

**COTHERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016: 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, J Gill

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, JW – village hall/precept, RH & JB – letter re Tees Railway Walk
- 2. Apologies for absence:** A Thorn
- 3. Minutes of the November meeting** were signed by the Chairman as being a true and accurate record.
- 4. Matters arising**
  - Broken tree branch / crowning at The Hagg:** work completed by Hamsterley tree surgeons, bill presented and paid.
  - Retention of documents:** RH finished sifting info from Brenda, pared down to a few folders with vital information. EG to type up planning reference list for easy access using DCC website.
  - S106 funds:** EG to confirm whether quoits club have put in their application. Proposal regarding play park goal posts and seesaw presented to councillors – total cost more than £6,000. EG to send supporting letter to [play@cotherstone](mailto:play@cotherstone), but remind that not all funds will be available.
  - Digital Durham:** EG to ask for a progress update.
  - Inconsiderate parking outside Brook House café:** Ongoing issue not just from café customers. KH will ask Liz Finn PCSO to monitor.
  - Post on Moor Road Green:** Letter from Mrs Darke presented. EG to respond acknowledging encroachment of verge and that PC will tend to once grass dried up a little.
  - Christmas trees:** all acknowledged very expensive this year, new suppliers to be looked at next year, also look into getting donations from village. RH to write something for Our Cotherstone.
  - Lack of footpath in front of Marwood Terrace/View:** letter from DCC – nothing they can do.
- 5. (a) Cemetery, Greens, Allotments**
  - Cemetery noticeboard** damaged in recent winds, DR will examine to see what needs doing to repair.
  - Headstone** also knocked over in winds, now stood back up, but needs fixing in place. DR will tend to.
  - Thompson grave:** kerbstones not mended. JB to follow up with family member.
  - Kerbstones:** EG to ask DCC what they have done in the past, only advice required.
  - Allotments:** rent payments coming in nicely.
  - (b) Playarea:** nothing to report
- 6. Accounts for payment:** Christmas trees – Croft Trees: £329; Clerk salary: £300; Planning Advice Plus (Neighbourhood plan): £1750; Hamsterley Tree Surgeons: £375; A Petty – electricity: £25.
- 7. Reports from representatives:** None
- 8. Precept:** Agreed precept should increase to enable PC to support village hall as their funds from DCC have dramatically reduced. £500 to be added to precept making £6644 in total. EG to finalise form. RH to write article for Our Cotherstone about reasons.
- 9. Planning**
  - DM/15/02520/LB and DM/15/02519/FPA:** Brook Lea, Cotherstone – approved.
  - DM/15/02632/TCA:** Felling of a sycamore tree on Fitzhugh Court – DCC chased re TPO appeal decision, await outcome.
  - DM/15/02914/FPA:** Field Barn to the East of Hawcroft Lane: approved.

**DM/15/03427/FPA:** Construction of a detached garage at Breckhaven, Cotherstone: approved.

**DM/15/03856/FPA:** Construction of a conservatory at 2 Marwood View: No objections raised

**10. Neighbourhood plan:** Aims and objectives finalised and shown in current newsletter. RH done an application for £763 in funds, it has been approved, but a further form to do before funds can be sent. Noted that much of remaining work will need to be done by volunteers.

**11. Correspondence**

**Mr Raynor (Heart of Teesdale and River Trust)** seeking permission to spray Hagg to eliminate Himalayan Balsam. No objections. EG to respond.

**Simon Hodgson** email regarding DCC treatment of Tees Railway Walk. EG to respond noting that the matter discussed, comments noted and that PC representative went up to discuss with operatives.

**Judy Caplin: Teesdale Viewmarkers:** wanted to know whether PC would take responsibility for Surprise View marker if Three Chimneys charity did not want to take it on. EG to respond stating that PC cannot do anything as not on PC land.

Various grass cutting tendering enquiries. To add the Feb agenda.

**Annual Audit** will no longer be done by BDO. New system SAAAL will designate an auditor at a cost of £100 to cover five years (paid upfront). No action needed unless want to opt out.

**12. AOB**

**Bog field water level still rising:** DCC and Environment Agency refused to help residents as on private land. RH to contact Councillors Richard Bell and Ted Henderson to see what the best course of action might be. Noted that water cannot be pumped back to road as a road drain leads back into that field.

**Request from Baldersdale farmer** regarding old drover's road with cattle grid but no gate to drive cattle over even though right of way to drive stock. DR will advise to contact Field Reeves chairman for further advice.

**Village hall car park:** inundated with water and sunk before Christmas, cellar of church and other houses also flooded. Large blockage discovered and removed before car park made good. Await bill, to be split between Field Reeves and PC.

**New drain outside West Park:** was never finished, DR to provide full details to EG, then EG to contact DCC.

**13. Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in the Village Hall.

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

Signed .....