

**Minutes for the Monthly Parish Meeting of Croxdale and Hett Parish Council**  
**Wednesday 29 September 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 K Summerson, Councillor A Watt and Councillor I Watt.

**Also Present:**

County Councillor M McKeon.

**49/21. Apologies for Absence:**

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

On behalf of the Parish Council, Councillor Griffiths reflected on the late Michael Graveling, Allotment Manager, for his time and dedication for his services to the Parish and also the late Brian Ogden, Secretary of Hett Village Hall Association, for his services to the Hett Village Hall.

**50/21. Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**51/21. Policing:**

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

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**52/21. Public Participation**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**53/21. Minutes:**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 28 July 2021 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**54/21. Matters Arising:**

**i. Audit 2020/21:**

The exercise of public rights concluded on 11 August 2021 with no comments/queries received.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**ii. Hett Litter Pick:**

September's litter pick took place on 09 September 2021.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

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

A response was received from DCC on 15 September 2021; which confirmed the locations do not meet the criteria/guidelines for the introduction of 20mph limits/zones. The roads through Hett and Sunderland Bridge are village link roads not residential or housing estate roads, therefore DCC does not consider the introduction of a 20mph limit/zone – even if the PC was willing to fund this, this would still not be considered. Members requested for this to be queried further with assistance from County Councillor McKeon.

**Resolved: Clerk to action accordingly.**

**iv. Seat Replacement – Croxdale Bus Stop:**

County Councillor McKeon confirmed this is scheduled for replacement.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**v. Hett Cemetery Pointing:**

The above works were carried out on 4 and 5 September 2021.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**vi. Chair Lane, Highways Signage:**

The signage has now been removed following County Councillor McKeon's intervention with Highways. Members and residents of Coldstream thanked County Councillor McKeon for her assistance on this matter.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**vii. Croxdale Play Park:**

County Councillor McKeon confirmed the fence replacement at the play park is on order. The Parish Clerk informed Members of a request received from a resident regarding the left-over fencing at the play park and questioned if it would be possible when DCC start taking the wood fence down at the playpark, could the 'good' wood be used to repair the fence at the roundabout which has been damaged for 3 years. County Councillor McKeon confirmed this has been reported separately for repair and action.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

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

This was removed following planning intervention in early August. The signage at Croxdale roundabout and at Brown Lane were also reported and have been removed.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**ix. Street Signs, Hett:**

Councillor A Watt confirmed this remains outstanding. County Councillor McKeon has progressed further, however Councillor A Watt commented that the PC would be happy to install the signage if this could be arranged. County Councillor McKeon is to also ask the Public Rights of Way Team to inspect the area leading to a private track as dog fouling has increased. On a separate matter, Councillor Adams has noticed an increase of dog fouling in Sunderland Bridge also. Dog fouling signage from Sunderland Bridge is to be used at Hett at the request of Councillor A Watt.

**Resolved: County Councillor McKeon to action.**

**x. Front Street – Croxdale:**

The vehicle at Front Street was reported on 4 July 2021 and chased further on 25 July and 31 August 2021 and currently awaiting a response. However, Councillor Kerrison confirmed this is no longer an issue.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**xi. Youth Provision:**

There was no attendance at either the indoor and outdoor youth activities sessions during the summer holidays which was disappointing. Remaining AAP funding still remains for the purpose of youth provision. Councillor Garner agreed to approach the Committee at the Community Centre to determine if they would allow a youth club to be held at the centre.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**xii. Hett Village Green:**

The PC has now received funding from DCC and the Coal Authority in the sum of £10,000. The arrangement of the land easements is still ongoing with solicitors; Alliance have requested 2-3 weeks' notice prior to the works starting.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**xiii. Right of Access – Hett Village Green:**

Clerk confirmed a letter was issued to the resident for permission to have a right of access to the rear of their property across the Village Green.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**xiv. Planting of Trees on Village Green, Hett:**

Clerk confirmed the trees have now been removed by the resident concerned and requested for the following to be brought to the PCs attention: *"an overgrown area of grass and other weeds including nettles, run up the entire length of the village green where it borders the various properties in South Green, directly opposite the village hall. This presents a very poor image of the location, especially to visitors to the area. I ask that consideration be given to tidying up this area, something I have in the past kindly endeavoured to do by trimming the grass directly outside of my own home. I particularly ask that the aforementioned small area of Village Green directly in front of my home be kept in reasonable condition and not left in a state of neglect resulting in the unsightly condition of the past. May I leave this matter for your attention and any action you care to take in the future – views"* Following discussion, it was agreed the residents are responsible for this area and have also maintained the hedge in previous years due to it being cut in the past and therefore is not the PCs responsibility.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**xv. Lease Agreement Renewal – Croxdale Inn:**

The revised lease agreement was issued to the owner of the Croxdale Inn on 8 August 2021 with a deadline for comments/feedback by 10 September 2021. A reminder was issued on 9 September 2021 and currently awaiting a response.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**xvi. Tree Works at Sunderland Bridge:**

The above works took place on 8 September 2021 in respect of the cherry tree pruning and removal of x2 conifers. Councillor Adams was disappointed with the cherry tree works which was inspected by Councillor Griffiths and the Parish Clerk. The Parish Clerk has contacted Olivers Tree Services in which they will re-look at the tree in due course and provide their feedback.

**Resolved: For Members' Information**

**55/21 Parish Clerk Update / Correspondence:**

**i. Councillor Burton Resignation:**

The Parish Clerk informed Members of the resignation received today from Councillor Burton due to personal reasons. A letter of thanks is to be issued to Councillor Burton for her services as Parish Councillor.

**Resolved: Clerk to report vacancy to DCC and acknowledge receipt of resignation and issue letter of thanks.**

**ii. Croxdale Community Centre Defibrillator:**

The Clerk informed Members of the situation regarding Croxdale Community Centre's defibrillator which has not been registered for use since installation in 2018 by a former committee member. Members agreed the PC does not support the removal of the defibrillator and should be maintained at all costs. The role of a 'guardian' is explored further with committee members to ascertain if a member/user of the community centre or local resident would be interested in taking this role forward in order to keep a lifesaving piece of equipment available in the community.

**Resolved: Clerk to feedback concerns to Croxdale Community Association and also look into the existing cabinet/access code in order for the defibrillator to be registered for use.**

**56/21. Financial Matters:**

**(i) Financial Report for the Period 1 April – 31 August 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 31 August 2021. The current net bank balances totalled £35,671.52.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**57/21: Parish Works for Approval:**

**(i) Croxdale Cemetery – Resurfacing of Cemetery Entrance:**

Two quotations had been sought in respect of the above works at Croxdale Cemetery. Members reviewed each quotation however one quotation did not detail the level of base course and surface course to be used.

**Resolved: Clerk to contact x1 contractor and query their quotation accordingly for agreement at the next meeting.**

**(ii) Asbestos Removal – Allotments:**

Two quotations had been sought in respect of the above works. Members reviewed each quotation and agreed to pursue with contractor 3 (based on the level of detail provided and no potential additional hidden costs), subject to further clarification if the allotment ground will be 'safe' following the removal of the sheeting or does it require a certain amount of soil/ground to be removed.

**Resolved: Clerk to contact contractor 3 accordingly for clarification.**

**(iii) Bench Restoration – Hett Cemetery and Sunderland Bridge:**

A quotation was yet to be received from one contractor due to delays with a supplier for the cost of materials. This item is to be deferred to the next meeting for consideration.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**58/21: Planning Issues:**

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

- a) DM/21/02563/FPA – Single Storey Rear Extension – 5 South View, Hett
- b) DM/21/02935/FPA - Conversion of Methodist Chapel into 1no residential dwelling – Queens Garth, Croxdale
- c) DM/21/02990/FPA – Solar Farm – Hett Moor Farm

An objection from the PC was made in respect of the solar farm planning application from Lightsource BP. Correspondence was received from Lightsource BP offering a community benefit payment to the PC for hosting the development which would be used towards a project or projects to benefit the local community at Hett village. An exact amount was not provided; however, a meeting/discussion is to be arranged to discuss further. It was also agreed to invite Members from West Cornforth PC and Cassop Cum Quarrington PC and residents, if they wish to attend.

The following updates were noted in respect of three ongoing planning applications:

- Croxdale Hall – pending consideration
- Land to South West of Salvin Street – pending consideration
- Police Custody Suite, Spennymoor - approved

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**59/21. County Councillor Reports:**

County Councillor McKeon confirmed the replacement logs at Croxdale play park is progressing with the works shortly going out to tender.

**Resolved: For Members' Information.**

**60/21. AOB:**

**Road to Hett – Metal Bridge:**

Councillor A Watt reported the above location is subject to flooding which DCC had previously resolved, however, this has become an issue again following the area been washed away.

**Resolved: County Councillor McKeon agreed to action.**

**Various Matters – Croxdale:**

Councillor Kerrison reported the following issues for action:

- Footpath – Tudhoe School – Loggins Farm - this footpath is obstructed causing pedestrians to walk on the road – this issue was previously reported and actioned.
- Brambles overgrown at Croxdale near to the footpath at the roundabout
- The bus stop near to the corner shop has weeds overgrowing

**Resolved: County Councillor McKeon agreed to action the above issues.**

**Overgrown Bush, Croxdale:**

Councillor Garner reported the bush outside of 39 Rogerson Terrace has become overgrown which was previously cut by DCC, however following feedback from residents it is not DCC responsibility.

**Resolved: County Councillor McKeon agreed to action.**

**Councillor Summerson Resignation:**

Councillor Summerson informed Members of his resignation with immediate effect due to personal reasons. Councillor Griffiths on behalf of the PC thanked Councillor Summerson for his services as Parish Councillor and Vice-Chairman for a considerable amount of time.

**Resolved: Clerk to report vacancy to DCC accordingly.**

**61/21. Date and Time of Next Meeting:**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 27 October 2021 at 7.00 pm at Croxdale Community Centre.