

COTHERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council held in Cotherstone Village Hall
on Wednesday 14 November 2018 at 7.00pm

In attendance:	Cllr John Birkett (Chair), Cllr Jenny Watson, Cllr Alan Thorn, Cllr Richard Hunter, Cllr Richard Green
Absent:	Cllr Tim Sabey, Cllr Robin Quick
Public:	None
Clerk:	Judith Mashiter
1. Approval of apologies for absence	<i>As Cllr Sabey had submitted apologies due to being out of the area for work, and Cllr Quick due to an injury, it was resolved that their absences be approved.</i>
2. Declarations of interest	None
3. Requests for dispensations	No requests had been received.
4. Minutes	Draft minutes had been circulated. <i>It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 10 October 2018 are an accurate record.</i>
5. Public participation	No public were present.
6. Update on progress of actions and resolutions	An action log updated 6 November 2018 had been circulated. There were no further updates.
7. Planning matters	Clerk advised that planning application DM/18/03213/FPA, due for consideration, had been withdrawn today.
8. Correspondence	A list of correspondence received had been circulated and was noted. <ul style="list-style-type: none">(item 25) Agreed that Clerk should liaise with the Council's insurer about a tree inspection schedule (who should carry this out and at what frequency) and the matter be considered at the January meeting. Cllr Hunter to provide the previous tree survey report.
9. Silver Birch saplings	The offer of two saplings was considered. <i>It was resolved that the Council thank local residents for the kind offer of two silver birch saplings, but state that it does not want any more trees on the village green and refer them to Trees for Cotherstone who might suggest a location.</i>
10. Application for new wayleave agreement in respect of land opposite Hagg House	At the October meeting Councillors agreed in principle to the proposed wayleave application. An agreement had been received from Openreach, with the option of either a one-off payment or an annual payment in perpetuity. <i>It was resolved that the Council enter a wayleave agreement with Openreach/BT for land adjacent to footpath from opposite Hagg House to the bank of the River Tees for 263 metres of directly buried armoured cable, in return for a one-off payment of £1,133.53.</i> The Chairman signed the agreement.
11. Cemetery matters	A revised Cemetery Rules, including Schedule of Charges, had been circulated. It was agreed to consult with Durham County Council on its approach to grave mounds (as per clause 13) and to consider this again in January in light of the information received.
12. Allotment matters	<ol style="list-style-type: none">A report had been circulated. <i>It was resolved that a notice advertising a vacant allotment (Klondike plot 8a) be put on the parish noticeboard and website.</i>It was resolved that Clerk write to all allotment tenants as proposed.

- c. *It was resolved that allotment rents should increase with effect from 1 January 2020: for The Close to £10 and for Klondike to £8 for full plots, £4 for half-plots and that this should be communicated to all tenants now. Agreed that tenancy agreements should include the plot plan in future.*

13. New noticeboard for east end of Cotherstone

Cllr Quick had submitted a quotation of £276 for construction of a timber noticeboard, and is to be thanked for this. Cllr Hunter suggested that the proposed site, in the cemetery, doesn't have passing footfall. Agreed to try posting notices in the (disused?) telephone box and monitor whether this works. The proposal for a new noticeboard will be considered again at the January meeting.

14. Repainting of the bus shelter

It was resolved that the contract be awarded to Adam Wheeler, on the understanding that the work will be completed when the wood is thoroughly dry and in suitable weather.

15. Village Christmas Trees

- *It was resolved that Clerk approach Northumbrian Water to seek a similar gesture to last year when the company funded a large tree in some compensation for the inconvenience and disruption caused by the overrunning works at Balder Bridge on the B6277.*
- *It was resolved that Clerk request that Rotters remove a pile of Christmas trees in early January, and arrange for publicity of the date arranged for this.*

16. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Hunter reported that a working session with three Durham County Council officers had taken place, and it is hoped that final drafts of the policies will be ready by Christmas. Cllr Hunter is preparing a profile of Cotherstone. The second consultation on the Plan will be taken place during the first quarter of 2019. *It was resolved that the £3,000 held in reserves for the Neighbourhood Plan should be used.*

17. Finance

A paper had been circulated.

- It was resolved to receive a report of receipts and payments from 1-31 October and a bank reconciliation at 31 October.*
- It was resolved to authorise payments due as listed, with the additional payment of £200 to A R Toward (late invoice) (pending a check that the cemetery cut has been carried out) and agreed donations of £25 to The Poppy Appeal (under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972), £500 to Cotherstone Village Hall and £150 to Play@Cotherstone.*
- With the exception of allowing £2,500 for Neighbourhood Plan work during 2019/20, it was resolved that the draft budget should be prepared on the basis of 'business as usual'.*

18. Reports from councillors

None.

Meeting closed: 8.34pm