreed yet, Cllr Mrs Hawkes will contact the clerk.
2. Cllr Buchanan sent an email that there was some fly-tipping on the fell road just past the Blanchland turn off. This was reported to DCC and has been removed.
3. Some residents reported that the footpath from the Railway Bridge in Stanhope leading to the Gas House is unwalkable in wet conditions and needs some hardcore putting down. The footpath officer has been contacted.
4. Behind Crosshill Flats where the garages are the area needs weeding. This was reported to D Hunt.
5. It was reported that a light had been damaged down by the solicitors bank at the entrance to the allotments. The damaged light was reported and it was removed and the area tarmaced over. Concerned residents contacted the chairman and Cllr Shuttleworth was contacted. The lamp post has been replaced with a metal one.
6. The tap at Crosshill Allotments needs a new fitting as it is leaking. **Resolved:** It was agreed to have the tap repaired.
7. A tenant at the Old Hall Site Allotments would like permission for a 5ft x 6ft x 6ft shed. **Resolved:** The councillors agreed to the shed
8. A tenant from the Crosshill Site would like permission to put fifteen hens onto his plot. **Replaced:** The councillors decided that at the moment three would be plenty and to ask another tenant who is experienced with the keeping of hens if he would be willing to mentor the tenant.
9. Cllr Mrs Burdis was wondering if the Parish Council can do anything about the mess at Bollihope. As this is not the responsibility of DCC it is the goodwill of people that are clearing the rubbish up. There are bins there but if anything bigger was put there then all sorts of other rubbish would get put into them so unfortunately that is not the answer. It has been suggested to contact the enforcement officer concerning the rubbish and also the dog fouling. More presence from the Neighbourhood Wardens might help. People should take their rubbish home with them you can't understand why they leave it to spoil the area. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC

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Risk Assessment

The annual Risk Assessment to be reviewed was sent to all of the councillors and it was agreed at the meeting.

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County Councillor Update

No update this month

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Planning Matters

DM/24/01484/TPO

T4 – Rowan, fell and remove tree cut stump as low to ground as practically possible, (section 211 notice)

T14-Sycamore (subject to TPO/357/2024

Prune 3 meters clearance from church roof to provide clearance to church.

St Thomas Church

Cowshill

PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED

DM/23/00110/FPA

Proposed conversion of barn within to create 2 no dwellings

Shittlehopeburn Farm

Stanhope

DM/23/01000/FPA

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

3 Cragside Cottage

Eastgate

10956

Finance – Financial Regulations

1. The New Financial Regulations were sent to all of the councillors. **Resolved:** These were approved and adopted at the meeting
2. Mazars have acknowledged receipt of the AGAR.
3. An email was received from a law firm acting for Northern Powergrid. An invoice had been sent to the wrong address plus a wrong contact as well. I rang the contact at the law firm and explained that I had never received the invoice which went back to 2022. It was when the electric box was damaged at Ashcroft and Northern Powergrid had to disconnect it. DCC had been involved in this until it was realised the invoice should have been sent to the Parish Council. A new invoice has been sent and Northern Powergrid have been contacted to explain what work was involved as 9.5 hours was on the work sheet. It turned out that the hours should have been 4.5 hours.

4. The quarterly Bank reconciliation and Summary of Receipts and Payments has been sent to the councillors for approval. **Resolved:** Figures were approved
5. WAVE – Direct Debit mandates to be signed for the three water bills, Daddry Shield toilets, Old Cemetery, Stanhope and Willard Grove, Allotments. **Resolved:** The mandates were signed by the Chairman and the clerk.

10957

CDALC – Representative

CDALC have been unable to find a representative for the Weardale Area. Cllr Mrs Hawkes would like to be the representative for Weardale. **Resolved :** It was agreed for Cllr Mrs Hawkes to be the representative so the clerk to contact CDALC

10958

AAP Report

There is a meeting next week and a meeting was held at St Thomas Hall, Wolsingham. Applications for grant money were applied for. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff mentioned how unsuitable The Hub office is as it is up a flight of stairs and is very small for the two staff from the AAP.

10959

Accounts for Payment

E-On Next Ashcroft Playpark PAID	£44.06
Northgate Systems Website Update	£24.00
Allen Sykes ltd Internal Audit	£276.00
S Anderson Expenses	£49.08
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
S Anderson Salary	£903.28
HM Rev	£20.96
Northern Powergrid Electric box disconnected Ashcroft	£1366.95
Eastgate Village Hall room hire	£30.00
Cllr Miss Carrick Chairmans Allowance	£250.00
TOTAL	£2999.33

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New Matters for Discussion

1. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff mentioned that the damage to the road at four-lane ends which was done by a low loader has not been repaired yet and is getting worse. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
2. Cllr Craig would like the new Police Inspector to attend a Parish Council meeting. **Resolved:** Clerk to invite the Inspector to the next meeting.

3. Cllr Criag would like to know when the Stone Bridge will be repaired. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
4. Cllr Lawrie would like the Parish Council to send their condolences to the Gill family as Kate did a lot with the Weardale Museum. **Resolved:** Clerk to write
5. Cllr Brewin would like to report the footpath behind the church that it is cracked and is a trip hazard. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
6. Cllr Brewin would like to know is the stretch of road from The Batts to Mill Cottages a Wagon way. Apparently, there is an old map which shows it was the main road in 1931. **Resolved:** Clerk to try and find out
7. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned that the water meter has not been uncovered yet. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
8. Residents have reported the state of the weeds down Bondisle that they need spraying. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
9. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned that no work has started yet at Newtown House. She also wondered if in the grounds of Newtown House some social housing might be considered at some point.

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Clerks Business

Nothing to report

Meeting closed at 7.43pm

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 7th August 2024 at Eastgate Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

-----Signed-----Date