

Minutes for the Monthly Parish Meeting of Croxdale and Hett Parish Council
Wednesday 27 November 2019, 7.00 pm
Croxdale Community Centre

Parish Council Members Present:

Councillor L Griffiths (Chair), Councillor K Summerson, Councillor R Burton, Councillor J Garner, Councillor P Kerrison, Councillor M Ord and Councillor I Watt.

Also Present:

County Councillor S Dunn.

70/19. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies of absence was received from Councillor A Watt and County Councillors J Blakey and M McKeon.

71/19. Declarations of Interest:

Declarations of interest were received from Councillor R Burton regarding agenda item 10 and Councillor Kerrison in relation to Croxdale Residents Association / defibrillator request.

72/19. Policing:

The next PACT Meeting is to take place on Wednesday 18 December 2019, 7pm, Croxdale Community Centre.

Councillor Griffiths reported there had been recent crime on Hett Lane of reported thefts (metal gates).

Resolved: For Members' Information.

73/19. Public Participation

Two members of the public were in attendance.

74/19. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 30 October 2019 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

75/19. Matters Arising:

i. Hett Lane:

County Councillor Dunn reported the hole to the fencing on Hett Lane has now been repaired.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

ii. Hett War Memorial:

Clerk confirmed that DCC has completed their research with 5 war dead names being sourced for WW1. Councillors Griffiths and Watt queried why J Gibson's details was not included as part of the research (grave in Hett Cemetery as a Commonwealth Wart Grave). Clerk to clarify with DCC in the first instance. Once this has been clarified, a new plaque is to be sourced for the existing stone memorial.

With regard to Croxdale's new war memorial, Clerk is to contact Croxdale Residents Association and Croxdale Community Association in the first instance to enquire if they would be willing to work jointly with the Parish Council on this project. Clerk had sourced details from Pelton PC following their recent installation for information purposes (details of funding available and contractors etc).

Discussion also took place on whether the Parish Council wishes for the Clerk to gain the 'CILAC' qualification to enable the Parish Council to adopt further Powers (known as the General Power of Competence). Clerk is to gain further information on the qualification/cost for discussion at a future meeting.

Resolved: Clerk to progress accordingly.

iii. Hett Litter Pick:

DCC confirmed November's litter is scheduled to take place on 27 November 2019. However, Councillor Watt commented following recent fly-tipping, there were items still left over (such as small pieces of rubbish/paper), after the initial items were removed.

Resolved: Clerk to feedback to DCC accordingly.

iv. Refuse Bins / Recycling – Hett:

Councillor Watt confirmed this matter is still ongoing with a final notice being issued to the concerned house(s).

Resolved: For Members' Information.

v. Planted Bulbs – Croxdale Tommies:

Clerk has received notification from County Councillor Blakey that bulbs have been sought for planting near to the Tommies in Croxdale.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

vi. Cycle Paths – A167 / B6288:

Clerk to contact Councillor McKeon for an update.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

vii. Croxdale Play Park – Logs and Fencing:

County Councillor Dunn reported the logs are scheduled to be replaced in the New Year and the repairs to the fencing is now complete. Councillor Kerrison reported further damage to a piece of equipment; it was agreed if this also requires action, it would be reported to County Councillor Dunn.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

viii. Defibrillator – Croxdale:

Councillor Kerrison confirmed he had sourced a potential new location for the defibrillator being on the outside wall (gable end) at the corner shop, Front Street, Croxdale. Discussions are to be held regarding the electricity supply. It was noted, the telephone box at Front Street East has now been removed.

Resolved: Councillor Kerrison to action.

ix. Croxdale Beck:

Clerk to contact Councillor McKeon for an update.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

- x. **Damaged Signage – Hett:**
Clerk to contact Councillor McKeon for an update.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

- xi. **Hett Fly-Tipping:**
Councillor Watt reported the second fly-tip has still not being removed which occurred a meter off the road side. County Councillor Dunn confirmed the investigation is still ongoing regarding the evidence that had been gathered.

Resolved: County Councillor Dunn to chase progress with DCC.

- xii. **Hett Fields / Hedges:**
County Councillor Dunn confirmed this has been reported and programmed to be cut back by DCC.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

- xiii. **Grass Cutting – West Street, Hett:**
Clerk reported this to DCC on 08 November 2019 and is currently awaiting a response.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

- xiv. **Lock and Keys – Sports Field, Croxdale:**
Councillor Summerson still to source lock and arrange for key cutting accordingly.

Resolved: Councillor Summerson to action.

- xv. **Hett Christmas Tree:**
Clerk confirmed the cost for this year's Christmas Tree at Hett would be in the region of £490.00. Other contractors were in the process of being sought for comparison purposes (Durham County Council), however the tree had been installed on 23 November 2019.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

- xvi. **Kerb Edging – Croxdale Cemetery:**
Clerk confirmed a response was issued to the family concerned on 18 November 2019 regarding the Council's policy on kerb edging, however a further response was received via Councillor Summerson earlier that day. Following discussion, Clerk is to draft a further response on the Council's policy on not allowing kerb edging.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

- xvii. **Feedback from Residents – Croxdale Cemetery:**
Clerk confirmed a response was issued to the resident concerned on 13 November 2019, however further correspondence was received regarding the Council's policy on kerb edging. Clerk confirmed the policy remains unchanged; no further feedback has been received to date.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

xviii. Youth Club:

Councillor Summerson confirmed the WMC is likely to be closed from January 2020 onwards. Clerk is to contact Croxdale Community Association and the Church Hall at St Bartholomew's Church regarding an alternative venue for the youth club sessions. A letter is to be issued to parents/guardians accordingly. Once a new venue has been confirmed, the youth workers will be required to carry out a risk assessment.

Resolved: Clerk to source new venue for the youth club sessions for January 2020.

76/19. Parish Clerk Update / Correspondence:

(i) Next Parish Council Meeting – 18 December 2019:

Clerk reminded Members, the next meeting in December is to take place a week earlier than scheduled due to the Christmas holidays. Apologies of absence are to be received to the Clerk in advance to ensure the Parish Council will be quorate.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

77/19. Parish Councillor Vacancy:

The Clerk reported three expressions of interest were received for Parish Councillor vacancy for Hett Ward as follows:

- 1 = Les Griffiths
- 2 = Pauline Adams
- 3 = Amanda Simpson

Candidate one was nominated and seconded receiving unanimous votes.

Resolved: Les Griffiths be duly elected as Parish Councillor for Hett Ward and duly signed the declaration of acceptance of office. A vacancy for Sunderland Bridge Ward was now therefore declared; Clerk to report vacancy to Durham County Council accordingly.

78/19. Financial Matters:

(i) Financial Report for the Period 1 April 2019 – 31 October 2019:

A financial update prepared by the Clerk was circulated to Members which included a detailed schedule of receipts and payments for the financial year to date and bank reconciliation to 31 October 2019. The current net bank balances totalled £21,355.99.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

(ii) Budgetary Control: Forecast of Outturn – 31 March 2020

The Clerk provided details of the forecast of outturn budget position for the Parish Council highlighting key areas of income, expenditure and budget pressures to the end of 31 March 2020.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

79/19: Cemetery:

(a) Additional Cemetery Maintenance Works:

Three quotations had been sought in respect of the above works at Croxdale and Hett cemeteries, however only two quotations were received. Members reviewed each quotation and following discussion, it was agreed to pursue with contractor 2.

Resolved: Clerk to contact each contractor accordingly informing them of the outcome.

(b) Cemetery Maintenance Contract Renewal:

Clerk circulated the revised scheme of works for Croxdale and Hett Cemetery maintenance which was agreed by Members. A copy had been circulated to the current contractor for feedback. Clerk advised Members of the comments received and was agreed to arrange a site visit to Croxdale Cemetery to discuss matters further.

Resolved: Clerk to arrange site visit to Croxdale Cemetery with current contractor in the first instance, with Parish Clerk and Councillors in attendance.

80/19: Planning Issues:

The Clerk reported the Parish Council has received the following planning application(s) for comment / objection:

- Ness Furniture Ltd - variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of planning permission DM/16/03084/FPA for subdivision and refurbishment of former Ness Factory. Variation includes additional demolition, additional cladding on elevations of existing office, subdivision of existing unit 4.

Resolved: No specific comments / objections were made with regard to the above planning application.

81/19. County Councillor Reports:

County Councillor Dunn gave an update in relation to: DCC is giving grant funding of £1M for tree planting. The developers of Integra 61 are hopeful for assistance from sub-contractors to assist with the design work costings for the re-build of Hett Village Hall. Kelloe PC has donated Christmas lights to use in Croxdale.

Resolved: For Member's Information.

82/19. AOB:

Dog Bin, Croxdale:

Councillor Summerson confirmed the dog waste bin in the football field has now been emptied.

Resolved: For Member's Information.

Road Re-surfacing – Hett:

Following feedback from residents, Councillor Griffiths reported since the recent re-surfacing works being carried out at Hett Lane and Leamans Lane, residents have highlighted that there is a build-up

of road plainings at the junctions at Hett Lane/Leamans Lane (outside Hett Village Hall), which requires the road ends to be re-brushed and levelled.

Resolved: Clerk to report to DCC.

Citroen Garage – Advertising:

Residents have fed back concerns regarding the above garage advertising vehicles in the lay-bys on the A167 (near to Croxdale Cemetery). Councillor Ord confirmed this issue has already been reported to County Councillor Blakey.

Resolved: Clerk to check progress with County Councillor Blakey, and if necessary, write to the garage concerned.

Street Lighting – Croxdale:

Councillors Summerson and Ord reported two street lights at Front Street, Croxdale, that requires attention (559 / 560).

Resolved: Clerk to report to DCC.

83/19. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 18 December 2019 at 7.00 pm, Hett Village Hall.