

**COTHERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015: 7.00pm**  
**Cotherstone Village Hall**

*Prior to the meeting, two representatives (Judy Caplin and Jill Cole) from ARTworks in Teesdale made a short presentation about the proposed Teesdale Viewmarkers project. Two items are proposed for the Cotherstone Parish:*

- *A marker at Surprise View (above Tees Mill) which will comprise of a stone slab seat adorned at one end with a cast iron leaf.*
- *A marker at Cotherstone footbridge where there will be a branch made out of cast iron at one end and a cast iron tile depicting water patterns at the other end.*

*ARTworks reported that both markers are vandal proof and are intended to be unobtrusive but mark the significant view in a delicate way. Their intention is to produce a pamphlet / website to guide people to the view markers.*

**The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs R Hunter, J Birkett, J Watson

*Those present didn't constitute a quorum, so it was agreed no formal decisions could be made, however the meeting could be used to review all outstanding actions.*

In attendance: E Gill (clerk)

- 1. Declaration of interest** JW – cutting village greens, JB – play park land ownership
- 2. Apologies for absence** D Rabbits, K Harrow, A Thorn, J Gill
- 3. Minutes of the June 2015** were not signed as there wasn't a quorum present – postponed until October meeting.
- 4. Matters arising**
  - DCC Footpaths:** EG reported on cutting frequencies schedule from DCC – it appears probably little can be done in terms of when cuts are made. However, received no follow up regarding poor hedge-cutting practices on Tees Railway Walk – EG to follow up with Countryside Rangers team manager, Darryl Cox.
  - Flippy lids still missing outside Hagg House:** EG has received a DCC job number, but still outstanding.
  - Broken tree branch/tree crowning at The Hagg:** Planning submitted for TPO work, and one quote in from Simpsons – another expected shortly from Trees and Fences, but need one more. EG to contact All About Trees to see who they might know of in the local area and ask for quote by October meeting.
  - Tree at boundary of Fitzhugh:** Planning application for work to the tree has been submitted this week, unlikely to be any objections. EG to email round when notification appears.
  - Retention of documents:** EG to contact Gabrielle from County Hall in w/c 14th Sept to arrange a visit to examine documents including minutes books.
- 5. (a) Cemetery, Greens, Allotments**
  - Grave numbers:** DR happy to repaint faded grave numbers.
  - Allotments:** Diane Pennock giving up her allotment in January, has a shed and water tub, offer to next on the list – Carl Hutchinson (currently Klondyke) and then Sally Baker.

**(b) Playarea:** Overgrown hedgerows on the station footpath, DCC appeared to do after last email. EG to walk down to check all is done.

**(c) Byelaws:** RH been looking into byelaws. Barnard Castle don't have any, and Middleton-in-Teesdale's only cover the greens. Councillors have never had to use CPC's, therefore RH proposed simply keeping them as a legally approved historical record.

**6. Accounts for payment:** C Pattison £100; Village Hall rent £52; Village Hall rent (neighbourhood plan) £99; Grass cutting £360; BDO LLP (Audit of Annual Return) £120; Clerk's salary £300; Planning Advice Plus (neighbourhood plan - professional consultancy fees) £1500; Repairs to posts on Moor Green (EG to bill party responsible for the damage) £62.50; Stationery/printing/postage costs – paid to clerk £77.75.

**7. Reports from representatives:** No reports

**8. Annual report:** all finalised and bill presented for payment by auditors. All info now online as per transparency requirements.

**9. Planning:**

**Field Barn, Hawcroft Lane - Bruce Dinsmore:** update email received regarding outcome of open day. No plan of action stated by Mr Dinsmore as yet.

**DM/15/02095/FPA:** Land West of Four Winds, Cotherstone: application refused.

**DM/15/02520/LB:** Brook Lea, Cotherstone: plans circulating councillors: no objections noted so far.

**DM/15/02649/TPO:** Tree crowning/remedial works to the Noble Fir on the Hagg: await outcome.

**10. Neighbourhood plan:** 201 responses obtained in total. Next newsletter will have a summary. Next step is to develop aims and objectives.

**11. Precept:** letter arrived from DCC to be brought up at November meeting.

**12. Correspondence:**

- **S106 monies:** still available: EG to contact play@cotherstone, the school and the village hall to see whether they have any ideas on how it could be spent.
- **Training:** EG proposed SLCC course – also to check whether NALC do any courses too as we have membership already.
- **Digital Durham:** EG to contact Alli to find out why another cabinet can't be put at the exchange then everyone can be connected.

**13. AOB**

- **Broken kickboard on footbridge over Balder:** EG reported to DCC and job number obtained.
- JW reported praise for well-kept village from international travellers reported to Dorothy at the Post Office.
- **Centenary mugs remaining:** EG to put together a list of young children in the village.
- **Inconsiderate parking outside Brook House cafe:** EG to ask Mrs Alex Reed to keep an eye on it please.
- **Transparency funding:** already claimed by Neighbourhood Plan, no need to do anything.

**14. Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm in the Village Hall.

**As there was no other business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.**

Signed .....