

COTHERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting
Wednesday, 11th November 2015: 7.00pm
Cotherstone Village Hall

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance: E Gill (clerk) and one member of the public

1. Declaration of interest JW – cutting village greens, DR – cemetery, JB – play park land ownership/field barn to east of Hawcroft Lane

2. Apologies for absence: J Gill

3. Minutes of the October meeting were signed by the Chairman as being a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising

Broken tree branch / crowning at The Hagg: Hamsterley tree surgeons contacted, will forward public liability insurance details. EG to chase.

Retention of documents: Gabriel from County Hall archives took away most of the minutes books and some other info. All catalogued online. A few gaps at the moment, but will probably emerge when RH and EG go through their files. Also, RH noted that for planning applications work must be carried out within five years of receiving approval, therefore proposed keeping correspondence for five years then disposing of full file, keeping only a reference sheet with application number/details etc. All agreed.

S106 funds: No further progress at the moment. EG to confirm with Quoits that PC would like to support their idea and explain process – also remind play@cotherstone that will support their application once more details received.

Digital Durham: Update: Phase 1 plans include a second fibre optic cabinet and work is currently underway in the village.

Broken kickboard on footbridge over Balder: DCC had visited site and considered it a non-urgent issue and pushed into general maintenance queue. DCC agreed to revisit site.

Centenary mugs: EG distributed mugs, remaining jumble of Cotherstone mugs to be donated to the village hall.

Inconsiderate parking outside Brook House café: Mrs Reed waiting for DCC to approve parking sign. Also, Mrs Reed highlighted general parking problems on the corner, especially when there is an event at the church or hall.

Post on Moor Road Green: Mrs Darke not happy with PC response that posts are there to protect the village greens. Await further comments. RH to look into access rights over the area.

Royal jubilee oak tree: Trees for Cotherstone responded that they do not have manpower to regularly weed/clear cages but would do so if tree was threatened in any way.

Back lane behind Fox and Hounds very overgrown: holly tree and other foliage has now been cut back, improving situation.

Lifebelt cabinet at the Hagg: EG reported to DCC, will most likely go into general maintenance backlog.

5. (a) Cemetery, Greens, Allotments

Kerbstones – no full agreement on what to do with them. Keep for the moment.

Allotments – G Thwaites repaired gate to Klondyke allotments.

Allotments – Neil and Anne Jowett offered and accepted full-sized Klondyke space. Two people on waiting list for The Close.

(b) Playarea: nothing to report

- 6. Accounts for payment:** GM Thwaites – grass cutting £270; GM Twaites – Churchyard and Klondyke cutting - £95; Planning Advice Plus – Neighbourhood Plan £750; J & JR Gill – the Hagg grass cutting £72; play@cotherstone - £150; Bus shelter repairs – to K Harrow £23; Part for PC lawnmower – to D Rabbitts £70.14.
- 7. Reports from representatives:** None
- 8. Precept:** Accounts to date presented. EG to finalise projected accounts for Jan meeting and wait for letter from DCC. Final submission date is end Jan 2016.
- 9. Christmas trees:** EG to order three trees: 16ft, 12ft and 10ft – delivery by 27th Nov to AT address. Invoice to EG. AT will organise electricity from residents.
- 10.Planning**
DM/15/02520/LB and DM/15/02519/FPA: Brook Lea, Cotherstone – no concerns to report.
DM/15/02632/TCA: Felling of a sycamore tree on Fitzhugh Court – Objection letter to TPO submitted, still not receiving notifications via weekly online notifications. EG to chase DCC on this. EG to speak to Two Castles to check progress and what their next course of action will be.
DM/15/02914/FPA: Field Barn to the East of Hawcroft Lane: objections submitted to DCC – notification of full planning committee date on 19th November. RH will look into DCC Planning Department recommendations in advance of meeting.
- 11.Neighbourhood plan:** Draft vision and objectives will come out in next newsletter. Open meeting and display boards will be in village hall to answer resident questions. Diane is aiming to extend the current grant money spend period until Feb 2016. There is a current cap on grant money of £8,000 but there is potential money available with DCC. Shaun from Planning Advice Plus is currently chasing.
- 12.Correspondence**
Letter from J Ambrose re parking outside the Methodist Chapel: would ideally like yellow lines for two to three metres either side of drive exit. EG to explain process, and suggest may need a supporting letter from PC and mention that DCC would undertake a consultation with residents.
Letter from G Thwaites re retiring from cutting the Klondyke path: EG to add to one of the spring agendas.
Tree grants available for National Tree Week: JW will pass info on to Trees to Cotherstone – Peter Ball.
- 13.AOB**
Lack of footpath in front of Marwood Terrace/View: causing problems for residents with children and elderly. EG contacted DCC, awaiting outcome.
- 14.Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 13th January at 7pm in the Village Hall.

As there was no other business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed