

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in Eastgate Village Hall on 2nd October 2024

PRESENT:

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

Cllr E Buchanan, Cllr Mrs A Hawkes

Cllr Miss J Carrick – Chairman

Susan Anderson – Clerk

Also present:

Dawn Knight – Community Safety Co-Ordinator

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Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr D Craig, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr Mrs S Thompson

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To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

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Minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2024

Minutes of the meeting were signed by the chairman

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Dawn Knight-Community Safety Co-Ordinator

Cllr Miss Carrick welcomed Dawn to the meeting. Dawn is the Safety Co-Ordinator who covers a very wide area from Consett to North Durham, Darlington, the Dales, Barnard Castle and Bishop Auckland. The other co-ordinator covers all East of Durham and Spennymoor. She works with the Police and Crime Commissioner, the local Policing team. Three months into the job she was supporting the community after the civil unrest. At the moment Dawn is attending as many groups as possible and is receiving intelligence. She is explaining to people to report incidences and to take a photo which can be uploaded. Instead of ringing 101 reporting on-line is the preferred option. QR codes can be scanned and it will take you to the right agency. If you reach the fourth QR code then you will be assigned a case officer. There is an interest in Stanhope to start up Neighbourhood Watch. Dawn stressed that it is never a waste of time to report something. Cllr Miss Carrick thanked Dawn for attending.

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Matters Arising

1. **ROOKHOPE PRIMARY SCHOOL** – The email that we received last meeting was to make us aware that the consultation was available on the DCC’s website. This was purely as courtesy so that we were told directly and did not hear from another source. The statutory notice was placed on the school gates inviting comments from the local community (residents of Rookhope). The comments that were sent after the last meeting were not reflective of the notice. There is a planning application in this month which will be brought up under planning matters on the agenda. A discussion took place. The councillors do understand that there will be certain confidential information that cannot be shared. If more information had been provided relating to Rookhope School then there would have been a different response. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to both County Councillors.
2. **OSBORNE TERRACE, FROSTERLEY** – Arrangements are being made for a new street name plate to be installed
3. **STONE BRIDGE, STANHOPE** – During further investigations for the repairs a bat was located roosting. The council are currently awaiting confirmation from Historic England and Natural England to a variation on the current application to enable DCC to install a bat roost. As long as there are no objections then DCC are looking at a start date of around the end of September. Works will commence on Wednesday 2nd October.
4. **RIVERSIDE WALK, ASHCROFT, EASTGATE** – all of these areas are being monitored by the Street Warden and extra signage has been put in these areas.
5. **METHODIST CHURCH SIGN**- This has been added onto the work programme to be removed which may take three months.
6. **PLAYPARK, WESTGATE** – The email has been sent to DCC’s Corporate Property and Land Team for the permission to go ferreting in the playpark. DCC do not allow any hunting of wild animals on any of their land.
7. **WEARHEAD VILAGE HALL** – The treasurer of Wearhead Village Hall would like to thank the Parish Council for the £500 that was received in May.
8. **RIVERSIDE CARAVAN PARK, BRIDGE END, FROSTERLEY** – Our email has been acknowledged regarding planning issues at the caravan park
9. **PLANTERS AT THE CEMETERY, STANHOPE** – D Hunt keeps applying for funding to plant the planters by the cemetery in Stanhope. He is hoping that this time he will be successful.
10. **TOILET BOCK, FROSTERLEY** – Email has been acknowledged

10996

Correspondence Received

1. An email has been received from Northern Powergrid asking for the yearly Unmetered Inventory Update. As there have been no changes I have confirmed this by email and received the certificate pack.
2. An email has been received from a resident complaining about the height and condition of the boundary hedge and walkway between the school and School Close, St. Johns Chapel. The hedge is now cut by a different contractor and not DCC and will only be cut at the Head teachers request. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the headteacher asking for the hedge to be cut.
3. An email has been received from a tenant of Westgate Allotments that glass had been broken on her plot. She has also had bamboo cains taken. The lady cleared the glass away. I went up to Westgate to have a look at her plot and help to clear the glass but it had all been removed. While I was there, I noticed that there are about eight plots where the tenants

have not cultivated anything this year or very little. There was one bug house which was very good and a self- seeding sycamore tree that needs to come down as it is in the middle of a plot. Also, the water tap is dripping. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the tenants of the plots that have not been cultivated.

4. An email has been received from a Parish Councillor of Woodland Parish Council concerning Forestry England, Forest Holidays and Go Ape who are wanting to build a £32.6m development within Hamsterley Forest. Forest Holidays plans to build 70 eco luxury cabins. Woodland Parish Council would like the support of the local Parish Councils in opposition to Forestry England, the Forest Commission, Forest Holidays and Go Apes development for Hamsterley Forest. Cllr Shuttleworth thought it would be inappropriate for the Parish Council to make comment on something with which it has no jurisdiction. The application is in Teesdale and not Stanhope Parish. It is a matter for the County Council to consider, in consultation with the Local County Councillors and also the views of Hamsterley Parish Council and its residents. Cllr Mrs Hawkes declared an interest. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to Woodland Parish Council that Stanhope Parish Council has concerns about the proposal
5. An email has been received complaining about the cockerels on the Crosshill Allotment Site. The lady mentioned that the cockerels are not being barred in and that there is another cockerel now on the site. She is also complaining about youths sitting around a fire pit making noise. There have been no further incidents concerning noise. I went up to see the other cockerel and it's on the young lad's plot with the hens. There is a separate hut with four young hens in, all are well cared for. Two plots are vacant now so I am in the process of working my way down the list. There are a few plots that have not been cultivated. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the tenants that have not cultivated their plots. A meeting to be arranged with the tenant of the plot with the hens.
6. Councillor Mrs Thompson asked the clerk to report the overhanging branches in St Johns Chapel Play Park. She would like them cutting back so that they don't spoil the new play equipment. The trees were inspected but there is nothing substantial overhanging the play park.
7. Stanhope Hartwell Educational Foundation have sent the receipts and payments for the financial year ended 31st March 2024. Cllr Miss Carrick attended the meeting. The fund is to support children through school and college. More applications are needed from the Parish of Stanhope. Next year there will be more posters put up and the schools in the parish will be visited to let as many people know as possible about the fund.
8. A new tenant on the Crosshill site would like permission for a 6ft x 4ft shed on his plot. **Resolved:** Councillors agreed the shed
9. Apparently, everyone who keeps poultry has to register that they are keeping hens even if they are pets. **Resolved:** Clerk to ring the tenants who are keeping hens.
10. A tenant from Crosshill would like permission for a 6ft x 8ft garden shed. It will face towards the fish and chip area. **Resolved:** Councillors agreed the shed

10997

Parish Council Domain

- A) **Resolved:** It was agreed to go ahead with a .Gov.Uk domain
- B) **Resolved;** It was agreed to appoint an approved registrar and the clerk to do this
- C) **Resolved:** It was agreed to stay with Northgate Systems
- D) **Resolved:** It was agreed for the clerk only to have a.gov.uk email address.

10998

County Councillor Update

There was no update

10999

Planning Matters

DM/24/02490/FPA

Change of use of former primary school

To 4 no. offices/craft workshops/community hub

Rookhope Primary School

Rookhope

DM/24/02233/FPA

Conversion of barn to dwelling

Ludwell

Eastgate

DM/24/02527/PA56

Prior approval for a portal frame storage shed

Littlewood Farm

Brotherlee

PLANNING APPROVALS FOR OCTOBER 2024

DM/24/00994/FPA

Reinstatement of bay window at front of dwelling

Leaside

Front Street

Frosterley

DM/24/01899/FPA

Partial removal of existing shed and replacement garage for storage

Bramble Cottage

Vedra Close

Wearhead

11000

Finance

1. The costs of.gov.uk are as follows: - Domain itself is £30-£100 per year. If you keep existing website then it is £35-£100. To create a new website, it is £200 - £400, host it £100-£200. The cost of the emails is £50 per year to access via web browser or app. Third party such as Microsoft £3.50 per person per month and word/excel 365 is £5-£10 per person per month.

A bundle costs £250 - £500 per year. A step-by-step guide has been sent but firstly we need to agree to go ahead then to agree a domain name and then roughly what we want to spend. There is £100 towards the cost if you use the recommended domain list but 50% of the grant money has already been used. These costs are just a guide and it is recommended to get three quotes.

2. **WESTGATE PLAYPARK**- As mentioned in the September minutes the rope ladder on a piece of play equipment in Westgate Play Park needs replacing. The Retrofit Net Assembly kit from Wicksteed is £2746.70 plus vat which was received from S Makepeace. All of the play equipment in the play park is Wicksteed. As this needs replacing the go-ahead was given to place the order as it takes up to eight weeks to arrive from placing the order. **Resolved:** Agreed
3. The bank reconciliation figures for 30th September and the budget figures have been sent to the councillors for approval. **Resolved:** Approved

11001

CDALC

Cllr Mrs Hawkes will circulate the minutes after the next meeting

11002

AAP Report

Cllr Miss Carrick reported that funding had been agreed for Frosterley Play Park, Stanhope Silver Band, Weardale Warblers, Weardale Agricultural Society, Free training rural train for UTASS, Kitchen refurbishment at Westgate Village Hall, Westgate Youth Club, Save our Sandwich. Dawn Knight and BA4N attended as well. With the change of the boundaries Tow Law is now in with Weardale so the money will have to go further. Objections have been sent in as Crook could well be included at some point.

11003

Accounts for Payment

Makepeace Motors play park repairs	£1838.60
Makepeace Motors Footpath Clearance	£2016.00
Makepeace Motors Grass cutting in cemetery	£1706.83
S Anderson salary	£903.28
HM rev	£20.96
S Anderson expenses	£24.80
S Anderson home as office	£35.00
Eastgate Village Hall Hire	£30.00
TOTAL	£6575.47
DIRECT DEBITS	
Vodafone	£44.50

E.ON Next	£41.65
Charges	£13.15

ACCOUNTS FOR RECEIPTS

Barclays Loyalty	£0.78
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Resolved: Accounts were approved

11004

New Matters for Discussion

1. Councillor Mrs Sutcliff mentioned the new playpark equipment at St Johns Chapel. She commented that it is wonderful for the children that are now there all of the time.
2. Councillor Mrs Sutcliff would now like to see something done with Daddry Shield Play Park. S Makepeace to look at it and see if it can be cleaned. **Resolved:** Cllr Mrs Sutcliff to contact Angelina Maddison
3. Cllr Turton mentioned the Weardale Practice and how difficult it is to get an appointment. Cllr Mrs Hawkes said this should be raised at the next Patient Participation Group meeting. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact Cllr Mrs Thompson
4. Cllr Turton attended one of the BA4N meetings and commented that there is a four hundred threshold with one hundred and forty signed up at the moment.
5. Cllr Mrs Hawkes would like to join the Parish Council meeting by Zoom. This would be looked into.
6. Cllr Miss Carrick would like the Batts Street sign painting as it needs doing. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC

11005

Clerks Business

The gift bags for the children who entered the Bug House competition have been delivered to them.

Meeting closed at 9.04pm

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 6th November 2024 at Eastgate Village Hall commencing at 7pm

.....signed.....date