

**Minutes for the Monthly Parish Meeting of Croxdale and Hett Parish Council**  
**Wednesday 28 July 2021, 7.00 pm**  
**Croxdale Community Centre**

**Parish Council Members Present:**

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

**Also Present:**

County Councillor M McKeon.

**35/21. Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors, Burton, Summerson, and County Councillors Blakey and Hutchinson.

**36/21. Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**37/21. Policing:**

The Clerk had shared Policing crime stats: 7 incidents being recorded for the period May 2021 within the Parish.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**38/21. Public Participation**

One member of the public attended the meeting regarding the signage at Chair Lane, Croxdale, which has been ongoing for a considerable amount of time. County Councillor McKeon provided an update on the delay of a response from DCC on this issue which is currently being investigated as a priority.

**Resolved: Parish Clerk is to keep the resident informed of progress.**

**39/21. Minutes:**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 30 June 2021 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**40/21. Matters Arising:**

**i. Hett Litter Pick:**

July's litter pick took place on 08 July 2021.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**ii. 20 MPH - Speed Limit Trial:**

An indication of the costs involved was sought from DCC on 4 July 2021 and currently awaiting a response. With regard to funding, the AAP team confirmed the project could possibly be funded through Councillor Neighbourhood Budget funding subject to the Councillors wishing to support the scheme. County Councillor McKeon suggested the Town

and Villages Fund could be an alternative route of funding also. Councillor Adams suggested to involve relevant speed traffic inspectors to help progress this further.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**iii. Allotments:**

The following matters was discussed and noted:

**Asbestos Removal:**

Further quotations are to be sought for comparison purposes.

**Resolved: Parish Clerk to action.**

**Poultry Centre Track:**

A complaint was received via Councillor Ord regarding the condition of the track through the Poultry Centre and damaging an allotment holder's car. Following discussion, whilst the PC is responsible for the track to the allotments/small holdings, this is currently not a priority for council funds. In addition, it is up to individual allotment holders if they wish to use their vehicle to access the site. County Councillor McKeon suggested to source some free dolomite, if required, for Parish Council or allotment holders use.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**Vehicle Speeding – Poultry Centre:**

The Parish Clerk informed Members of a complaint received from a resident regarding an allotment holder in a white van 'flying' down the track to and from the Poultry Centre and is concerned for pedestrians (and animals) safety. The Parish Clerk contacted the allotment holder concerned and this matter is now resolved.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**iv. Re-location of Rubbish Bin, Croxdale:**

The shop owner had fed back via Councillor Ord his views on the relocation of the rubbish bin and would like an additional bin to be placed at the existing location or if this is not possible, he will provide the bin but expects DCC to empty it. County Councillor McKeon confirmed this has been raised with the Clean and Green Team who confirmed an extra bin outside of the shop is too close and is not required to install another one.

**Resolved: Parish Clerk to inform the shop owner of the outcome.**

**v. Seat Replacement:**

Clerk confirmed this remains outstanding from DCC regarding the condition of the seat at the bus stop near to the corner shop and was chased further on 25 July 2021.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**vi. Bus Stop, Croxdale:**

Whilst this is now resolved, Councillor Kerrison reported the broken glass has been left behind by DCC workmen.

**Resolved: County Councillor McKeon agreed to report this on behalf of the Parish Council.**

**vii. Cemetery Maintenance Moles:**

An alternative contact was not provided; therefore, the Cemetery Maintenance Contractor will include as an additional cost as part of the cemetery maintenance contract.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**viii. Hett Cemetery Pointing:**

Clerk has followed up with the contractor regarding an exact start date and is still to be confirmed.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**ix. Request for Replacement Seat/Repairs – Hett Cemetery and Sunderland Bridge:**

RWT Fabrications has yet to provide a quotation for the seats at Hett Cemetery and Sunderland Bridge due to workload. The Parish Clerk had contacted other Parishes for contact details and have received a couple of contacts. This will be progressed over the summer.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**x. Sunderland Bridge – Pothole:**

Progress was chased further on 30 June 2021 and this has now been resolved.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**xi. Croxdale Play Park:**

County Councillor McKeon confirmed she had visited the play park on 27 July 2021; the fence works is still out to tender. However, the play park logs will be replaced and will look to install disabled play equipment as part of an overall scheme to improve play parks across County Durham which will be funded from the Town and Villages funding.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**xii. Advertising Boards – Croxdale Cemetery:**

Clerk confirmed this issue was reported on 10 July 2021 as a report of fly-posting, however a response was received on 20 July that the issue could not be located. The Clerk visited the cemetery on 23 July and the advertising billboard is still located in the lay-by at Croxdale cemetery, therefore this has been re-reported to Planning to action as a highways obstruction and currently awaiting a response. Councillor Griffiths reported there is signage present at Croxdale roundabout and Brown Lane, Sunderland Bridge.

**Resolved: For Members' Information. Parish Clerk to report further signage accordingly.**

**xiii. Grass Cutting – Croxdale and Hett:**

Clerk provided feedback on 10 July 2021; no feedback has been received to date. However, Councillor I Watt commented that the grass cutting on the village greens at Hett has improved.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**xiv. Street Signs, Hett:**

County Councillor McKeon confirmed this request is still ongoing. A new sign is also to be requested at the footpath at West End, in addition to Church Lane.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**xv. Steel Barrier Fencing, Hett Lane:**

Progress was chased on 30 June 2021 and the steel fencing has now been replaced.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**xvi. Boundary Review:**

The Parish Council's response to the Boundary Review was submitted on 4 July 2021. Details have been added online for residents' information (deadline 2 August).

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**xvii. Front Street – Croxdale:**

The vehicle at Front Street was reported on 4 July 2021 and chased further on 25 July 2021 and currently awaiting a response.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**xviii. Youth Provision:**

The Community Centre agreed for indoor youth activities during the 6 weeks' holidays which will run from 23 July – 27 August. The first session took place on 23 July and feedback was no one had turned up which was the same case as the outdoor session on 21 July. Feedback has yet to be received following today's session, further promotion is to be circulated online and possibly a leaflet drop.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**xix. Hett Village Green:**

The Parish Clerk confirmed the PC is still waiting for revised costings following site visit on 30 June 2021. Contact was made to the Coal Authority and DCC to determine if their contribution could be increased to reflect the price increase. The Coal Authority confirmed the maximum that they can give is £5,000 and DCC confirmed once the revised costs are known, consideration would then be given to a potential increased contribution.

Regarding the land easements, these are ongoing through Meikle Solicitors of Ferryhill. Following a query from a Hett resident on whether the PC needs to consult with the Environment Agency on the issue of mixing water from the road and from the green then putting it into the beck, DCC confirmed, there is no requirement to consult the Environment Agency for discharge to an ordinary watercourse, as these are overseen by DCC as Lead Local Flood Authority.

An update to inform Hett residents will be included in the next edition of Hett Happenings. The village green has been cut and bailed in readiness for the works commencing.

On a separate matter, the Parish Council is required to complete a consent form for Northern Gas Works in relation to works been carried out on the village green to install a gas supply at Hett Village Hall. The Parish Clerk is to complete on behalf of the Parish Council.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

## 41/21 Parish Clerk Update / Correspondence:

### i. Late Joe Anderson – Donation to St Cuthbert’s Hospice:

Councillor Griffiths reflected on former Chairman and Parish Councillor Joe Anderson who was a valued member of the Parish Council and contributed to the Parish Council over a considerable number of years from the 1980s to 2017. A letter of condolence was issued to the family on behalf of the Parish Council. A donation of £50.00 was agreed to St Cuthbert’s Hospice.

**Resolved: Clerk to arrange donation accordingly.**

### ii. Licensing Application – Croxdale Corner Shop:

The Parish Clerk informed Members, the following new premises licence application has been received by Durham County Council:

Application Type - Application for a Premises Licence

Premises – Croxdale Corner Shop, Front Street East, Croxdale, Durham, DH6 5HX

Date of Application – 5 July 2021 Last date for representations – 2 August 2021

Members considered the above application for the sale of alcohol alongside the four licensing objectives which are taken into account during the licensing process.

**Resolved: Members raised no comments / objections in relation to the above application.**

### iii. Planting of Trees, Hett Village Green:

It has been brought to the Parish Council’s attention of the planting of three trees on the Village Green, outside of the property at 10 South Green, Hett. Planting of trees on the Village Green is prohibited and sets a precedent, therefore the trees in question are to be removed. It was noted, permission was never sought or given on planting of the trees.

**Resolved: Clerk to contact the resident accordingly to request the trees are removed.**

### iv. Right of Access – Hett Village Green:

A request was received from a resident for permission to have a right of access to the rear of their property (5 South View, Hett) across the Village Green. Members considered and agreed to this request by way of the resident installing a grass grid, however, the following must be noted/adhered to:

- The grid will be used (particularly in the winter months)
- The owner will be responsible for maintaining the grid
- If in the future the property is sold, new vendors are responsible for the grid

**Resolved: Clerk to contact the resident accordingly regarding the outcome.**

### v. AAP Funding – Croxdale Cemetery:

The Parish Clerk informed Members she had met with a second contractor on 23 July 2021 in relation to the above works for comparison purposes and currently awaiting a response.

**Resolved: For Members’ Information**

#### **42/21. Financial Matters:**

##### **(i) Financial Report for the Period 1 April – 30 June 2021:**

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 June 2021. The current net bank balances totalled £31,267.04.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

##### **(ii) Financial Assistance – Mayor's Appeal:**

A request for financial assistance was considered from the Mayor of Durham; Members agreed a donation of £25.00 to go towards Councillor Simpson's Appeal Fund: NHS Charities Together.

**Resolved: Clerk to arrange donation accordingly.**

#### **43/21: Tree Works, Sunderland Bridge:**

Three quotations had been sought in respect of the above works at Sunderland Bridge. Members reviewed each quotation and following discussion, it was agreed to pursue with contractor 2 due to cost, which also included the stump removal of the x2 conifer trees.

**Resolved: Clerk to contact each contractor accordingly informing them of the outcome.**

#### **44/21: Croxdale Inn Lease Agreement Review:**

The Parish Clerk informed Members the above lease is due to be reviewed and renewed in 2021 following a 5-year agreement dated 14 December 2016. Amendments to paragraphs 4 and 7 were proposed to be revised for agreement by the lessee.

**Resolved: Clerk to issue the revised lease agreement for comment to the lessee.**

#### **45/21: Planning Issues:**

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

- a) DM/21/02582/VOC – variation of approved plans – revised gym layout and elevations

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

With regard to planning application – DM/21/00624/FPA - land to South West of 39 Salvin Street, Croxdale – further correspondence was received following revised site plans and layouts. Members expressed concerns regarding the revised layouts; the entrance is badly located with access to Salvin Street making the visibility poor. Members feel the revised plans is in a worse location than previously.

The Parish Clerk informed Members a number of comments/feedback has been received to date in relation to the planning application – DM/21/02112/FPA – change of use to Croxdale Hall, which is currently pending consideration.

**Resolved: Parish Clerk to relay feedback from Members in relation to the planning application of - DM/21/00624/FPA - land to South West of 39 Salvin Street, Croxdale.**

**46/21. County Councillor Reports:**

No further updates were provided by County Councillor McKeon.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**47/21. AOB:**

There was no AOB.

**48/21. Date and Time of Next Meeting:**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 29 September 2021 at 7.00 pm at Croxdale Community Centre.