

COTHERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting
Wednesday, 8th July 2015: 7.00pm
Cotherstone Village Hall

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.05pm.

Present: Cllrs R Hunter, J Birkett, J Watson, J Gill, K Harrow, A Thorn

In attendance: E Gill (clerk)

- 1. Declaration of interest** JW – cutting village greens, JB – play park land ownership
- 2. Apologies for absence** D Rabbits
- 3. Minutes of the June 2015** were signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record.
- 4. Matters arising**

DCC Footpaths: EG to follow up Mike Murden email re cutting back wild flowers and early strimming. Also, CPC received an email from Simon Hodgson regarding poor hedge-cutting practices on Tees Railway Walk. Mention this in email to Mike Murden and query cutting schedules/frequencies.

Flippy lids still missing outside Hagg House: EG to chase Gary Surtees/Clean and Green.

Broken tree branch at The Hagg: It was decided that as the branch has not come down in the recent strong winds that it would be OK to wait until quotes were done in September for tree crowning. EG add to September agenda.

Tree at boundary of Fitzhugh: Surveyor visited site – received confirmation that tree is on Two Castles land – awaiting a report from their landscape/repairs department as to the way forward.

Tree on East Green: Fence removed – no further action.

- 5. (a) Cemetery, Greens, Allotments**

Removal of kerbstones on grave: Still in communication with relatives.

Grave numbers: it was noted on village walkaround that numbers on wall are very faded, Brenda has obtained stencils to redo them. EG to email DR to check whether he would like to do this or prefer that CPC get someone else to do it.

Allotments: entrance verge/parking area – still not tidied up – EG to chase Gary Surtees.

- (b) Playarea:** noted that area along station footpath is very overgrown. EG to write letter to play@cotherstone to remind them that hedges on the footpaths are also their responsibility and could it be cut after 31st July once the close season for hedge-cutting is over.

- (c) Byelaws:** JB been looking at re dog fouling and litter fines – very vague on what PC can and can't do. RH to look into byelaws of other local PCs. Dog fouling still a problem particularly Hagg/river area: EG to contact dog warden to see if CPC can obtain any signs to put up.

- 6. Accounts for payment:** Grass cutting contract: £360. Planning Advice Plus (Neighbourhood Plan) £2750.

- 7. Reports from representatives:** No reports

- 8. Planning:**

DM/15/01213/FPA Croft Cottage, Cottage View – permission granted

Field Barn, Hawcroft Lane - Bruce Dinsmore: BD planning to write to councillors to explain outcome of open day – await correspondence.

- 9. Neighbourhood plan:** Two weeks left until consultation end date – obtained 131 responses so far.

10. Retention of documents: Discussed legal requirements for document retention. CPC will start to archive relevant material as per directions. RH and EG to speak to Kathryn Towler to find out more about DCC archive process. Will commence with Minutes Books and then work through further requirements over the course of the year. EG to look at Middleton-in-Teesdale PC website to see how many years minutes are digitalised.

11. Correspondence:

- NECA devolution email detailing consultation exercise – await further information.
- Teesdale Viewmarkers exhibition: no councillors attended the exhibition at the Witham. EG to contact Judy Caplin to find out more about what will be at each site (visual representations).
- Email from Stephen Ragg regarding Council Tax precept info – keep for September.
- Email from Stephen Ragg regarding updates to Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy – consultation currently ongoing – ends 31st August – comments can be added to surveys available at www.durham.gov.uk/consultation – it was thought that as Cotherstone only has Northumbrian Water land at the treatment works that we probably don't need to add anything to it.
- Thank you letter from Brenda Thwaites was read to councillors.
- Teesdale Local Councils Forum notified CPC of annual meeting – no volunteers to attend.
- **S106 monies:** Email received from Stephen Ragg detailing S106 monies still available. Cotherstone still has £6,000 left unclaimed for 'off-site play and amenity facilities in Cotherstone'. EG to find out more about what this could be used for.
- **Training:** Councillors thought it might be useful for EG to attend a course for new parish clerks to ensure all are up to speed on new requirements, etc. EG to look into courses.
- **TAP grants:** there are capital grants available for refurbishments/upgrades/capital work – TAP newsletter printed – councillors will circulate.
- **Digital Durham:** EG to contact Alli to find out when rest of village will be connected and check on proposal for Baldersdale.

12. AOB

- **Website:** EG to contact Mark Armstrong to find out more about what is needed on a regular basis.
- EG queried how much email bombardment councillors would like from DCC etc. Agreed on general filtering, then forward to RH first and he will decide whether to distribute to rest of councillors.
- RH reported he has strimmed paths and bog field.
- JG reported that the drains have been jetted this week in the village – all much better.
- JW reported thanks to everyone for all done at the Fun Weekend.
- **Grass verge on East Briscoe Road:** can it be strimmed? JB going to speak to D Rabbits.
- **Weeping willow tree outside Brook House/near beck:** currently obtruding onto footpath. EG to contact Mr Reed at Brook House to ask whether he is happy to do it, if not, Parish Council will do it instead.
- **For sale sign:** EG to get in touch with Addisons to ask for sign to be moved to entrance to field it applies to.
- **Concerns over inconsiderate parking at entrance to Fitzhugh:** EG to contact PCSO Liz Finn to notify.
- **Teesdale Way at Cotherstone:** EG to contact Emma Ashton-Wickett to say thank you for repairs to fencing between Balder and Tees bridges and repairs to original steps, also ask to clarify why

additional steps have been placed near to road – covered in grey dust/gravel, additionally, ask whether handrail can be planed – large splinters H&S risk.

- **Missing post on Moor Road Green:** AT is dealing with.

13. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14th September at 7pm in the Village Hall.

As there was no other business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed