

Minutes for the Monthly Parish Meeting of Croxdale and Hett Parish Council
Wednesday 26 June 2019, 7.00 pm
Croxdale Community Centre

Parish Council Members Present:

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

Also Present:

County Councillor J Blakey, S Dunn and M McKeon.

18/19. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies of absence was received from Councillor Burton, Councillor A Watt and Councillor W Watt.

19/19. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

20/19. Policing:

The next PACT Meeting is to take place on Thursday 15 August 2019, 7pm, Croxdale Community Centre.

Councillor Summerson reported there has been a break-in within the allotments at the rear of Rogerson Terrace, a crime number has been received.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

21/19. Public Participation

Two members of the public were in attendance.

22/19. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 29 May 2019 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

23/19. Matters Arising

i. Highways Issues:

Clerk queried if the issues regarding the fencing at Hett Lane were investigated at the site visit that took place on 3 April 2019? County Councillor McKeon confirmed Croxdale issues were investigated at that meeting and agreed to look into the issues at Hett Lane regarding signage further.

Resolved: County Councillor McKeon to action.

ii. Youth Provision:

Clerk confirmed the youth workers now have a set of keys for the youth club sessions at the WMC. Clerk enquired if the Parish Council will be holding any additional sessions in the 6 weeks holidays? It was noted however; this expenditure would need to be met by the Parish Council for the cost of the youth workers and the venue charge. It was agreed to determine

interest from the attendees in the first instance and perhaps look to hold an additional 3 sessions (every 2 weeks).

In addition, DCC are offering 3 free sessions of multi-sports activities during the 6 weeks holidays to take place on the football field behind the WMC. Members agreed for the free sessions to take place and for the Clerk to obtain further information.

On a separate note, Spennymoor Youth Association has confirmed their public liability insurance does cover the youth club to undertake sessions outside.

Resolved: Clerk to arrange for DCC free sessions to take place and determine interest in the additional sessions with the youth workers.

iii. Re-location of Memorial Bench:

Contractor is now on annual leave until 5 July 2019, therefore works to commence thereafter.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

iv. Hett War Memorial:

Clerk confirmed an article will be included in the next edition of Hett Happenings which will be circulated to Hett residents' mid/end of July, asking for details of family members or volunteers with the project. Councillor Garner has yet to approach St Bartholomew's Church regarding Croxdale's new memorial; their next meeting is scheduled for 23 July 2019.

Resolved: For Members' Information. Councillor Garner to discuss with the Church at their next meeting in July 2019.

v. Hett Litter Pick:

DCC confirmed May's litter pick took place on 30 May and June's litter pick has being carried out earlier today (26 June 2019).

Resolved: For Members' Information.

vi. Hett Village Hall:

Councillor Griffiths gave an update in relation to the Village Hall at Hett. The Chair and Secretary of Hett Village Hall Association met with the Architects and are looking to replace the hall, like for like. Further research is currently being undertaken; thereafter a design will be brought forward for consideration in the next few weeks.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

vii. Believe Complaint:

Clerk issued correspondence on 12 June 2019 and is currently awaiting a response. An acknowledgement was received on 26 June 2019 and confirmed it is being looked at. Councillor Garner confirmed 6 residents are in the process of putting in similar requests as well as dropped kerbs. County Councillor Blakey confirmed DCC Highways and Believe Housing are working together to look at car parking.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

viii. Croxdale Inn Car Park Rent:

Clerk confirmed payment was received on 10 June 2019 for 2019/20 car park rent.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

ix. Croxdale Cemetery:

A response was issued on 31 May 2019 to the applicant requesting kerb edging around graves. No feedback has been received to date.

Councillor Ord reported he had received complaints following recent burials within Croxdale Cemetery of the cemetery attendant back-filling the grave whilst mourners were still within the cemetery and also commented that the machinery was close by. The Clerk confirmed she had raised this with the cemetery attendant, and assured the Parish Council that works on the grave do not commence until all mourners have left the cemetery or outside of the cemetery gates. It was agreed this will be monitored going forward.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

x. Refuse Bins / Recycling – Hett:

Clerk progressed with DCC further on 12 June 2019 and is currently awaiting a response; which was also followed up again on 25 June 2019.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

24/19. Parish Clerk Update / Correspondence:

i. Spennymoor AAP Public Representative Board Vacancy:

Clerk informed Members of an opportunity to join a dynamic and proactive board who have successfully delivered several projects throughout the Spennymoor AAP area since formation in 2009. Deadline for applications 28 June 2019. It was also noted the next meeting of the AAP Board will take place on 11 July 2019, at Croxdale Community Centre – all welcome to attend.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

ii. Temporary Road Closure:

A temporary road closure at Salvin Street, Croxdale, was reported for a 4-day period for drainage works from 1 July 2019. Letters will be sent to those residents affected.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

25/19. Financial Matters:

(i) Financial Report for the Period 1 April 2019 – 31 May 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 May 2019. The current net bank balances totalled £22,031.16.

The following cheque payments were approved:

Cheque Number - 400410 – ICO - £40.00

Resolved: For Members' Information.

26/19: Croxdale / Hett Cemetery Works:

(i) Painting of Cemetery Gates – Croxdale and Hett:

Three quotations had been sought in respect of the above works at Croxdale and Hett cemeteries. One quotation was revised following clarification received. Members reviewed each quotation and following discussion, it was agreed to pursue with contractor 3, subject to further clarification regarding the ivy on the railings at Croxdale.

With regard to the cemetery path maintenance and re-pointing works, it was agreed to look to carry out the works for the repointing within 2019/20 financial year and the path maintenance in 2020/21. Quotations for the path maintenance would therefore be sought in 2020 and re-pointing works over the course of the next few months.

Resolved: Clerk to contact each contractor accordingly informing them of the outcome. Quotations for re-pointing works to be sought.

27/19: Planning Issues:

No specific planning matters was discussed. Councillor Kerrison queried if the planning application at Mount Huley Farm in relation to the Anaerobic Digestion Plant was still proceeding? As of yet, no works on site has commented.

Resolved: Clerk to check planning application accordingly.

28/19. County Councillor Reports:

County Councillor Dunn gave an update in relation to: County Durham Plan – issued to Secretary of State on 4 July 2019 and is now out for statutory consultation. Bus lane conversion to slip road on A167 – DCC confirmed this is not possible to convert to a filter lane, however County Councillors to continue to look at options. Complaints received from Hett residents regarding hedgerow cutting and grass verges on Hett Lane and Leaman's Lane – DCC has apologised and will look at the frequency of cutting in the future and when is the appropriate time for cutting. However, Councillor Watt confirmed the farmer has cut the hedgerows – County Councillor Dunn to investigate further. Carbon red targets of 60% to be met by 2030 with aim of County Durham to be carbon neutral by 2050 – a report to Full Council on 17 July 2019 will be reported on progress. DCC has also rolled out an electric road sweeper.

County Councillor Blakey gave an update in relation to: carried out a walkaround at Front Street, Croxdale, and has reported the overgrown bush encroaching onto the footpath.

County Councillor McKeon gave an update in relation to: installation of new bus shelters – access has been requested to be cut back further. Education - meeting with the Secretary of State re education and social care funding. Road safety officers - celebration for young people.

Resolved: For Member's Information.

29/19. AOB:

Footpath:

Councillor Kerrison reported the footpath near the Dale Side Arms towards the school is always flooded, however it was noted this is not within the Parish boundary. County Councillor McKeon agreed to action.

Resolved: County Councillor McKeon to action.

Cars Parked on Footpath:

Councillor Ord reported cars are parking on the footpath from Tudhoe school towards Nicky-Nac bridge and is in need of repair. County Councillor McKeon agreed to action.

Resolved: County Councillor McKeon to action.

Cyclists:

Councillor Ord and Kerrison reported cyclists are riding up Rogerson Terrace on the footpath when the cycle route ends. The footpath in question is not wide enough for pedestrians and cyclists with complaints recently being received from residents following incidents. It was agreed to confirm if the footpath is definitely a cycle path, if not, this will be reported to DCC and the Police.

Resolved: Clerk to confirm cycle route accordingly.

Fees & Charges – 2021/21:

In view of the late payment received in relation to the car park rent for 2019/20, Councillor Summerson requested if the Parish Council should start and look at other options sooner for 2020/21 fees, regarding the lease of the land. It was agreed for the Clerk to check and confirm what the land can be used for in the first instance.

Resolved: Clerk to action accordingly.

Litter Bin Request:

Councillor Ord has received a request from a resident requesting a litter bin at the southbound bus stop at Foster Terrace. County Councillor McKeon agreed to action.

Resolved: County Councillor McKeon to action.

30/19. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 31 July 2019 at 7.00 pm, Hett Village Hall.