

Minutes for the Monthly Parish Meeting of Croxdale and Hett Parish Council
Wednesday 24 April 2019, 7.00 pm
Hett Village Hall

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 Councillor S Dunn.

136/18. Apologies for Absence:

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

137/18. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

138/18. Policing:

The next PACT Meeting is to take place on Wednesday 19 June 2019, 7pm, Croxdale Community Centre.

Clerk confirmed she has requested speed watch data following previous speed watch undertaken in May 2018 and is currently awaiting a response.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

139/18. Public Participation

One member of the public was in attendance. The issue of overhanging trees which is encroaching onto another allotment at the Poultry Centre was reported further. Clerk is to contact the allotment holder again to which a final deadline will be given for the necessary works to be complete.

Resolved: Clerk is to contact the relevant allotment holder accordingly.

140/18. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 27 March 2019 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

141/18. Matters Arising

i. Youth Provision:

Clerk confirmed she has requested copies of Croxdale WMC and SYCA insurance policies and has yet to receive a response from Croxdale WMC.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

ii. Re-location of Memorial Bench:

Clerk is still awaiting DCCs permission to re-locate the bench in question and has chased progress on numerous occasions. County Councillor Dunn kindly agreed to chase progress on the Parish Council's behalf.

Resolved: For Members' Information. County Councillor Dunn to action.

iii. Hett War Memorial:

Clerk is to contact DCC Records Office and Spennymoor History Society in the first instance to see if a researcher can assist the Parish Council in sourcing WW1 names for inclusion on Hett's war memorial. Clerk gave details of possible funding available from 'War Memorials Grant Scheme UK' for restoration works to existing war memorials within the Parish. The funding would not be available for new war memorials. As the Parish Council is looking to add WW1 names to Hett's memorial, this may be classed as a new memorial as it is not like for like. County Councillor Dunn suggested a contribution towards the cost could be met from County Councillors Neighbourhood budgets for this project. It was therefore agreed, not to pursue with a funding application on this occasion.

Councillor Ord requested if a new war memorial for Croxdale could be sourced and asked County Councillor Dunn if any wider funding would be available for this, i.e. Lottery funding? However, some further thought would be required on what type of war memorial should be sourced in conjunction with consultation with residents.

Resolved: Clerk to contact DCC and Spennymoor History Society accordingly. County Councillor Dunn to look into possible new war memorial for Croxdale.

iv. Croxdale Inn Car Park Rent:

Clerk is still awaiting a response from the current tenant regarding 2019/20 rental agreement for the Croxdale Inn car park. It was agreed to extend the response deadline as it was understood the owner is now on holiday. Thereafter, if no response is forthcoming, the Parish Council will be actively seeking a new tenant.

Resolved: Clerk is to contact the owner further regarding 2019/20 rental agreement.

v. Hett Litter Pick:

DCC confirmed this month's litter pick will take place on 25 April 2019.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

vi. Croxdale Cemetery:

Clerk has contacted DCC with regard to indicative costs for improvement works to the cemetery paths and entrance. A site visit will take place on Monday 29 April 2019 to progress further.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

vii. Cemetery Gates:

A second quotation has now been received; however, it was preferred to try and obtain a third quote for comparison purposes.

A quote was also received with regard to pointing works on the cemetery pillars at Croxdale and Hett. It was agreed further quotations be obtained in due course for this work to be carried out.

Resolved: Clerk to obtain a third quote for comparison purposes.

viii. Hett Flooding:

Clerk to obtain relevant update from County Councillor McKeon in her absence.

Resolved: County Councillor McKeon to provide update to Members.

ix. Pot Holes:

The pot holes at Rogerson Terrace, Croxdale, has now been resolved.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

x. Hett Subsidence:

Clerk reported she had received an acknowledgement from Northumbrian Water Ltd of 4 April 2019 detailing the issue is currently being looked into.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

xi. Hett / Croxdale Weed Spraying:

Clerk to obtain relevant update from County Councillor McKeon in her absence.

Resolved: County Councillor McKeon to provide update to Members.

xii. Hett Wildflower Meadow:

Clerk queried the grass cutting arrangements on the village green which is being turned into a wildflower meadow. Councillor Griffiths confirmed this area is to be remained uncut until further notice.

Resolved: Clerk to contact DCC re future grass cutting arrangements.

xiii. Refuse Bins / Recycling – Hett:

Clerk received a response from DCC of 2 April 2019, which stated due to the nature of the terraced houses, it may not be possible to place the bins to the rear of the properties and that DCC has no powers to insist the bins should be move. A solution for this was a communal bin store. Councillor I Watt requested this is raised further with DCC as the area in question is a public footpath and is being obstructed by the recycling/rubbish bins.

Resolved: Clerk to contact DCC further with regard to this issue.

142/18. Parish Clerk Update / Correspondence:

i. Hett Village Hall Update:

Councillor Griffiths gave an update following the drilling works that took place at Hett Village Hall. A comprehensive report is yet to be received via the Coal Authority. A meeting of HVHA is to take place on Monday 29 April 2019 to discuss options available and next steps.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

143/18. Financial Matters:

(i) Financial Report for the Period 1 April 2018 – 31 March 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 March 2019. The current net bank balances totalled £8,821.51.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

(ii) 2018/19 Annual Return and Audit Requirements – Certificate of Exemption:

The Clerk notified Members regarding a training session that took place for Clerks on 03 April 2019, with Mazars, External Auditor. As per last year, due to the Parish Council's annual turnover is less than £25,000, the Parish Council does not require a full external audit. However, the Parish can request a full audit if required, subject to a fee. The Parish is still required to carry out an internal audit, completion of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and to publicise correct accounting information at the end of the process for Parishioners to view on our website. The deadline for completion of the AGAR is 5 July 2019.

Resolved: For Members' Information. The Parish Council agreed for the exemption of a full external audit for 2018/19.

144/18: Planning Issues:

No specific planning matters was discussed.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

145/18. County Councillor Reports:

County Councillor Dunn gave an update in relation to: The Secretary of State has authorised the County Council to approve the planning application for the new HQ. However, a judicial review by the newly created Durham City Parish Council may be pursued.

An update following the site visit that took place on 03 April 2019 regarding a number of highways issues was provided. Attendees were County Councillors Dunn, McKeon, Councillor Burton and Highways Officer of Durham County Council. In particular, the bus lane on the A167 was discussed, and that it should be returned to the use of all traffic. Councillor Griffiths questioned what is the benefit of not having a bus lane? County Councillor Dunn is to progress further. A speed watch also took place at the same location as previously on the A167 with 1000 vehicles passing through. One vehicle was caught being on a mobile phone.

Members were asked to re-confirm the exact location of the 'keep clear' markings on the A167 as previously requested in 2018. Clerk is to also check meeting notes for reference.

Resolved: County Councillor Dunn to progress the bus lane on the A167 further. Clerk/Members to confirm location of 'keep clear' markings.

146/18. AOB:

Road Plainings - Hett:

Councillor I Watt requested if road plainings for Hett could be sourced from DCC as per previous occasions?

Resolved: Clerk to contact DCC accordingly.

147/18. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 29 May 2019 at 7.00 pm, Hett Village Hall.