

COTHERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of a meeting of Cotherstone Parish Council, held on Wednesday, 11 May 2016 in Cotherstone Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllrs R Hunter, J Birkett, D Rabbitts, A Thorn, J Watson and J Gill
K Towler (Acting Clerk) and A Sabey new PC Clerk who was observing the meeting.

APOLOGIES – K Harrow

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

J Birkett was proposed by JW and seconded by DR
J Birkett accepted the nomination as Chairman.

SIGNING OF ACCEPTANCE FORM – This was signed by JB

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

R Hunter was proposed by DR and seconded by JW
As there were no further nominations for Vice Chairman, RH accepted the nomination, but only for the forthcoming year only.
The following are the Parish Council representatives on various committees/organisations:
Village Hall – A Thorn; Cotherstone School – P Webb; Play @ Cotherstone – D Forster;
PACT – K Harrow.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: DR and JW declared their interest in the village greens and the cemetery.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING

These had been circulated and read:

Amendments to the Minutes

Footpath between Branton Cottage and Old Byre – JW reported that the gravel had not been laid owing to the resident who had requested the gravelling of the path not wanting to accept any liability issues. PC agreed as this path was common land, PC to undertake the laying of gravel.

Burn House – Should read as Fern House

PC agreed that the minutes were a true record and were signed.

MATTERS ARISING

Trees on the Teesdale Way – These had been removed.

Bin beside seat near Balder bank – This still had not been returned by DCC.

Brook House Cafe – The car parking sign was still outstanding. It was noted that there were car parking issues around the road junction, parking on the pavements was becoming a hazard and starting to cause obstructions. This to be monitored and KH to be asked to feed back to PACT.

Blocked drains outside Mere Beck Farm, Baldersdale and Booze Wood Road - this was still outstanding – KT to follow up.

Website – RH reported that LG had updated the website, but there was more information to be placed on the website. AS to start to update the website. KT reported that she had the website access information.

Medals to Commemorate Queen's Birthday – RH reported he had spoken to Cotherstone School and an order had been placed for the medals.

Northumbrian Water – It was noted that the new fence was currently being erected.

Baldersdale Road – Potholes – DR reported that some had been done and some had been missed.

CEMETERY, GREENS AND ALLOTMENTS

JW and DR declared an interest in issues related to cutting of the grass and did not take part in any discussions.

Gardhouse Grave – This matter was still outstanding.

Plot Numbering – JW reported that the plot numbering still needed to be painted on the wall sides.

Cemetery Wall – DR reported that a piece of the wall had fallen down – DR to repair.

FINANCE

Payments – The following payment was authorised. GB Thwaites (grasscutting) £400.00

Wayleaves – KT reported that £38.27 had been received from Northern Powergrid

Year End Accounts - KT reported that C Butler had completed the audit and the accounts had been collected. The forms and relevant information to be forwarded to current auditors.

RH reported that Jane Ayre had agreed to carry out the Internal Audit.

PLANNING MATTERS:

DM/16/00769/FPA – Greystones – Detached single Storey annexe – awaiting decision.

DM/16/00771/FPA – Greystones - Erection of two glamping pods – awaiting decision

DM/15/02632/TCA – Fitzhugh Court – Felling of a sycamore tree – no further information.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

Potholes – Further potholes reported on The Hagg, Back Lane, Baldersdale Road to Clove Lodge – KT to action.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

RH reported that the plan continues to be updated. Various people are continuing to do the various pieces of work that are associated to the plan.

COUNCILLORS GUIDE – GOOD PRACTICE MATTERS

RH reported that KT had queried as to why the Election of Chairman was not the first agenda item on the AGM agenda. PC agreed that in the future Election of Chairman to be the first agenda item of the AGM Agenda

Standing Orders – The Standing Orders to be updated with the above for approval at the June Meeting.

Parish Council Elections- Elections are to be held in May 2017.

CORRESPONDENCE

Heart of Teesdale Project – Further work to Hagg Footpaths – KT informed the PC of further proposed work on The Hagg, this involved making a bitmac footpath to the stone bench and to complete the flight of steps up the bankside. The PC were against this work as there was already a grassed access to this stone bench, with the grass kept short and residents already were able to access the bench with pushchairs and wheelchairs. It was also felt that the steps on the Teesdale Way footpath had destroyed the natural scenic beauty of The Hagg and the steps were not required.

Planning Application – DM/16/01316/LB Towler Hill Farm – Replacement windows and doors, internal repairs and internal alterations to ground floor layout. This had been notified on Monday. KT to clarify expiry date and contact councillors for their comments.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Flower Tubs – The Close – It was reported that the flower tubs in The Close needed to be replaced. It was noted that the tubs were not the property of the PC, but the PC paid for the plants. KH to be asked to inspect the tubs.

The Hagg – JW reported that the stop tap for Glenair is situated on the piece of land adjacent to the property and the stop tap was being damaged by vehicles. The owners had considered placing white

painted stones around the stop tap to protect it, but owing to possible liability issues, had decided against the matter.

The Hagg – Grass cutting for the Fun Weekend – When the grass was needed to be cut, Councillors to inform the contractor.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Wednesday 8 June 2016

Councillors to meeting outside the Cemetery Gates at 6:30pm for an inspection of The Cemetery, The Close and the allotments, prior to the meeting starting at 7pm
J Gill gave her apologies for this meeting.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:25pm

Signed Date