

**Minutes for the Monthly Parish Meeting of Croxdale and Hett Parish Council**  
**Wednesday 30 October 2019, 7.00 pm**  
**Hett Village Hall**

**Parish Council Members Present:**

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

**Also Present:**

County Councillors J Blakey and S Dunn.

**56/19. Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies of absence was received from Councillor Burton and County Councillor McKeon.

**57/19. Declarations of Interest:**

A declaration of interest was received from Councillor Kerrison in relation to Croxdale Residents Association / defibrillator request.

**58/19. Policing:**

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

In relation to the reference of the use of smart water to allotment holders, Councillor Kerrison confirmed the Police may carry out this free of charge for members of the public (if they wish to use it).

**Resolved: Clerk to confirm with the Police if this is available for residents, for inclusion in next year's annual letters to all allotment holders.**

**59/19. Public Participation**

No members of the public were in attendance.

**60/19. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 25 September 2019 were amended accordingly in relation to the Piling works at Integra 61 and reference to the Diocese in relation to Croxdale's new war memorial, thereafter they were signed by the Chairman.

**61/19. Matters Arising:**

**i. Hett Lane:**

County Councillor Dunn is currently in discussions with Highways Officers on this issue and is awaiting a response.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**ii. Youth Provision:**

No further feedback was received from Croxdale WMC regarding the toilet damage. Discussions to be held in due course with potential new venues, depending upon the availability of the WMC and budget / precept discussions in January 2020.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**iii. Hett War Memorial:**

DCC are currently researching WW1 and WW2 for the Hett war dead names. With regard to Croxdale's new war memorial, the Clerk confirmed that Parish Councils do not have the necessary powers to install a new war memorial, only to maintain, repair and protect as per the War Memorials (Local Authorities Powers) Act 1923. It was agreed to research recently installed war memorials from other Parish Councils following recent press articles in the first instance, to determine next steps.

**Resolved: Clerk to progress accordingly.**

**iv. Hett Litter Pick:**

DCC confirmed October's litter pick took place on 22 October 2019. However, Councillor I Watt commented following recent fly-tipping, there were items left over (such as small pieces of rubbish/paper), after the initial items were removed.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**v. Refuse Bins / Recycling – Hett:**

Clerk has escalated the above matter to the County Council's Neighbourhood Wardens Manager, and is currently awaiting a response. Councillors A and I Watt confirmed officers from DCC were present the previous week, reviewing / assessing the issue.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**vi. Flooded Footpath – B6288:**

DCC Clean & Green attended to the footpath on 2 October 2019. With regard to the re-surfacing works, this will be picked up as part of the 2020/21 re-surfacing programme (if required upon further inspection).

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**vii. Artificial Poppies:**

Councillor Ord informed Members of residents wishes to place artificial poppies around the Tommy Statue / memorial bench and queried if the Parish Council would provide bulbs/planting around the tommy and display board.

**Resolved: County Councillor Blakey agreed to action.**

**viii. Cycle Paths – A167 / B6288:**

Clerk to contact Councillor McKeon for an update.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**ix. Croxdale Play Park – Logs and Fencing:**

County Councillor Dunn reported the logs are to be inspected and made safe (either removed or replaced). The repairs to the fencing was still outstanding.

**Resolved: County Councillor Dunn to chase progress.**

**x. Removal of Phone Box:**

DCC confirmed the kiosk is still available for adoption, however, it is planned by the contractors for removal which can happen at any time. A schedule of associated costs for the actual defibrillator device was circulated for information purposes. Following discussion,

as the ongoing maintenance costs for the kiosk is unknown to the Parish Council, an alternative location is to be identified.

**Resolved: Councillor Kerrison to look at other options available for the Parish Council's consideration.**

**xi. Croxdale Beck:**

Clerk to contact Councillor McKeon for an update. Councillor Ord commented a large amount of debris was recently removed.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**xii. Damaged Signage – Hett:**

Clerk to contact Councillor McKeon for an update.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**xiii. Hett Fly-Tipping:**

Councillor A and I Watt confirmed the first fly-tip had been removed, however, a second fly-tip had occurred a meter off the road side which DCC would not remove due to it not being on the highway. Personal details had been identified within the waste which was passed to County Councillor Dunn for action.

**Resolved: County Councillor Dunn to report evidence to DCC.**

**xiv. Hett Fields / Hedges:**

It was determined that the hedge in question is the responsibility of DCC.

**Resolved: County Councillor Dunn agreed to action.**

**xv. Street Lighting – Hett:**

Clerk confirmed this was reported to DCC with works complete on 21 October 2019.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**xvi. Street Lighting – Croxdale:**

Councillor Garner was unable to obtain relevant street lighting references from the resident concerned and is currently on hold.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**xvii. Grass Cutting – West Street, Hett:**

Councillors A and I Watt re-confirmed the grass cutting issue at West Street.

**Resolved: Clerk to report to DCC accordingly.**

**62/19. Parish Clerk Update / Correspondence:**

**(i) Hett Christmas Tree:**

Associated costs are to be confirmed for Members' consideration on installing a Christmas tree at Hett. Last year's tree was funded by County Councillor Dunn. New batteries are to be purchased for the lights for use at Croxdale also.

**Resolved: Clerk to obtain definitive costings in the first instance.**

**(ii) Use of Sports Field at Croxdale:**

Clerk informed Members of a request received from the Chairman of Bishop Auckland District Angling Club regarding use of the old school field at Croxdale as a suitable venue for their courses in 2020. Members agreed to this request, which is a good opportunity for families and young people in the community to get involved in the sport. The courses are for approximately 6-8 weeks.

On a separate note, Councillor Summerson reported a vehicle had become stuck in the sports field following heavy rainfall. It was agreed to install a lock on the gates to refrain future access for motor vehicles. A key would be provided to those who required access – DCC for grass cutting etc.

**Resolved: Clerk to inform the club accordingly. Councillor Summerson agreed to source the lock.**

**63/19. Parish Councillor Vacancy:**

Clerk reported vacancy to Durham County Council in the first instance. A notice has been displayed within the Parish with a deadline of 30 October 2019, to determine if the Returning Officer receives the requisite number of signatories to call an election.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**64/19. Financial Matters:**

**(i) Financial Report for the Period 1 April 2019 – 30 September 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 30 September 2019. The current net bank balances totalled £22,835.15.

Members agreed a donation to the Royal British Legion in aid of this year's Poppy Appeal in the sum of £40.00.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**65/19: Cemetery:**

**(a) Additional Cemetery Maintenance Works:**

Clerk informed members of a quotation received from the cemetery maintenance contractor in relation to the required additional cemetery works at Croxdale and Hett, before the pointing works can commence. In view of the charge proposed, it was agreed to obtain further quotations to ensure the Parish Council is receiving value for money for the required works.

**Resolved: Clerk to obtain two further quotations for comparison.**

**(b) Cemetery Maintenance Contract Renewal:**

Clerk informed Members the cemetery maintenance contract is due for renewal on 31 December 2019. Following last year's appointment, the contract is to be reviewed annually (as stipulated). The scheme of works was reviewed and was agreed to be amended with

additional items added as a result of recent feedback on the up keep of Croxdale's Cemetery and to be more specific / detailed on certain aspects.

**Resolved: Clerk to amend scheme of works accordingly and issue to the contractor for agreement by both parties.**

**(c) Cemetery Policy Revision:**

The Cemetery Policy was revised to incorporate future occurrences regarding kerb edging / surrounds being installed within our cemeteries. Subject to other minor amendments, the revised policy was approved.

**Resolved: Clerk to arrange for the revised policy to be updated to the Parish Council's website.**

**(d) Unauthorised installation of a kerb surround / edging:**

A response was received from the family concerned (which was handed to Councillor Summerson) following the Parish Council's response to the unauthorised kerb edging on a grave within Croxdale Cemetery. Whilst Members appreciates this is a sensitive matter for the family, the Parish Council must be consistent with kerb edging requests within our cemeteries to other members of the public and residents within the Parish to ensure a fair and consistent approach.

**Resolved: Clerk to draft response for Members' approval.**

**(e) Letter received from Residents regarding Croxdale Cemetery:**

Clerk informed Members of a letter received from a resident (which was also written on behalf of a number of other Croxdale residents who were unnamed) regarding the cemetery maintenance at Croxdale cemetery and the Parish Council's Policy on not allowing kerb edging / surrounds in our cemeteries. Following discussion, Clerk is to draft a response detailing the committed spend on cemetery maintenance, explain the cemetery contract is currently under review and the policy has been reviewed but remains with the decision to not allow kerb edging / surround to be installed within our cemeteries.

**Resolved: Clerk to draft response for Members' approval.**

**66/19: Planning Issues:**

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

- Burger King Thinford Park - erection and display of 13 no. illuminated and 10 no. non-illuminated advertisements

No specific comments / objections were made with regard to the above planning application; however, Councillor Ord voiced his remaining concern over the Thinford Park works.

**Resolved: For Member's Information.**

**67/19. County Councillor Reports:**

County Councillor Dunn gave an update in relation to: piling works at Integra 61 has now stopped. The fly tipping and hedge issues had been reported in the meeting (as previously discussed). Discussions are still ongoing with Integra 61 for support to the Hett Village Hal re-build.

**Resolved: For Member's Information.**

**68/19. AOB:**

**Croxdale:**

Councillor Garner informed Members of complaints she had received from residents regarding a public area (a cut) which was used as a lavatory and has been reported to DCC.

**Resolved: For Member's Information.**

**Allotments:**

Councillor Garner informed the Parish Clerk that Mark Garner will be absent from respective allotment for a period of time.

**Resolved: Clerk to note.**

**Lighting Complaints:**

Councillor Griffiths informed Members of complaints from residents regarding the lighting works on site at Integra 61.

**Resolved: For Member's Information.**

**69/19. Date and Time of Next Meeting:**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 27 November 2019 at 7.00 pm, Croxdale Community Centre.