

Minutes for the Monthly Parish Meeting of Croxdale and Hett Parish Council
Wednesday 25 November 2020, 7.00 pm
Virtual Meeting

Parish Council Members Present:

Councillor L Griffiths (Chair), Councillor P Adams, Councillor P Kerrison and Councillor M Ord.

38/20. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors A Watt, I Watt, R Burton, J Garner and K Summerson.

Also Present:

County Councillors J Blakey, S Dunn and M McKeon.

39/20. Declarations of Interest:

Declaration of interest was received from Councillor Kerrison in relation to Croxdale Residents Association / defibrillator request and Councillor Griffiths in relation to cemetery maintenance contract review.

40/20. Policing:

The Clerk had shared Policing crime stats: 9 incidents being recorded for the period September 2020 within the Parish.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

41/20. Public Participation

No members of the public attended the meeting virtually.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

42/20. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 28 October 2020 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman (under separate cover).

43/20. Matters Arising:

i. Defibrillator – Croxdale:

Clerk is arranging for a local electrician to provide a quotation for installation for the defibrillator and cabinet.

Resolved: Clerk to progress accordingly.

ii. Cemetery H&S Tree Inspections:

A quotation has been received from the cemetery maintenance contractor; however, two further quotations are yet to be received for comparison purposes.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

iii. Planning Application – Loggins Farm – Residential Home for Children:

This application is still pending consideration.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

iv. Potholes / Road Repairs at Hett:

A number of significant potholes have been repaired in Hett to date, further repairs to be identified.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

v. Grass Cutting – Hett:

Clerk reported damage to the road side posts following grass cutting which have yet to receive a response and has since been followed up.

Resolved: Clerk to follow up again progress with DCC.

vi. Accessibility Requirements:

The Parish Council's website is now live and fully accessible.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

vii. Hett Litter Picks:

The monthly litter picks have been re-instated with November's litter pick taking place on 12 November.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

viii. 20 MPH - Speed Limit Trial:

A response was received from Highways on 20 November 2020; however, it only gave reference to Croxdale. Salvin Street has been looked at previously with a number of options being offered one of which was a 20mph zone so this can be revisited again, subject to funding.

Resolved: For Members' Information. Clerk to follow up Hett and Sunderland Bridge options.

ix. Planters, Croxdale:

Two replacement planters have been provided by County Councillor Dunn at Front Street, Croxdale. Croxdale Residents Association will look after / replenish flowers with the Parish Council to be responsible for insurance and maintenance purposes.

Resolved: Clerk to arrange for planters to be added to the Parish Council's insurance, along with all the other planters in the Parish. Councillor Kerrison agreed to assist the Parish Clerk with this.

x. Croxdale Skatepark:

A response was issued to the resident, no response has been received to date.

Resolved: For Members' Information

xi. Remembrance Poppies:

A letter of appreciation was issued to Mrs King regarding the remembrance poppies that have been placed throughout Croxdale, in which a thankful response was received. The

Parish Council's and County Councillor wreaths were laid at Croxdale, Hett and Sunderland Bridge in aid of Remembrance Sunday.

Resolved: For Members' Information

xii. Proposed Solar Installation – Hett Moor Farm:

Councillor Griffiths and County Councillors attended the virtual briefing session on 3 November 2020. Initial views of Hett residents is to object to the proposal due to the visual impact on the village. Metal Bridge residents are also going to object to the planning proposal when the application is live.

Resolved: For Members' Information

xiii. Croxdale Play Park:

The Clerk raised with DCC on 28 October 2020 and requested for an update on where this is positioned on the priority list which was followed up on 18 November 2020 and currently awaiting a response.

Resolved: For Members' Information

xiv. Hett Caravan:

Councillor Griffiths reported a resident's caravan has re-appeared on the village green.

Resolved: Clerk to progress action with DCC.

xv. Hett Lane:

Councillor Adams reported damage to the steel fencing on Hett Lane. The Clerk subsequently reported to DCC and currently awaiting a response.

Resolved: For Members' Information

xvi. Road Signs on Char Lane:

Councillor Kerrison reported a large sign was erected in front of the Daleside Arms stating that Char Lane is unsuitable for HGVs. The track off the lane leads to Coldstream Farm and 6 dwellings which receives regular deliveries via HGVs. This was reported to DCC following feedback from residents on 2 November 2020 and followed up on 19 November 2020, and currently awaiting a response.

Resolved: For Members' Information

xvii. Street Signs, Hett:

Councillor Griffiths requested for a 'clean up after your dog' sign on the footpath notice at the Old Church in Hett following feedback from residents. The Clerk reported this on 30 October 2020 and followed up progress on 19 November 2020; and currently awaiting a response. The area was scheduled to be cleansed also.

Resolved: For Members' Information

xviii. Hett Wildflower Meadow:

Further seeds/bulbs are to be purchased in relation to the above in due course. Councillor Griffiths reported an enquiry received from a resident who would like to create a wildflower area in front of their property. No objections were raised by the Parish Council.

Resolved: For Members' Information

44/20 Parish Clerk Update / Correspondence:

i. December's Meeting – 23 December:

The Clerk reminded Members Parish Council meetings usually takes place on the last Wednesday of the month, with December's meeting to be 30 December. However, this was brought forward to 23 December in February 2020 when the meeting schedule was agreed. Members agreed for December's meeting to go ahead as scheduled on 23 December 2020.

Resolved: For Members' Information with December's meeting to take place virtually on 23 December 2020.

ii. Picnic Benches adjacent to Croxdale Play Park:

In the absence of Councillor Burton, the Clerk informed Members of a suggestion/request to purchase a x2 picnic benches to be installed on the green next to the park at Croxdale. The Clerk sought initial advice from DCC and this does not require planning permission. Initial/approximate costs were identified between £500-600 each and would also need to factor in installation costs. Concerns were raised by Members if the benches would be vandalised in a similar way of Croxdale play park fencing.

Resolved: Clerk to note for January's meeting when determining the Precept for 2021/22.

45/20. Financial Matters:

(i) Financial Report for the Period 1 April – 31 October 2020:

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 October 2020. The current net bank balances totalled £20,620.73.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

(ii) Financial Assistance Request – Mayor's Appeal:

A request for financial assistance was received and considered from the Mayor's Appeal in aid of the Fire Fighters Charity. Members agreed a donation of £50.00.

Resolved: Clerk to progress payment accordingly.

46/20: Cemetery Maintenance Contract Review

Clerk advised that 2 tenders were received for the cemetery maintenance contract with annual charges being:

Tender A)	£2,300.00	Tender B)	£960.00
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Following review of the documentation provided and discussion, it was resolved to extend the deadline and to determine the successful contractor at the next meeting. In relation to tender B), it was agreed to source further information on the contractor's experience to date.

Resolved: Clerk to arrange for the extension of the cemetery maintenance contract review accordingly.

47/20: Planning Issues:

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

- DM/20/02965/FPA - Insertion of 3no rooflights to front and 3no rooflights to rear roof plane and convert loft space into a habitable room
- DM/20/03168/FPA - Timber fencing max. 1.6m high and decking to rear yard

Resolved: No specific comments / objections were made with regard to the above planning application.

48/20. County Councillor Reports:

County Councillor McKeon gave an update in relation to: the bus shelters at Croxdale are still being progressed and if any residents were interested in carrying out litter picks throughout the Parish, the necessary equipment can be provided by DCC.

Resolved: For Member's Information.

49/20. AOB:

BT Telegraph Pole:

Councillor Adams reported Sunderland Bridge residents encountered problems with BT following a replaced telegraph pole. It was noted this matter is for Open Reach.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

Hett Village Hall:

Councillor Griffiths confirmed the works to replacing the Village Hall roof will commence in mid-January.

Resolved: For Member's Information.

Cherry Trees, Croxdale:

Councillor Kerrison requested via County Councillor Dunn if a number of cherry trees could be replaced near to the Daleside Arms. County Councillor Dunn confirmed this is hand; one will likely to be replaced whilst the others are to be re-assessed.

Resolved: For Member's Information.

50/20. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 23 December 2020 at 7.00 pm.