

COTHERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting
Wednesday, 10th February 2016: 7.00pm
Cotherstone Village Hall

The Vice-Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm.

Present: J Birkett, J Watson, K Harrow, J Gill, A Thorn

In attendance: E Gill (clerk)

- 1. Declaration of interest** JW – cutting village greens, JB – play park land ownership
- 2. Apologies for absence:** R Hunter, D Rabbitts
- 3. Minutes of the January meeting** were signed by the Vice-Chairman as being a true and accurate record.
- 4. Matters arising**
 - S106 funds:** EG confirmed that the Quoits Club and play@cotherstone have made applications to use the funds, £360 and £5,640, respectively.
 - Digital Durham:** The new cabinet is officially up and running. Anyone wanting faster broadband can now apply to their service provider.
 - Post on Moor Road Green:** Mrs Darke content that encroachment of verge will be tackled in better weather.
 - Christmas trees:** Cheque presented for £329 from Cotherstone Christmas Tree Fund. EG to write letter of thanks to Rotters for collection of old Christmas trees.
 - Annual Audit:** further information emerged regarding annual audit/SAAAL. As CPC has income/expenditure under £25K there is no requirement to do an annual audit at all – just the annual return and a declaration, therefore do not get 5 years at £100 offer. Now fall into Group 3 (opt in) or 4 (opt out). If we choose to do an audit when opted in, SAAAL will allocate an auditor at a cost of £200. Or if opted out can choose own auditor and costs negotiable. Have until 31st March to decide whether to opt out. Councillors will investigate costs of local auditors and then decision will be made in March.
 - Bog field water level still rising:** situation unchanged.
 - Drainage outside West Park:** complaint acknowledged by DCC and reference number provided. Await visit.
- 5. (a) Cemetery, Greens, Allotments**
 - Cemetery noticeboard** damaged in recent winds, all agreed on DR's proposals for repair.
 - Thompson grave:** kerbstones not mended. Family member is being sent to fix.
 - Kerbstones:** DCC reported that they simply dispose/scrap unwanted/removed kerbstones.
 - Allotments:** only a few remaining rents to get. Cllrs and EG to chase last few.
 - (b) Playarea:** nothing to report
- 6. Accounts for payment:** Village hall car park repairs: J & JG Gill - £420 (Cotherstone Moor Field Reeves contribution provided of £175); Village hall hire (2 meetings) - £28; Village hall hire (neighbourhood plan – 2 meetings) £34.
- 7. Reports from representatives:** None
- 8. Grass cutting tenders:** Agreed that it might be better to have two separate contracts for grass cutting – cemetery and then greens and related areas. EG to finalise. Klondyke cutting to be added to greens contract. To be advertised on website and sent out for tender to interested parties.
- 9. Planning**
 - DM/15/02632/TCA:** Felling of a sycamore tree on Fitzhugh Court – awaiting outcome.
 - DM/15/03856/FPA:** Construction of a conservatory at 2 Marwood View: approved.

10. Neighbourhood plan: Final application for funds approved, but noted that these will not go far with what remains to be done.

11. Correspondence

Trees down on Teesdale Way between Balder and Tees footbridges: DCC informed and have visited site. Diversion in place as per communication from Mike Murden.

Notification of a Commons registration: no action needed.

12. AOB

Large puddle next to Silver Birches: No need for PC action as Pete Coulson has paid to have it filled in.

Bin beside seat near Balder Bridge: DCC have taken away after it being blown over, EG to check with DCC that a bin will be returned.

For sale sign at the end of Moor Road: relates to a property up Moor Road, EG to chase George White to ask for removal as the one at the house should suffice.

Brook House café: recently noticed that takeaway coffees have been provided. EG to check whether planning allowed for this and monitor situation until next month.

Neighbourhood Watch: PCSO Katie Bartle been in correspondence with KH regarding arranging a neighbourhood watch meeting. Aiming for March.

13. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 9th March at 7pm in the Village Hall.

As there was no other business the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed