

COTHERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in Cotherstone Village Hall
on Friday 31 January 2020 at 6.00pm

In attendance:	Cllr John Birkett (Chair), Cllr Vince Bendin, Cllr Tim Sabey and Cllr Richard Green
Absent:	Cllr Jenny Watson and Cllr Richard Hunter
Clerk:	Judith Mashiter
Public:	None
Press:	None
1. Approval of apologies for absence	<i>As Cllrs Hunter and Watson had submitted apologies due to prior engagements, it was resolved to approve their absence.</i>
2. Declarations of interest	None.
3. Requests for dispensations	No requests had been received.
4. Minutes	Draft minutes (paper 310120-1) had been circulated. <i>It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held 8 January 2020 are an accurate record.</i>
5. Public participation	No members of public were present.
6. Community-run shop/post office	<p>Councillors discussed the third draft of a consultation document setting out facts and figures prepared by the Steering Group for both the existing shop and the Methodist chapel as potential premises from which to operate a community-run shop/post office/café, along with a draft Cotherstone Community Venture Referendum form. Minor revisions were agreed, including removing a note about minimum response threshold.</p> <p><i>In the light of very recent communication from the Steering Group and full discussion it was resolved:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>That plans continue to be made for the consultation leaflet and referendum form to be sent to every household in the parish, following review, if possible, by both a Plunkett Foundation adviser and an accountant (as a second accountant sense-checking the financial information) and final approval of content at the Parish Council meeting on 12 February.</i><i>That Clerk investigate whether there are any quickly accessed grants that could be used to fund the consultation, otherwise the costs (approx. £525) to be funded through Parish Council reserves.</i><i>That a letter, from the Chairman, be sent to each Steering Group member accepting their resignation, thanking them for the considerable and very valuable work they have done and signifying that the Group has achieved its original objective and is therefore now dissolved. The Parish Council also to state that it would be grateful if the Steering Group can confirm that it stands by the figures used in the four spreadsheets it published on Slack and explain why different gross profit margins were used in the financial models for the shop operating in the two different premises.</i>

Meeting closed: 7.00pm