

Minutes for the Monthly Parish Meeting of Croxdale and Hett Parish Council
Wednesday 24 October 2018, 7.00 pm
Croxdale Community Centre

Parish Council Members Present:

Councillor L Griffiths (Chair), Councillor J Garner, Councillor P Kerrison, Councillor M Ord, Councillor A Watt and Councillor I Watt.

Also Present:

County Councillors J Blakey, S Dunn and M McKeon.

59/18. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors R Burton, K Summerson and W Watt.

60/18. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

61/18. Policing:

The next PACT Meeting is to take place on Friday 14 December 2018, 7pm, Croxdale Community Centre.

Clerk gave Members an update following the response received from Planning with regard to the associated planning conditions for the Croxdale Group, following ongoing complaints from a resident of transporter vehicles using and obstructing the bus lane. It was agreed the Clerk would write further to Croxdale Group with feedback from the County Council and ask if vehicles could drop-off elsewhere. PCSO Officer and County Councillors to be copied into the response.

Resolved: For Members' Information. Clerk to action accordingly.

62/18. Public Participation

Linda Burton and Michael Graveling were in attendance.

63/18. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 26 September 2018 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

64/18. Matters Arising

i. Fencing at Hett Lane:

No response has been forthcoming from Croxdale Estate, Clerk to continue to progress.

Resolved: For Members' information.

ii. Traffic Issues – Sunderland Bridge / Croxdale / Hett:

A number of requests are still outstanding with highways following their attendance earlier in the year. County Councillor McKeon agreed to re-visit the kerb edging request at Hett following DCC response.

Resolved: For Members' Information. County Councillor McKeon to action accordingly.

iii. Allotments:

Clerk reported a new tenancy was effective from 6 October 2018 following vacant plot at the rear of Rogerson Terrace. The new allotment holder has made the following 2 requests for the Parish Council's consideration: a) small green house to be installed b) a gate to be installed so access can be made into the allotment from the park side.

Following discussion, Members approved the installation of a green house, however the request to install a gate was not approved as the land in question is not Parish Council land.

Resolved: For Members' Information. Clerk to inform allotment holder accordingly.

iv. Hett Wild Flower Meadow:

Clerk reported DCC had cut the village green in error which was raised accordingly with the County Council.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

v. Youth Provision:

Clerk wrote to Croxdale Community Association on 12 October 2018, querying clause in lease and currently awaiting a response. County Councillor McKeon reported there is a meeting scheduled for next week with the AAP following a safeguarding concern with the proposed venue at the Croxdale Inn. County Councillor McKeon to provide an update at the next meeting.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

vi. Cemetery Maintenance Tender / Contract:

The new cemetery maintenance contract commenced on 08 October 2018 (as opposed to January 2019) due to the predecessor withdrawing his duties as of 30 September 2018. Contract agreed by both parties and duly signed.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

vii. Christmas Tree Application at Hett:

The Parish has now received funding of £775.00 in relation to the Christmas Tree project. Electricity supply was not available at Hett, therefore battery lights will be used instead.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

viii. Tommies Installation:

Interpretation panel drafted for Croxdale. A photograph of Hett is to be sourced so there is reference and a respective photograph of Croxdale, Sunderland Bridge and Hett.

Resolved: For Members' Information. Councillor Ord to action.

ix. Grass Cutting – Sunderland Bridge:

Further correspondence was received via Clerk and Councillor Griffiths with regard to grass cutting at Sunderland Bridge. However, the resident approached the grass cutters whilst they were present at Sunderland Bridge and the issue is now resolved.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

x. Dog Waste in Croxdale Playing Field:

County Councillor McKeon confirmed a dog waste bin has been ordered and will be installed at an agreed location in due course.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

xi. Hett Happenings:

County Councillors should now have received a request from Mike Simpson to sign up to the newsletter.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

65/18. Parish Clerk Update / Correspondence:

i. Croxdale Cemetery:

Clerk updated Members regarding a burial at Croxdale and allocation of grave plots. The issue was resolved in a timely manner prior to the funeral on 10 October 2018.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

ii. Croxdale Cemetery Maintenance:

Following the funeral, as referenced above, feedback was received from a family member regarding the cemetery maintenance i.e. broken bench at the entrance, rubbish bins not emptied, fence panels broken and damaged headstones. Clerk to look into these matters and report back at the next meeting.

Resolved: For Members' Information. Clerk to action accordingly.

66/18. Financial Matters:

(i) Financial Report for the Period 1 April – 30 September 2018:

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 30 September 2018. The current net bank balances totalled £11,534.66.

The following cheque payments were approved:

Cheque Number – 400387 – Foundation of Light - £400.00

Cheque Number – 400388 - S Dunn - £201.60

Cheque Number – 400389 – CDALC - £16.25

Cheque Number – 400390 – JW Smith - £160.00

Cheque Number – 400391 – Parish Clerk - £66.06

Cheque Number – 400392 – DCC - £150.00

Cheque Number – 400393 – JW Smith - £160.00

Resolved: For Members' Information.

67/18. Planning Issues:

No planning matters was discussed.

68/18. County Councillor Reports

County Councillor Dunn gave an update in relation to: Coxhoe PC is in the process of organising training for Parish Councillors via CDALC. Expressions of interest is to be fed back to the Clerk in the first instance. The Parish Council is to consider carrying out a trial in relation to pot holes using 'Easy Crete' which comes in bags. However, the preparation work is still required.

County Councillor McKeon gave an update in relation to: organising community speed watch training in conjunction with other local Parish Councils. Clerk to produce poster seeking volunteers. Cabinet considered a report on school budgets at its meeting on 17 October 2018, which is an ongoing issue / concern with school funding.

Resolved: For Members' Information. Clerk to produce community speed watch poster.

68/18. AOB:

Windsor Court, Croxdale:

Councillor Garner reported complaints she had received from residents following refurbishment works being carried out in their bungalows. County Councillors Dunn and McKeon agreed to raise with County Durham Housing Group at their meeting scheduled for 25 October 2018.

Resolved: For Members' Information. County Councillors to action accordingly.

Bus Shelter:

Councillor I Watt reported two bus shelters on the A167 north and south bound in need of repair.

Resolved: County Councillor McKeon agreed to action.

Hett Road Signs:

Councillor Griffiths raised the 30mph sign has been re-painted onto the road at Hett and residents have raised why hasn't this been done on Hett Lane and Leaman's Lane? Also, the give-way markings have faded at Hett Village Hall.

Resolved: County Councillor McKeon agreed to action.

Fly-Tipping:

Commercial tyres have been fly-tipped on Hett Lane, close to Hett Moor Farm. Councillors requested if signage could be installed at Gypsy Lane, similar to what is in place at Metal Bridge. County Councillor McKeon agreed to look into the possibility for a camera to be installed in the first instance before a new sign is put in place.

Resolved: County Councillor McKeon to action.

69/18. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 28 November 2018 at 7.00 pm, Hett Village Hall.