

## STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

**At a meeting of the Council held in Eastgate Village Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

### **PRESENT:**

Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr D Craig, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr C Burdis, Cllr R Lawrie, Cllr P Turton,

Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr E Buchanan

Cllr Miss J Carrick – Chairman

Susan Anderson – Clerk

### **Also Present:**

County Councillor Mrs A Savory

Tom Hurst – B4RN and Stan Jenkins B4RN

### **10962**

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr L Blackett, Cllr S Smart

### **10963**

#### **To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members**

None received

### **10964**

#### **Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024**

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

### **10965**

#### **Tom Hurst and Stan Jenkins – B4RN**

B4RN stands for Broadband for the Rural North Ltd which was launched over ten years ago in Lancashire by a local volunteer group and is a non-profitable organisation. Any money that is raised goes back to the community. Government funding has been successful for a gigabit voucher scheme. There needs to be a 30% sign up and funds raised before B4RN can start the installation. The investment comes from the community which stays in for three years or longer with a 5% return. Permission is needed from the landowners. The government funding is for outlying areas so it won't be available to Stanhope itself. The cost to the customer will be £33 plus the connection fee. B4RN will be holding meetings at St Johns Chapel Town Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 7pm, Ireshopeburn on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 at 7pm and Eastgate Village Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7pm. They will also be attending the Weardale Show on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 and will have a stand there.

10966

#### Matters Arising

1. **WEED SPRAYING, BONDISLE** – Cllr Miss Carrick reported to the clerk that the weeds have not been sprayed down Bondisle and residents are complaining. After contacting D Hunt, the weeds have recently been sprayed.
2. **FOOTPATH BEHIND CHURCH IN FROSTERLEY** – The footpath officer will inspect the footpath and any defects will be forwarded on to the contractor for repair. Cllr Brewin mentioned that the footpath has been repaired.
3. **THE WAGGON WAY, FROSTERLEY** – The Waggon Way is no longer there it has Gardiners and Allanton Mill bungalow and curtilage on top of it now. The bridge for the main road over it has been filled in too.
4. **POLICE INSPECTOR**- The new Inspector is Michael Sammut and he will be attending our September Parish Council meeting.
5. **BOLLIHOPE, FROSTERLEY** – The Neighbourhood Warden has been visiting Bollihope talking to people and advising if they leave any litter there will be fines. He is making regular visits there.
6. **DOG FOULING** – The Neighbourhood Warden will make some visits to the Riverside Walk, Bondisle Footpath from the railway to the bridge and Front Street.
7. **PAINTING OF THE WHITE LINE AND ROAD SIGNAGE**- The road markings have been inspected and arrangements are being made for the road markings to be repainted. There is no timescale as it depends on a number of influencing factors including access to the road and weather conditions.
8. **RIVERSIDE TOILETS, STANHOPE** – Cllr Miss Carrick would like to know if the toilets are now open. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact D Hunt

10967

#### Correspondence Received

1. Cllr Miss Carrick would like the suckers cut off the trees at Willard Grove, Stanhope, The Lime Trees at Frosterley and the Lime Trees in Stanhope. These were reported to DCC
2. The tree branches in Bondisle Allotments are causing problems with the satellite dishes in the neighbouring caravan park. We would need to contact Savills so that they can arrange for the trees to be inspected and a site meeting with the caravan park owner would be advisable so that the problem can be pointed out. Savills have recently had the trees surveyed and no immediate safety work was identified but a monitoring schedule is being put in place. I have asked for a site meeting but waiting for a reply.
3. An email was received via the website concerning a recent stay in Stanhope. **Resolved:** This isn't a Parish Council matter but it was agreed to write to the owner
4. Last year the Rural Services Network asked the Parish Council if we would join the network. The Council's decision was not to join. I keep getting emails to see if the Council will join so I am bringing this to the meeting again as requested. **Resolved:** Cllr Shuttleworth agreed to attend any seminars
5. The Community Safety Coordinator Dawn Knight, for Durham Police and Crime Commissioners Office is a new role and is funded through the Homes Office's Safer Streets Fund, with the aim of supporting communities across County Durham and Darlington to feel safer and better able to respond to crime, with a focus on anti-social behaviour. Dawn is keen to meet residents and businesses over the next year.
6. A letter has been received from a tenant at Westgate Allotments concerning some of the plots. An inspection did take place and the tenants were written to. Another inspection is due in August to see if any work has taken place.

7. Cllr Buchanan asked the clerk to find out if DCC had a Ragwort policy. The County Council were contacted and there is no policy in place. Cllr Buchanan mentioned that there is a real issue up the dale with this invasive weed and he is very surprised that DCC don't have a policy.
8. A family member of a resident from Crawleyside who has recently passed away would like permission for a memorial plaque on the bench that is already in the play park at Crawleyside. **Resolved:** The councillors agreed to the plaque
9. During Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August senior officers of three Charitable Trusts will be visiting the High House Chapel to determine whether they will award potentially significant grants for differing elements of their development. An invitation has been received to view the Methodist Tapestries Collection on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August between 12.15 and 1500. If anyone is interested then we have to let Mr Percival know. Cllr Mrs Thompson mentioned that we should support this. **Resolved:** Cllr Mrs Thompson will attend this, clerk to let Mr Percival know.
10. The summer 24 Newsletter has been sent from the Weardale Museum which has been sent to the councillors.
11. The current DCC consultations have been sent to the councillors.

### **10968**

#### **Pensioners – Cut of Winter Fuel Allowance**

There is a real need for the Winter Fuel Allowance and there are many pensioners in the middle that are not claiming Pension Credit that are not going to receive the money. Cllr Buchanan mentioned that we need to watch out for the vulnerable residents in the parish. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to the MP

### **10969**

#### **County Councillor Update**

There is no update as the council is in recess at the moment but both County Councillors are still contactable.

### **10970**

#### **Planning Matters**

DM/24/00994/FPA

Reinstatement of bay window of front dwelling

Leaside

103 Front Street

Frosterley

DM/24/01797/FPA

Erection of a new, detached 2 storey dwelling and associated landscaping and boundary treatments

Land and buildings

South east of Sycamore House and West of Bondisle Way

Stanhope

DM/24/01838/LB

Retrospective Listed Building Consent following the demolition of two partly collapsed stone walls to ground level, which had previously formed part of an outhouse to the larger former Coach House

The Bonny Moorhen Hotel

25 Front Street

Stanhope

DM/24/01899/FPA

Partial removal of existing shed and replacement garage for storage

Bramble Cottage

10 Vedra Close

Wearhead

**10971**

**Finance**

No finance

**10972**

**CDALC**

No report

**10973**

**AAP Report**

The AAP Boundaries are changing and Weardale is now with Tow Law and has lost Witton-le-Wear. The staff are still working from Crook with one morning in The Hub in Stanhope and are out and about in the Community. Work on St Johns Chapel play park will start soon.

**10974**

**Accounts for Payment**

BT CLERKS PHONE BILL	PAID	£82.49
ZURICH INSURANCE RENEWAL		£1503.13
JRB ENTERPRISE		£540.00
S ANDERSON SALARY		£903.28
HM REV		£20.96
S ANDERSON EXPENSES		£20.40
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE		£35.00
EATSGATE VILLAGE HALL		£30.00
PAUL IRWIN		£180.00
TOTAL		£3135.26
<b>DIRECT DEBITS</b>		
E.ON NEXT 23 <sup>RD</sup> JULY		£42.24
VODAFONE 17 <sup>TH</sup> JULY		£44.50

CHARGES 5 <sup>TH</sup> JULY	£14.60
<b>ACCOUNTS FOR RECEIPTS</b>	
HMRC VAT REFUND	£888.11
LOYALTY REWARD	£0.99
TOTAL	£889.10

**10975**

**New Matters for Discussion**

1. Cllr Buchanan mentioned on the bends in the road at Cowshill one of the black poles is on the ground. **Resolved:** Cllr Shuttleworth will deal with this.
2. Cllr Mrs Savory mentioned that the councillors need to be vigilant as the criminal fraternity will know that the Police are elsewhere at the moment.
3. Cllr Craig mentioned the Stone Bridge in Stanhope but DCC are still waiting for permission before the repair work can take place.
4. Cllr Craig mentioned the speeding motorbikes and needs an answer what would happen if his tractor was involved in an accident and it was impounded who would pay for the hire of another tractor. He is hoping that the Inspector will be able to answer this at the meeting next month.
5. Cllr Turton would like the small barrier fence by the Grey Bull repairing as the metal parts are rusting away. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
6. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like to report a dropped kerb that needs repairing by the Bonny Moor Hen. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
7. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like the trees inspecting and cut back by the Durham Aged Miners Bungalows. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
8. Cllr Mrs Thompson thanked Cllr Shuttleworth for his help. The Ambulance Station is being repaired and the ambulances are working from Stanhope.
9. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like the road sweeper up the dale. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
10. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned the family in Stanhope who had to find a home as their rented property was being sold. The lady from Durham Community Action rural housing is going to contact her to use their experience to show there is a need for social housing.

**10976**

**Clerks Business**

We have four bug house entrants, three at Bondisle and one at Westgate. These will be judged when the allotment inspection takes place.

An allotment inspection is due again which will done in the coming weeks.

**Meeting Closed at 8.20pm**

**Date of next meeting is Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at Eastgate Village Hall commencing at 7pm**

-----Signed.....Date