

COTHERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Cotherstone Parish Council held on 10th May 2017 in Cotherstone Village Hall

Present: J Birkett (Chairman), R Hunter, J Watson, D Rabbitts, J Gill, A Thorn

Also in attendance: R Tarn (Clerk) & 1 member of the public

1. Apologies: None

2. Declarations of Interest: J.W and D.R declared an interest regarding grass cutting matters.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2017: These had been circulated, accepted by all and signed by the chairman.

4. Matters Arising:

Blocked drains in Baldersdale; these are still being monitored and waiting for Martin Holland (DCC) to come and assess these.

Boundary Fence at The Close; work has now been carried out on this; RH has helped make the fence rabbit proof.

R.H to ask Ray about stencils for the Cemetery.

R.H to chase up Mike Murdon regarding the footpath in the Bogg Field.

5. Cemetery/Village Greens/Allotments:

J.B has contacted Brian (DCC) re the gullies on the East Green to ensure that these are finished off.

J.B to contact Brian (DCC) regarding the ruts on the Village Green and to suggest that this is kerbed.

The wall repairs at Klondyke have now been made. The removal of asbestos at Klondyke allotments is still pending; weather permitting.

R.T and R.H to review the Cemetery spreadsheet.

All allotments will be checked in the June walk around.

J.W contacted resident regarding hens at Klondyke but this was no longer wanted.

J.B has put forward the suggestion of moving the Christmas Tree from The Close to outside 3/4 Greenfields in "Our Cotherstone".

D.R had to remove 37 Christmas wreaths from the Cemetery; before next Christmas a note to go in Our Cotherstone to ask people to remove them.

DR reported that grave diggers have left hard boards and rubber mats on the last two occasions they have been at the Cemetery. R.T to write to both G Brownless and John Blenkiron & Sons to ask for this to always be removed.

RH requested the during the June walk around; the wall at Klondyke along Desmesnes to be inspected as there are quite a few parts of the wall down.

JW reported that Klondyke allotment 5 has now been given up but has been re taken by a resident. There is a lot of glass to be removed. JW to suggest that the Parish Council will remove the boarding.

6. Accounts for Payment: The following payments were authorised by the PC:

- Mr G.B Thwaites, Grass Cutting - £420.00 (2 x cuts for Greens/Cemetery and Klondyke.

- CDALC Annual Subscription – £100.48

- Mr & Mrs M Hedley – Allotment Netting - £39.67

Meeting Closed at 07:25 – member of the public to speak.

The verge down Hawcroft Lane has now been reinstated with soil and grass seed; due to damage caused when site work started at Cart Barn.

Meeting Reopened at 07:35.

7. Planning Matters:

- (a) DM/16/02844/VOC – Greystones – Gone to appeal
- (b) DM/17/00494/FPA – Balder Cottage – Approved.

8. Highway Matters: The following highway matters are to be reported by R.T: -

- Blocked drains on the bridge below Hury Reservoir.
- Blocked drains at West Park, Booze Wood Road and Mere Beck.
- Pot Holes on the road leading to the bridge below Hury Reservoir.
- Pot Holes on the road from Willoughby to Clove Lodge.
- Road damage from the bottom of the Baldersdale Road – Balder Croft (Gas Mains Work).

Meeting Closed at 07:50 – member of the public to speak.

- There has been boulders placed down Hawcroft Lane at the rear of the Village Green. Concern has been raised for Emergency Vehicle access; in particular the fire service. There has been no obstructions on this verge for over 30 years. This is to be observed in the June walk around and the member of the public was advised to contact Durham County Council highways department with their concerns.

Meeting Reopened at 07:55

9. Neighbourhood Plan: All character assessment have now been done and awaiting final comments; then Durham County Council will be coming out. Currently in the process of updating and modernising the village design statement.

10. Reports from Representatives: Nothing to report.

11. Correspondence: Emails circulated.

12. Any other Business:

- J.W requested permission for the use of the Hagg and the Village Green on behalf of Cotherstone Fun Weekend. This was agreed by all.
- A member of “Open Spaces Society” has been in contact regarding the old railway line footpath between Lartington and Cotherstone and whether we wanted to start the process of claiming the track as a public right of way and to get it on the Definitive Map. This was discussed and decided that CPC did not want to start this process. RH to respond.
- A member of the public has raised concern regarding a paved area outside Four Winds; where the grass verge has been taken out and replaced with flags. This is an illegal encroachment on common land. R.T to contact highways department.
- Concern was raised over the reinstatement of the wall at Balder View. This was discussed.
- Apologies were made by RH, DR and RT for the June meeting.

14. Date of Next Meeting: - Wednesday 14th June 2017 at 07:30. Village walk around; 06:30 at the Cemetery Gates.

There being no further business; the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 08:15.

Signed Date