

Minutes for the Monthly Parish Meeting of Croxdale and Hett Parish Council
Croxdale and Hett Parish Council
Wednesday 13 December 2017, 7.00 pm

Parish Council Members Present:

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

Also Present:

County Councillors J Blakey, S Dunn and M McKeon.

110/17. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies of absence was received from Councillor R Burton.

111/17. Declarations of Interest:

Councillor J Garner declared an interest as a Trustee for HVHA as well as Councillor L Griffiths with regard to agenda item 10.

112/17. Policing:

The PACT meeting held on 23 November 2017 was well attended by residents, however, residents who attended the meeting were frustrated that they couldn't voice their opinions regarding individuals. It was reported the suspected youth(s) have now being relocated to Bowburn. The situation of ASB is to be monitored with any further occurrences being reported to the Police.

Councillor Summerson is to assist the owner of the Croxdale Inn in removing the pieces of glass from the Croxdale Inn car park. The next PACT meeting will take place on 21 December 2017, 7.00 pm.

Resolved: For Members' information.

113/17. Public Participation

Michael Graveling, Linda Burton, Mr and Mrs Valente and Devan McManus (Croxdale Community Association) were in attendance.

The Chairman agreed to suspend Standing Orders and bring forward agenda item 10, to allow Mr McManus to comment on the review of donation requests agenda item.

114/17. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 08 November 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

115/17. Matters Arising

i. Fencing at Hett Lane:

A response from William Salvin was received on 13 November 2017 with confirmation that the fence will be inspected and arrange for any necessary repairs. However, Mr Salvin did request for DCC to provide reflectors or yellow warning signs which, if received, they will install direct. The Clerk has subsequently contacted Brian Buckley of Highways but as of yet no response has been received.

Resolved: For Members' information. Clerk to follow up progress with DCC.

ii. Road Closure – Thinford Works:

Traffic update has now being issued in Hett Happenings, with no feedback / queries received from residents.

Resolved: For Members' information.

iii. Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC):

Clerk confirmed the application form has been sent to CWGC for signage at Croxdale Cemetery.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

iv. Revised Allotment Regulations and Letter:

Letters are now with Michael Graveling for distribution when collecting rent monies. Deadline asking for feedback from allotment holders on the revised regulations and fees and charges review is 28 February 2018.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

v. Beat the Scammers – Age Concern:

A response has been received from Age Concern with a copy of the referral pack which details the project, however, the booklet that was distributed at the AAP event, could not be forwarded as this is only given out when talks have been carried out to community groups etc. Residents who are concerned regarding telephone fraud are encouraged to speak to Age Concern direct - 0191 374 6568.

Resolved: For Members' Information. Clerk to forward details to HVHA and CCA in the event this was of interest.

vi. Hett Village Green – Wild Flower Meadow:

The Clerk and Chairman met with Guthrie's, a local business, on 8 December 2017 to discuss ground preparation works in Hett. A quotation is yet to be received. It was noted, the Parish would also need to factor in costs of re-seeding every 3 years, arrange for separate quotations in relation to the herbicide/weed spraying works and waste removal charges. If the project is to go ahead, works would need to be started in March/April 2018, therefore a decision is required in the New Year on whether the Parish goes ahead with this project. Consultation with local residents would take place in February (date to be agreed) and ask for their views on the project in principle.

Resolved: For Members' Information. Chairman to discuss detailed works with Mr Gregory for a second quotation for comparison.

vii. Draft Neighbourhood Plan Consultation:

Details were circulated to Members on 20 November 2017, however, the Parish will not be responding to the consultation on this occasion.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

viii. Litter Pick – Hett Lane / Leaman's Lane:

Clerk confirmed the above litter pick request has been reported to DCC and has subsequently being carried out. Councillor A Watt requested for the Clerk to contact DCC and request the litter picks are periodically carried out at the above locations throughout the year, instead of the Parish requesting litter picks as and when required.

Resolved: For Members' Information. Clerk to contact DCC accordingly.

ix. Trees at Hett Village Green:

A quotation has been received from Special Branch Tree Services for the pruning works on Hett Green, although the Parish is currently awaiting relevant permissions from DCC due to Hett being in a conservation area. The Parish is also awaiting feedback from DCC with regard to a monkey puzzle tree at Croxdale cemetery, for advice on whether this can / should be removed and to provide a charge for comparison. A separate quotation from Special Branch Tree Services has also been received.

Resolved: For Members' Information. County Councillor S Dunn agreed to follow up the enquiry with DCC on the Parish Council's behalf.

116/17. Parish Clerk Update / Correspondence:

i. Buckingham Palace Royal Garden Party 2018:

The Clerk notified Members with details of 2018 Royal Garden Party. It is expected 4 places will be offered (2 Councillors and their spouse, partner or companion). All nominations will be entered into a draw and randomly selected by CDALC. Deadline for nominations is 21 January 2018.

Resolved: For Members' Information. Nominations of Councillors to be sent to the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

ii. Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1972:

The Clerk reminded Councillors that under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, prohibits a Councillor in council tax arrears for at least 2 months from voting on the setting of a precept. If a Councillor in such a position fails to notify the Council then they can be subject to a fine of up to £1,000.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

iii. Neighbourhood Community Speed Watch Scheme:

The Clerk informed Members with details of the above scheme that is being led by Durham Constabulary. Volunteers from Councillors or residents are to be fed back to Sergeant Kevin Hall in the first instance.

Resolved: For Members' Information. Clerk to advertise scheme on social media and forward onto HVHA and CCA.

117/17. Vacancy of Parish Councillor

The Clerk reported 1 expression of interest was received for Parish Councillor vacancy being:

1 = Peter Kerrison

The above candidate was nominated and seconded receiving unanimous votes.

Resolved: Peter Kerrison be duly elected as Parish Councillor and summoned to attend the next Parish Council meeting to sign the declaration of acceptance of office.

118/17. Parish Council Meeting Schedule – 2018

The Clerk compiled a schedule of meeting venues between Croxdale Community Centre and Hett Village Hall for 2018. It was noted there would be no charge for 2018 fees at Hett Village Hall, however, this will be reviewed annually by HVHA. There is currently no charge from Croxdale Community Association.

Resolved: Members agreed Parish Council meeting schedule for 2018. Clerk to display schedule in relevant notice boards and website / social media.

119/17. Financial Matters:

i. Financial Report for the Period 1 April 2017 – 13 December 2017

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 13 December 2017. The current net bank balances totalled £7,018.55.

The following cheque payments were approved:

Cheque Number – 400338 - Miss C Maddison – Clerk’s Wages - £257.80
Cheque Number – 400339 – HMRC – Tax & NI Contributions – £64.60
Cheque Number – 400340 – Miss C Maddison – Broadband Subscription - £37.99
Cheque Number – 400341 – JW Smith – Cemetery Maintenance - £160.00
Cheque Number – 400342 – CDALC – Councillor Training - £27.00
Cheque Number – 400343 – Miss C Maddison – Parish Expenses - £30.46

Resolved: For Members’ Information.

ii. Consideration of Financial Requests / Contributions to Project Schemes

The following donation requests for 2017/18 were reviewed and agreed by Members as follows:

Organisation	Amount:
Croxdale Community Association – Window Replacement Project	£500.00
Croxdale Community Association – Defibrillator Contribution	£500.00
Citizens Advice County Durham	£100.00
Spennymoor Learning Library	£0.00

With regard to the donation for Spennymoor Learning Library, this would be considered in 2018/19 financial year. As the costs are yet unknown with regard to the wild flower meadow project in Hett, this contribution would be reviewed later in the financial year.

The insurance costs for the new defibrillator at Croxdale Community Centre would be met from Croxdale Community Association and was agreed the Parish would meet the maintenance costs for pads and batteries. Training of the defibrillator will be carried out by St John’s Ambulance Service, free of charge.

Resolved: For Members’ Information.

iii. Looking Ahead – Precept Determination 2018/19

The Clerk gave details of comparisons of Croxdale and Hett Parish Precepts from 2012/13 – 2017/18, for information. It was noted the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant for 2018/19 will be £697.00 (compared to £1,015.00 in 2017/18). This grant is payable in addition to the Parish Precept.

The Clerk and Chairman requested for Members to review and confirm prior to the next meeting in January any schemes of work / projects they wish to fulfil in 2018/19, along with indicative costs, to enable the Parish Precept to be set / agreed in January 2018.

Resolved: For Members' Information and action.

120/17. Planning Issues:

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

To remove one chimney stack from the roof of 23 Sunderland Bridge.

Resolved: For Member's Information – no specific comments / objections were made with regard to the above planning application.

121/17. County Councillor Reports

County Councillor Blakey gave an update in relation to: issues regarding gritting has now been resolved and the fly-tipping incident has been reported.

County Councillor McKeon gave an update in relation to: Lumiere was a success, Cabinet agreed to exempt care leavers for Council Tax reductions / discounts and discussion around the 2018 Boundary Review, objecting to proposals.

County Councillor S Dunn had nothing further to add.

Resolved: For Members' Information. Parish Clerk to also submit response from the Parish Council regarding the proposals.

122/17. AOB:

i. Pot Holes at Hett Lane:

County Councillor Blakey agreed to look at the pot holes / edging at Hett Lane.

Resolved: County Councillor Blakey to progress.

ii. Traffic at Front Street / Salvin Street:

Councillor Garner requested for an update with regard to the above traffic calming scheme. County Councillor Blakey reported drainage is an issue where speed bumps are to be placed – work is in progress. Residents who are concerned are encouraged to report to the Police via the PACT Meetings.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

iii. Croxdale Colliery – Request for 30MPH:

County Councillor Blakey is continuing to work with DCC and is to arrange for a site visit of the Highways Engineer to discuss with Councillors concerned.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

iv. Cyclists on Pavement – A167:

Councillor Garner reported further incidents with cyclists, cycling on pavements and not designated areas. Incidents are continued to be reported to the Police.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

v. Allotments Boundary:

Councillor Summerson gave an update in relation to the dividing of boundaries at Front Street East.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

vi. Croxdale Beck:

Councillor Ord reported concern regarding the beck immediately to the rear of Daleside Pub when children are playing in the beck which could easily flood due to high waters.

Resolved: Clerk to report to DCC accordingly.

vii. Croxdale Children's Play Area:

Councillor Ord requested if the children's play area can be inspected, in particular, the log area as some are rotting away.

Resolved: Clerk to report to DCC accordingly.

viii. Parish Councillor Contacts:

Councillor Ord requested if Councillors contact details and photographs can be displayed in Croxdale Community Centre / Hett Village Hall (similar to the County Councillors poster), to help inform residents of who their local Councillors are.

Resolved: Clerk to draft contact schedule for displaying within the Parish / website.

123/17. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 10 January 2018 at 7.00 pm, Hett Village Hall.