

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in Eastgate Village Hall on 5th November 2025

PRESENT:

Cllr M Brewin, Cllr E Buchanan, Cllr L Blackett, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Mrs D Wright, Cllr Mrs C Burdis,

Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr R Lawrie

Cllr Miss J Carrick – Chairman

Susan Anderson – Clerk

Also Present – a member of the public

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Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr D Craig, Cllr Mrs S Smart, Cllr P Turton, Cllr Mrs A Savory (attending another meeting)

11141

To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members

Cllr Lawrie is now a Trustee of the Weardale Museum

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Minutes of the meeting held on 1st October 2025

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

11143

Matters Arising

1. **Weardale Practice** – The Practice Manager has agreed with Cllr Mrs Savory and Cllr Shuttleworth to send the Parish Council the practice update on a monthly basis.
2. **Westgate Allotments** – At Westgate Allotments some compost has now been taken. There is no public right of way through the allotments so no-one should be in there apart from the tenants. The footpath is right at the top but not through the site. The Police have been notified and they have visited the site. Notices have been placed on the gate entrance. The police do have a solar powered light that can be fixed to a house wall which is an option to think about.
3. **Complete Weed Control** – The five-year treatment plan and monitoring programme has now ended and we have been issued with the warranty certificate. The treatment programme began 6th October 2021 and was completed on the 20th October 2025. The control achieved

has been good with no Japanese Knotweed visible within the site boundary over the last two years on site. Complete Weed Control (Durham and Teesside) will warranty the site for a further 5 years following the completion of the monitoring programme with the limits of certain exclusions. This warranty period will expire 20th October 2030. The councillors are questioning the dates and feel that they are a year missing. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact Complete Weed Control

4. **Housing behind Front Street, Stanhope** – The decision has been extended to December where everyone who has objected will be written to for any additional comments. The trees that have been felled are not the protected ones and are allowed to be felled. The portable toilet that had arrived had to be removed.
5. **Frosterley School** – An email has been received from a parent who is concerned about the speed of the traffic passed Frosterley School. At the last Friends of Frosterley School meeting this topic was discussed and that the reduction of traffic speed down to 20mph would be beneficial. Other than that a 20mph hazard flashing light sign from Frosterley Bridge to past the school. Another email has also been received this afternoon from a parent regarding the lack of speed restrictions. Cllr Mrs Thompson suggested that the Parish Council sends a copy of the letter that the Parish Council received from Mr Hall the deputy Police & Crime Commissioner. Cllr Mrs Savory has had Highways out and Cllr Shuttleworth has asked for them to attend again. The lady who attended the meeting handed in a petition which will be sent to Highways and the County Councillors will be copied into the email. She would like support from the County Councillors to fund what is needed out their Neighbourhood Budget. At the moment the Weardale Local Network is not up and running which used to be the AAP. **Received:** Clerk to send the petition to DCC Highways
6. **Public Bridleways** – The County Council of Durham Public Rights of Way, Public Bridleway no 49 Westgate have sent a notice of confirmation of the Order and the relevant plan. Also Public Bridleway No 98 St Johns Chapel a notice of confirmation of the Order and the relevant plan.

11144

Correspondence Received

1. An allotment tenant at Crosshill reported a poisonous plant in a plot. Our contractor was contacted and the plant was removed.
2. We have received a selection of old photographs of Stanhope that have been found during a clear out. The person thought that they would be of interest to us. There was no name or address provided but its been noted in the minutes that it was good of them to send us the photos.
3. We have received an email from some residents of West Terrace who would like the bush cut back or removed between the cut from West Terrace to Cowgarth Hill. The bush belongs to the school and it's not DCC responsibility. The school have been written to in June with no response and Cllr Mrs Savory is also trying to help. **Resolved:** As Cllr Mrs Savory is dealing with it then we will give the school time to get the hedge cut back.
4. We have received an email from a resident of School Close in St Johns Chapel. The school hedge their needs cutting back as in places it is about fifteen feet tall. One of the councillors thought it had been cut back already.
5. The Stanhope Countryside Access Working Group is a newly formed group of volunteers keen to assist in the upkeep of Rights of Way in Upper Weardale. The group would likely start with some limited tasks, and with training and resources, develop over the coming months. The idea is for volunteers to join small work parties to walk the Rights of Way undertaking simple maintenance. Individual volunteers would be encouraged to monitor their local area whilst DCC and NPNL would assist in the coordination of any audit/work on the recognised walking routes. NPNL will be hosting a training event on Tuesday 28th October at St Johns

Chapel Town Hall. The email was sent to the councillors. Cllr Blackett mentioned that the meeting went well and that his son has walked all of the rights of way in the upper dale. He has passed the information onto the group.

6. The Weardale Museum would like nominating for the Museum for a Benefact Group prize of £5000. The email was sent to the councillors.
7. CDALC have sent some information on the two Parish Councillors to be our nominees to the DCC Standards Committee. A training session was delivered to new county councillors in person. CDALC contributed to a DCC Peer review on a session specifically about parish and town council relationships in the DCC area. CDALC made representations on proposed changes to the process for dealing with councillor (county and parish/town) Code of Conduct complaints.
8. An email has been received from a potential buyer of a property neighbouring Westgate Allotments. Back in 2017 we wrote to the owners asking them to repair the boundary wall as a few stones had come down into the allotments. The person would like to see the letter sent, potential cost of repairs and who is responsible for the wall. Cllr Craig mentioned that in Agricultural the owner is responsible for maintaining the north side and the west side. The Old School boundary wall is on the north side. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the Land Registry
9. DCC have received a proposed diversion of Public Footpath No 27, Wearhead Ward. The diversion is requested by the owners of the barn conversion, for security and privacy and to enable development of a garden area around the property. Comments should be received within 30 days from 23rd October. **Resolved:** No objection
10. A tenant from Crosshill Allotments would like permission for a 3.5 metre wide by 8 metres long chicken coop. New fencing of posts of mesh parts 6ft but mostly 4ft with no boards. A fruit cage brassica 6ft high made of rails and debri netting. A garden shed either 6x4 or 8x6. Six raised beds. **Resolved:** Councillors agreed but mentioned that the eggs must not be sold
11. A tenant from Westgate would like permission for a 6ftx4ft shed. **Resolved:** Agreed
12. Stanhope Hartwell Educational Foundation have sent two copies of the Receipts and Payments account for the financial year ended 31st March 2025
13. An email has been sent on further proposals to balance the Council budget. On 17 Sept 2025 four options were presented to Cabinet. Option1 – a 0% rise in council tax, Option 2 – a 2% rise in council tax specifically relating to the adult social care precept element, Option 3 – a 3% rise in council tax – the core element of Council Tax, Option 4 – a 5% rise in Council Tax – based on a combined 3% rise in core council tax and 2% rise in the adult social care precept element. Any comments to be received by 14th November 2025
14. A person is researching for a book on the Warship Week during WW2. Weardale RDC raised sufficient money to adopt a warship, HMS Kingston Amber. He contacted DCC and the Story at Durham and I contacted some previous councillors and workers at the Rural District Council. Under a Freedom of Information request to DCC that the person sent the plaque has turned up at the Seven Hills Depot. He feels that the plaque should be back in Weardale. Cllr Shuttleworth is trying to get me a name to contact and also mentioned that Seven Hills is the DLI.
15. Cllr Buchanan reported that footpath 32/34 is blocked near to West Blackdene. This has been reported to the Rights of Way Officer at DCC.

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Planning matters

DM/25/02783/VOC

Removal of condition 13 (property to remain annex of Hawkwellhead Farm) of approval Ref 3/2008/0712

The Hide

Hawkwell Head

Ireshopeburn

DM/25/02989/FPA

Engineering works to create altered access including concrete tracks and hardcore hardstanding (retrospective)

Land to the East of

The Old Vicarage

Glebe Side

Frosterley

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED FOR NOVEMBER 2025

DM/25/1628/FPA

Change of use to equestrian and erection of stable block and jay store with associated fencing and and surfacing, alterations to dwelling house (installation of solar panels, doorway, air source heat pump and raised platform to rear) and retrospective change of use from agricultural to domestic garden

2 Newfield farm

Stanhope

DM/25/02216/VOC

Variation of condition 2 (time to rebuild wall (pursuant to planning permission DM/24/01838/LB). to allow for an extended time frame to rebuild wall

Bonny Moor Hen

Stanhope

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Finance

1. A report had been received that a stretch of wall had come down in Bondisle Allotments. The tenant reported that some children were playing in the gap on the stones. After contacting the chairman the wall was repaired and the tenant reported that an excellent job had been made of it.
2. The budget and setting the precept is due in December. We need to think are there any flower beds that need planting that the County Councillors are not planting. Also the Old Cemetery in Stanhope is getting very overgrown with tall trees and bushy trees. The trees are inspected but just for safety reasons. We should maybe think about getting some of them cut back. **Resolved:** Clerk to get a quote
3. The Bank Reconciliation figures were sent to all of the councillors and were agreed.

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CDALC

Nothing to report

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Accounts for Payment

WJPS Annual Domain Name Renewal	£82.00
Paul Irwin Ashcroft Grass Cutting	£180.00
Makepeace Motors Grass Cutting Old Cemetery Stanhope	£1706.83
Makepeace Motors Footpath Clearance	£2016.00

Makepeace Motors Toilet repairs – Playparks	£2426.40
Paul Irwin Ashcroft Grass Cutting	£60.00
Parish Election 1 st May 2025 Stanhope Urban	£2666.40
Makepeace Motors Allotment wall & weeds	£360.00
BT Clerks Phone Bill PAID BY CHEQUE	£82.84
S Anderson Salary	£926.81
HM Rev	£80.72
S Anderson Home as Office	£35.00
S Anderson Expenses	£16.81
Royal British legion	£25.00
Eastgate Village Hall Sept, Oct, Nov	£90.00
total	£10,754.81

Accounts for Receipts

HM Rev Vat Refund	£3974.49
Northern Electric Wayleaves	£177.12

Direct Debits

Bank Charges	£8.50
EE Ltd	£30.00
EON Ashcroft	£26.40

Accounts approved

11149

New Matters for Discussion

1. Cllr Brewin mentioned the Church at Frosterley and that the builders are unfriendly, they tell lies, they are saying that they own the road. They have no respect and are driving over graves. They have sworn at people and are doing things that they have not got permission to do. They are hanging coats on the back of the headstones. The builder is also the owner of the church. The enforcement officer was mentioned to be contacted and also the Diocese of Durham Diocesan Advisory Committee. **Resolved:** Clerk to write
2. Cllr Brewin mentioned that a resident who lives near to The Batts, Frosterley is travelling on a 4ft track which runs parallel with the railway line onto Mill Cottages. No planning permission has been applied for and apparently the land is owned by three different people. **Resolved:** Clerk to report
3. Cllr Blackett would like the ditches dug out around Burnhope Reservoir as they are blocked. When it rains the water runs onto the footpath but with the winter coming the water will freeze. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to Northumbrian Water

4. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff mentioned that the bridge at St Johns Chapel still has not been repaired. The repairs to the bridge at Wearhead are not finished yet and the children from Wearhead School are at St Johns Chapel School.
5. Cllr Mrs Thompson would like the leaves sweeping off the road at the Weardale Museum. Also the leaves need sweeping up outside Ireshopeburn Institute. **Resolved:** Clerk to report
6. Cllr Lawrie mentioned that the Weardale Museum has received some money for two flashing red traffic calming signs. These will be placed outside the Weardale Adventure Centre and the other will be at the other end of the museum.
7. Cllr Miss Carrick would like to report light number 430 is on all day.
8. Cllr Miss Carrick also mentioned that the cash machine rarely has any money in it. Cllr Mrs Wright mentioned that every time the Cash machine is not working then Cllr Shuttleworth reports it. It needs a new machine putting in but it would be housed else where and not where it is at the minute. A new LINK machine would cost £350,000.
9. Cllr Turton would like a new sheep warning sign by the junction to Waskerley as it has been missing for a while. He also feels that a few more signs need putting up as there have been quite a few sheep killed on the fell road over the summer. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to DCC

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Clerks Business

Nothing to report

Meeting Closed at 8.13pm

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 3rd December 2025 at Eastgate Village Hall commencing at 7pm

.....Signed.....date