

COTHERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting
Wednesday, 14th October 2015: 7.00pm
Cotherstone Village Hall

The Vice-Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance: E Gill (clerk) and two members 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:** R Hunter
- 3. Minutes of the July and September meetings** were signed by the Vice-Chairman as being a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising

DCC footpaths: Simon Hodgson updated EG on communication with DCC Countryside Rangers team re Tees Railway Walk. DCC acknowledged poor practices earlier in the year and came to agreements regarding future cutting. EG write to Darryl Cox to note that we had to be updated by a resident as no communication had arrived from DCC.

Broken tree branch / crowning quotes at The Hagg: Planning permission granted. Five people contacted for quotes – two quotes came through: £650 Simpsons Tree Care Specialists and £375 for Hamsterley Tree Surgeons. Councillors agreed work should go to Hamsterley tree surgeons. EG to contact, but to request proof of public liability before commencing work.

Tree at boundary of Fitzhugh: Planning submitted and DCC then put 6-month temporary TPO on tree. Any appeals must be made by 19th October. EG spoke to Alan Burn, surveyor at Two Castles, suggested that although cracks were evident in the house, as couldn't see foundations, could not categorically say were due to tree – could be movement/subsidence etc. Report will reflect as such, recommended any objections focus on light deprivation issues. EG to write objection letter.

Retention of documents: Gabriel from County Hall archives will visit BT's on Monday 19th October to examine and take away for cataloguing/storage the old minutes books and will also look at other items stored and provide advice.

S106 funds: suggestions for use: Play@cotherstone suggested: (a) *new goal posts - £1,800 incl. installation*: while generally supportive of this idea, councillors requested more information as felt quite expensive; (b) *hand lawnmower - £1,200*: councillors understood that grass cutting was being contracted out and so preferred to prioritise other S106 requests; (c) *seesaw - £2,500 incl VAT, del. and installation*: councillors were in support of a traditional replacement seesaw rather than a multi-user seesaw. EG to ask for further details re goal posts for next PC meeting. Barnard Castle Quoits Club also suggested support for improving village quoits pitches - £357.12: councillors in support. Cotherstone Primary School suggested outdoor fitness equipment for children, but it would need to be in a supervised area and unlikely to qualify for S106 money.

Training: EG reported that NALC do not do any courses and recommend the SLCC course. Agreed EG to register for course when convenient.

Digital Durham: EG to chase Alli in Nov to get an update on whether phase 2 plans include a second fibre optic cabinet at the exchange.

Broken kickboard on footbridge over Balder: EG to chase as posing a significant H&S risk.

Centenary mugs: EG to distribute mugs to children noted in meeting.

Inconsiderate parking outside Brook House café: EG reported that Mrs Reed very aware of the parking issue and asks customers to move cars if they are in the way. Speak to Mrs Reed again to ask whether any news on car parking sign.

5. (a) Cemetery, Greens, Allotments

Kerbstones – issue to be brought forward to next agenda
Allotments – C. Hutchinson moved to the Close (plot 5). S. Baker offered Klondyke space but would prefer to wait for one at the Close. The next on list is due to move in to the village EG to offer to them – potential to reduce in half if they would like.

(b) Playarea

6. Accounts for payment: Diane Pennock (N. Plan costs) £110; Village Hall (3 meetings N. Plan) £84; Village Hall (2 meetings) £27; Thwaites and Watson (grass cutting) £360; British Legion Poppy Wreath £17.

7. Reports from representatives

8. Planning

DM/15/02520/LB: Brook Lea, Cotherstone – awaiting outcome from DCC.
DM/15/02649/TPO: Remedial works to tree on The Hagg – permission granted.
DM/15/02632/TCA: Felling of a sycamore tree on Fitzhugh Court – TPO currently in place – objection to be submitted by 19th Oct.
DM/15/02914/FPA: Field Barn to the East of Hawcroft Lane: numerous objections, namely: unsuitable access lane, red pantile roof, outside building line, access track across field, proximity to Quaker House. JB to formulate objection letter. EG to forward to DCC.

9. Neighbourhood plan: Next newsletter just been published and full details of survey available on parish council website.

10. Correspondence

Lane in front of The Haven: Ruth Dinsmore informed PC that the lane in front of the Haven has sunk and been filling with water. Ruth has purchased and spread a ton of gravel to rectify the situation. EG to officially thank Ruth on behalf of PC with a letter.
Post on Moor Road Green: Mr and Mrs Darke would like the last post removing due to difficulty accessing their drive – a vehicle has recently been damaged. Councillors declined this idea. EG to write to Mrs Darke to explain that the posts are there to protect the village greens from cars – politely decline.
Dog mess on the Hagg/path to river: Street Scene been monitoring the area since CPC reported the problem. No success in catching offending dog owners, feels happening late at night. If anyone sees it happening and is prepared to make a statement, DCC will fine the offenders: 0300 266 049 – coordinator Richard Brown. Also, EG to speak to Jean, re article in Our Cotherstone to remind residents that DCC is monitoring the problem.

11. AOB

Royal jubilee oak tree: planted within a cage on the Hagg - looks neglected/overgrown with weeds. EG to query with Trees for Cotherstone whether these are routinely maintained.
Back lane behind Red Lion very overgrown: especially a holly tree on the boundary of Greystones (Simon Crow), which is encroaching into the road. EG to contact and ask to trim.
Railings in cemetery: DR noted that there is still an invoice to come for this work to be completed approx. £1,200 likely cost. DR to chase.
Lifebelt cabinet at the Hagg: is in a very poor condition. EG to contact DCC.

12. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11th November at 7pm in the Village Hall.

As there was no other business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed