

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in Eastgate Village Hall on 7th May 2025

PRESENT:

Cllr E Buchanan, Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr Mrs D Wright, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr S Smart, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff,

Cllr Mrs C Burdis, Cllr P Turton, Cllr M Brewin, Cllr R Lawrie, Cllr Mrs S Thompson

Cllr D Craig – Chairman

Susan Anderson – Clerk

11068

Apologies for Absence

Cllr Miss J Carrick, Cllr Mrs A Savory

11069

To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

11070

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2025

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

11071

Matters Arising

- 1. Weardale Practice** – Dr Dendle can attend the July meeting but first she would like to know what issues that the councillors would like to discuss. This is so that Dr Dendle can provide a meaningful input. There are representatives on the PPG from the Parish Council who have reported back from the last meeting. The Practice Manager also sent a data sheet which the councillors saw last meeting. Wolsingham Parish Council are to send two different councillors to a meeting at the surgery so that they can report back to their councillors. Stanhope have also been invited to do this. Cllr Shuttleworth is having a meeting at the surgery with the Practice Manager, the doctors and the NHS. **Resolved:** It was agreed for Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff and Cllr Mrs S Smart to attend a meeting at the surgery along with two representatives from Wolsingham
- 2. Willard Grove Horsebox** – The Street Warden has given an update on this and the ground that it is parked on belongs to Believe Housing. He has also written to Believe Housing so he

has done everything he can now so has closed the case. He will send an email to the complainant.

3. **Dog Bin Top of Crawleyside** – The land is not owned by DCC and it is felt it would cause more problems by putting a bin on the fell ground.
4. **Olivers Tree Services** – Olivers Tree Services are booked to do the inspection on Tuesday 13th May.
5. **Stone Bridge, Stanhope** – It was impossible to complete the repairs last year following an overnight scaffold collapse. By the time the scaffold was recovered it was into November and the allowable working window had passed due to ecological and heritage restrictions. Restrictions due to bat hibernation periods prevented work taking place between approximately November and April. There were also restrictions in the scheduled monument consent granted by Historic England covering a similar period that prevented the required lime mortars from being used whilst the temperatures were too low. Subject to all necessary consents being granted, it is anticipated that the work will commence on Monday 28th April for approximately seven days.
6. **Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project** – Service Level Agreement – We have had a letter regarding the current Service Level Agreement which is in place for the Street Lighting up the dale, for maintenance and energy costs. In some circumstances, existing SLAs are due for renewal, this has prompted a review and the development of a rationale for streetlights that form part of the SLA agreements. Up to six months prior to the SLA renewal date, a road safety audit will be arranged and funded by DCC. The SA will confirm if there is currently a requirement for lighting (in accordance with DCC Policy) at the location covered by the SLA, this will inform one of two options: Should the RSA confirm that the lighting can be removed without affecting public safety, opportunity will be offered for the SLA to be renewed, at an agreed cost. Where the SLA is not renewed, DCC propose to remove the street lighting. Should the RSA confirm that the lighting is required and can therefore not be removed without affecting public safety, the street lighting will revert to DCC for maintenance and energy costs.
7. **Wall at Cowgarth Hill**- The wall has now been repaired
8. **Dog Poo Posters**- Stanhope School unfortunately hasn't had time to do any posters. The prize was an Easter Egg which has been bought, maybe Crosshill Care Home would like it.
9. **Church Hall** – Cllr Mrs Wright mentioned that after the meeting in the Church there has been a change of heart. She felt that the strength of feeling took their breath away and people came together. To run a Church Hall there are a lot of overheads so the cost of hire must be realistic to cover the costs. Scaffolding has gone up so let's hope there is a good outlook.
10. **Lime Tree in Stanhope** – Cllr Mrs Wright does not feel that a new tree is needed as the other tree will soon fill the gap.
11. **Dentburn Bridge** – The bridge will be closed for ten weeks
12. **Car Parking in Westgate** – There is very little that can be done with the parking in Westgate near the Hare & Hounds.
13. **Boundary Stone** – The Park Boundary stone plate is in the Ireshopeburn Museum. Cllr Craig will go and look at the stone to see if the stone can be repaired with deep doweling it. He will ask Simon to strim around it to keep it clear. Cllr Craig thinks by the earliest Ordnance Survey map it shows that the Scarsyke stone post must have been moved from windy allotment across onto the waste ground.

11072

Correspondence Received

1. The Weardale Museum sent the Spring Newsletter which was sent to all councillors.

2. An allotment tenant from the Old Hall site would like permission for a 6ft x 4ft greenhouse.
Resolved: Cllrs agreed
3. A tenant from the Old Hall site would like to erect a small polytunnel on his plot. **Resolved:**
Cllrs agreed
4. Cllr Mrs Burdis sent a message concerning the state of Frosterley Play Park. Some residents along with Cllr Brewin and his wife cleaned all the mess off the play equipment. This was reported to D Hunt, the Neighbourhood Warden, the County Councillors and Cllr Mrs Savory reported it to the Police.
5. Weardale Methodist Church would like to thank the Parish Council for the £500 grant money.
6. S Tron the Rural Housing Enabler who works for Durham Community Action has sent an email following on from last years visit. She has sent a Parish Housing Profile showing key housing facts for the area. If the Parish Council would like to discuss further she would be happy to help or attend one of our meetings.
7. Weardale Museum have sent their Special Birthday Newsletter.
8. A tenant that has just taken over a plot at Crosshill would like our assistance to remove some rubbish from the plot. They have fixed the fencing that needed repairing but they have taken down an old shed. The plot was let free this year. A one off collection of rubbish costs a lot and the couple were happy to take the plot on as it was.

11073

Planning Matters

DM/25/00692/FPA

Change of use of part of ground floor of building to coffee shop-use class Eb)

Station House

Mellbutts House

Frosterley

DM/25/00994/VOC

Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission DM/22/02363/FPA to allow for the infilling of extension to increase head height and alterations to the window and rooflight layout

Ashes Engine House

Crawleyside

DM/25/00719/FPA

Change of use of closed former church to single family residential use

St Andrews Church

Westgate

DM/25/00920/FPA

Erection of 1 no self build home

Church House

78 Front Street

Stanhope

DM/25/00985/FPA

Replacement sunroom with insulated roof

Crawley Hall

Crawleyside

PLANNING APPROVALS FOR MAY MEETING 2025

DM/24/00986/FPA

Agricultural building for the storage of plant, trailers, implements, building materials and tools for use in association with the Caravan Park and Agricultural holdings and for the storage of winter feed for livestock on site of existing timber chalet pitch.

Fineburn Caravan Park

Frosterley

DM/24/03005/FPA

Conversion of redundant outbuilding into a self contained holiday cottage

Chester House

Side Lane

Westgate

11074

Finance

1. The stone bench by Centenary Close is the Parish Councils responsibility to maintain. A price has been asked for to have the woods renewed or replaced with stone slabs. The quote for dressed timber will be £180 plus vat **Resolved:** Agreed
2. S Makepeace has inspected the Playgrounds and all areas are generally in good condition if attention to the works required are done. Burtree Ford- The matting play surface is suffering from shrinkage and may need attention in the future on the two swings and the module climbing frame. The Basket ball needs replacing and may need a safety surface pressure wash, £25. Daddry Shield- playtop needs pressure washing off as it is slippery. Section of stone wall has fallen down £70.00 All equipment in good order. Westgate- Wet pour safety surface needs some repairs around the big swings. The swings need repainting, £250. Area around the climbing frame playtop needs repairing, £500. Some pressure washing required. Crawleyside- The yellow paint needs repainting on the swings. Overgrown bushes at the gateway right up left handside out of the garden £50. Pressure wash surfaces. Bondisle- Two fence rails are broken on the surrounding fence, £30. Safety surface to pressure wash. Repair on the wetpour surfacing. Swings need repainting, £350. Ashcroft- Mushrooms chewed up. Birds nest swing seat needs replacement, £1540. Trampoline needs repairing and some of the matting around the trampoline needs replacing as it is missing, £1563. The surrounding fence has some securing bolts missing out of it. Hinges bent on one of the access gates, £250. Pressure washing of all the play surfaces £720.00. Play Park inspection survey £100. All prices are without vat. **Resolved:** Agreed
3. The St Thomas Church Hall bank account has been closed and combined with the St Thomas Church account. The standing order for the Church Hall has been cancelled and the amount in total sent is now £800, £500 Village Hall grant money and £300 Churchyard maintenance grant.
4. The AGAR has been received from the Internal Auditor and the figures have been sent to the councillors. The Annual Internal Audit Report was received and approved. The Annual Governance Statement and the Accounts were approved and signed. **Resolved:** Agreed
5. The quote for the Notice Board is £1584 which is made out of Kiln dried oak. I am waiting for another quote which is made from treated pine and is double protected with a long life on it.

11075**CDALC**

No representative

11076**Accounts for Payment**

S Anderson Salary	£904.08
HM Rev/payee	£73.06
S Anderson Expenses	£17.07
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
CDALC Good Councillor Guide	£52.00

ACCOUNTS FOR RECEIPTS

03/04/2025 DCC PRECEPT	£54,000.00
04/04/2025 HMRC VAT REFUND	£3,723.13
ALLOTMENT RENT	£265.00

DIRECT DEBITS PAID

01/04/25 SAVILLS	£50.00
16/04/25 VODAFONE	£47.34
22/04/25 EON NEXT	£25.33

Resolved: Accounts moved**11077****New Matters for Discussion**

1. Cllr Blackett mentioned that he had Lawrence Barton on the phone who is trying to create a community owned energy generation scheme (Weardale Renewable CIC). He will be attending the Parish Council June meeting.

2. Cllr Mrs Smart would still like the Parish Council to try and get the speed limit reduced through Eastgate. There are Government guidelines to follow and a process to go through. Cllr Craig also mentioned the motorbikes. It was suggested to invite Joy Allen again to a meeting as one of her priorities is speeding.
3. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff mentioned that Daddry Shield toilets need some work doing to them after the winter months. **Resolved:** Agreed
4. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff would like a regular sweep of St Johns Chapel outside of the Co-op.
Resolved: Clerk to contact D Hunt
5. Cllr Turton mentioned that there is a fence leaning at the bottom of Crosshill Allotments.
Resolved: Clerk to check who's the fence is.
6. Cllr Mrs Burdis would like it clarifying if dogs are allowed in the playing field at Frosterley.
Resolved: Clerk to find out
7. Cllr Brewin mentioned after the recent recycling collection there was broken glass left on the ground. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC
8. Cllr Brewin saw a dog walker not pick up after the dog. He approached the person and was told the dog didn't do it

11078

Clerks Business

Nothing to report

Meeting closed at 7.55pm

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 4th June 2025 at Eastgate Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

.....**Signed**.....**Date**