

STANHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held in Eastgate Village Hall on 6th May 2026

PRESENT:

Cllr M Brewin, Cllr Mrs S Thompson, Cllr D Craig, Cllr Mrs D Sutcliff, Cllr Mrs C Burdis, Cllr Mrs S Smart,
Cllr R Lawrie, Cllr E Buchanan, Cllr P Turton

Also Present: Cllr Mrs A Savory

Three members of the public

Cllr Miss J Carrick – Chairman

S Anderson – Clerk

11192

Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Shuttleworth, Cllr Mrs D Wright, Cllr L Blackett

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To Receive Any Declarations of Interest from Members

None received

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Minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2026

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

11195

Matters Arising

- 1. RUBBISH ON BONDISLE ALLOTMENT PLOT** – To help clear the rubbish off the plot Cllr Miss Carrick and the clerk went down and with the help of the new tenants the rubbish was bagged up and taken away. The larger pieces the new tenant would take to Frosterley tip. A neighbouring tenant to the first plot is willing to demolish the sheds on the plot and put up a fence so that the end bit of the plot can be let. He will take a small section of the plot to go with his existing plot. The plot has been cleared and he arranged for a grab wagon to clear

the rubbish. He would like a contribution from the Parish Council if possible. **Resolved:** £210 was agreed. A resident from Bondisle is concerned about the number of tenants keeping hens on the plots near to the houses. The resident does not want to see anymore tenants given permission for hens on the plots next to the houses.

2. **CARS TURNING IN THE FIELD AT CORONATION AVENUE-** This was reported to the Police who went to the playing field. If there any details of which cars are turning in the field then the Police can have a word with the owners. The Police have also reported the matter to the owner of the land.
3. **FOOTPATH 32 FROM WEST BLACKDENE TO NEWHOUSE** – The footpath officer will walk this footpath soon.
4. **WEARDALE PRACTICE** -The Spring newsletter has been sent and has been sent to all of the councillors.
5. **CANCER CHARITY, SPENNYMOOR** – The charity has been asked the same question by other Parish Councils for more information. Instead of directing to the website, they are going to create something in pdf/PowerPoint formats to share to help give more an insight into what they do and the difference that they make in different communities.
6. **GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR PANELS, FAR PLACE PLANNING APPEAL** – The comments from the Parish Council have been sent and acknowledged. Cllr Mrs Savory declared an interest in this matter.
7. **BONDISLE ALLOTMENT SITE** – Savills will report back to the client so that they can come up with a way to take this forward. Savills have sent an email requiring some information so that the Heads of Terms can be prepared. The legal entity allotments will be transferred into including full name and correspondence address and Solicitors details. Savills will need to run key persons of the entity the allotments are being transferred to through the Anti-Money Laundering system. For off-market transfers Savills usually expect the client's costs to be met. **Resolved:** Agreed
8. **NORTHERN LITHIUM-** Cllr Mrs Smart mentioned that there is a meeting on 12th May 2026 at Eastgate Village Hall between 10am and 7pm

11196

Correspondence Received

1. A resident sent some photographs of a caravan parked on the grass verge just over the Stone Bridge. There was evidence of a camp fire. The photographs were sent to highways at DCC. This happened again on 18th April so the photographs were sent to Durham County Council. A reply was received that this should be reported to the police. The police have put some signage up by the Stone Bridge and the Ford.
2. Cllr Mrs Thompson mentioned that the Ford Closed Sign is loose. This was reported to DCC.
3. Cllr Mrs Thompson saw that some teenagers were up in Slitt Wood and had been throwing rocks at walkers. This was reported to the Police.
4. Cllr Mrs Thompson reported a loose kerb stone on the Market Place, Stanhope which has been reported to DCC.
5. A resident who owns a field next to Willard Grove Allotments reported that the fence on the end plot is leaning badly. After looking into this with the solicitor under the Animals Act you have to fence against your own stock. Since then, four posts have been burned on the back fence by an accidental fire that was put out by the fire brigade. A neighbouring tenant is concerned about the possibility that asbestos is on the plot. This has turned up at the back of the plot under a burnt tree. The plot owner had no idea that it was there and has had the plot for over twenty years. It has been double bagged and a licence applied for to be disposed of. The area has been taped off. The tenant next door would like the ground testing. I have found a recommended company that would do the testing and to see what

kind of asbestos it is. The family are in the process of tidying the plot up and will replace any charred posts from the fire. **Resolved:** Agreed to get testing done and clerk to see if the insurance policy might cover the cost.

6. Cllr Blackett has mentioned the state of the road at Burnhope Reservoir that it is full of pot holes. This has been reported to Northumbrian Water.
7. A tenant at Westgate would like permission to erect a 6ft x 8ft greenhouse which has a aluminium frame and a wooden base which will be stained. A row of 6 dwarf fruit trees have been planted which will be kept no bigger than 4ft. On a separate plot they would like permission either for a 6ft x 8ft greenhouse or a polytunnel 12ft by 8ft. **Resolved:** Agreed
The previous tenant left some corrugated sheeting and a compost bin that the new tenant cannot dispose of. Last meeting it was agreed for Simon to take the rubbish away from a plot where the tenant has died. Simon has been but there is too much for his vehicle in one trip. The cost for removal to his yard would be £450. **Resolved:** Agreed. A tenant from Westgate would like permission to put up a trail camera on their plot. They have birds nesting and also this would be additional security. They would put up a sign to notify people of its presence. **Resolved:** Agreed
8. The councillors mentioned that this rubbish clearance cannot keep happening. When the inspections take place then every plot will be inspected for rubbish and sheds will be opened and looked in. The tenants will be there when the inspections are taking place. Tenants will have to dispose of the rubbish.
9. Weardale Together Community Interest Company have applied to have Stanhope Town Hall listed as an Asset of Community Value. DCC must decide whether or not to list the asset within 8 weeks following receipt of the nomination. Any comments by 8th May 2026. Cllr Lawrie would like to oppose this as he feels it will just hold up the sale of the property. The Town Hall needs a lot of money spending on it and he feels that it would be better if a private developer purchased it. There is also the Community Centre in close proximity and the Methodist Chapel Hall. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to DCC
10. A resident sent an email enquiring when the meetings are held and the venue. He thought it would be nice to thank everyone personally for their work and time. He would also like us to pass on his appreciation for some of the council workers who come out in all weathers.
11. Frosterley village gardening group would like permission to plant crocus bulbs on the Village Green which would be subject to the group securing funding. **Resolved:** Agreed
12. The Project Development Coordinator for broadband for the rural north (b4rn) will be attending our meeting on 3rd June.

11197

Planning Matters

DM/26/00868/VOC

Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) in relation to application DM/19/03034/FPA relating to the change from a timber-framed sunroom with and dressed stone construction
High Shittlehope Burn Farm
Stanhope

DM/26/00545/FPA

Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian together with the formation of a private outdoor riding arena (menage) for exercising and training horses. The facility will be used solely for private non-commercial equestrian purposes.
2 Newfield Farm
Stanhope

PLANNING APPROVALS

DM/23/01670/VOC

Variations of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 9 (finished floor levels) of DM/21/03493/VOC to lower finished floor levels of the buildings

Site of former Builders

Yard South of

Shittlehopeburn Farm

Stanhope

DM/25/03512/FPA

Single storey flat roof front extension single storey side extension, single storey rear flat roofed extension and creation of new windows

The Coach House

Church Row

Crawleyside

DM/26/00132/PN56

Prior notification of the installation of solar panels under Schedule 2, part 14, Class J of the Town and Country Planning (general permitted development) Order 2015

Far Place

Sidehead

Westgate

11198

Finance

1. In order to meet the requirements of Assertion 10 on the AGAR the clerk must use gov.uk email address and it is recommended that councillors use it too. It is not mandatory yet for councillors. The costings from last month are

Basic/Kiosk emails which are 2GB storage and web or mobile app based (not compatible with desktop versions of Outlook) £26 per user, per year.

12 accounts would cost £312 + vat per year.

Standard Emails – which are 50GB storage and along with web and mobile are also compatible with desktop versions of Outlook.

£47 per user, per year

12 accounts would cost £564.00 + vat per year.

The councillors felt that £312 per year was too much to pay. **Resolved:** Clerk to see if there any cheaper providers around.

2. Approval of the AGAR – **Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement – Resolved:** Annual Governance was approved and signed
Section 2 – Accounting Statements – Resolved: Accounting Statements were approved and signed

11199

Accounts for Payment

CDALC SUBSCRIPTION 2026/27	£875.07
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PRECEPT	£60,000.00
MAKEPEACE MOTORS PAINTING DADDY SHIELD TOILETS	£456.00
JRB ENTERPRISE DOG BAG ORDER FROM FEB	£540.00
S ANDERSON SALARY	£901.21
HM REV/PAYE	£107.13
S ANDERSON HOME AS OFFICE	£35.00
S ANDERSON EXPENSES	£77.18
EASTGATE VILLAGE HALL HIRE APRIL/MAY	£60.00
BT CLERKS PHONE BILL PAID	£87.02
J CASSIDY ALLOTMENT CLEARANCE	£210.00

ACCOUNTS FOR RECEIPTS

PRECEPT	£80,000.00
ALLOTMENT RENT	£263.00
HMRC VAT REFUND	£714.84

DIRECT DEBITS

SAVILSS	£50.00
BANK CHARGES	£26.82
EE	£32.44

111200**New Matters for Discussion**

1. Cllr Mrs Savory mentioned that Wolsingham School will be full in September and was over subscribed to. Trades for Care do painting and decorating with apprentices. They are very thorough and its worth getting a quote from them. Cllr Mrs Savory is looking forward to working with us at the start of another new year.
2. Cllr Mrs Sutcliff is concerned about the closure of the two bridges, one at Middle Black Dene and one at St Johns Chapel. **Resolved:** Cllr Mrs Savory will look into it
3. Cllr Mrs Burdis would like to report the playing field at Frosterley where dog muck is in again. A dog owner was approached and stated that where they came in there were no signs. **Resolved:** Clerk to report this to the Neighbourhood Warden
4. Cllr Turton mentioned the fires and the rubbish at Bollihope. He feels that a visit from the PCSO might help. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact the Police.
5. Cllr Mrs Smart mentioned that the little black food waste bins are starting to arrive.
6. Cllr Mrs Thompson noticed that there are some bottom rails off the fencing leading up to the caravan park at the bottom end of Stanhope. Its over the bridge and dangerous if a child falls. **Resolved:** Cllr Mrs Savory will get this checked out
7. Cllr Miss Carrick and Cllr Mrs Wright would like to know when is the wall going to be rebuilt up Graham Street. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact DCC
8. Cllr Miss Carrick mentioned that the Notice Board doors have been wide open. These have had the catches looked at and hopefully they will stay closed.
9. Cllr Miss Carrick was wondering about the five planters by the Cemetery and why they were fenced off. She thought that if they were removed it would provide more car parking spaces.

111201**Clerks Business**

Nothing to report

Meeting closed at 19.57pm

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 3rd June 2026 at Eastgate Village Hall commencing at 7pm

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