

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HUTTON HENRY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 14 OCTOBER 2019**

Present: Councillor Mrs J Thomas (Chair)
Councillor K Knight, K Lawson, Mrs N Wood, J Manchester and Mrs J Grieves

Also Present: Mr & Mrs Drake and Mrs Farry

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **POLICE REPORT**

There had been 1 incident of ASB, 1 theft from vehicles and 7 incidents of criminal damage in Station Town. There had been no crime reported in Hutton Henry.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

4. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on **8 JULY 2019**, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING

Footpaths

DCC had advised that there were no resources to cut footpath 19 and 20. Footpath 21 would be prioritised for cutting the following year. Parish Councils could apply for P3 funding to cover vegetation maintenance. The damaged stile would be repaired as a priority. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that enquiries be made to DCC regarding the parish council being given authority to instruct a contractor to carry out the necessary works to footpaths 19 and 20.

Allotments

Allotments No 9, 10, 28 and 29 would be available to let from November.

5. **PARISH COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION**

Three candidates had expressed an interest in becoming Parish Councillors. There were 4 vacancies in the Station Town Ward. The candidates addressed the meeting with their reasons for applying to be a Councillor. The candidates were duly proposed and seconded and a vote took place.

RESOLVED that Beryl Drake, Francis Drake and Michelle Farry be co-opted to the Station Town Ward.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Barrels adjacent to Laburnum Cottage

Correspondence had been received from a resident who had placed a number of floral barrels on land adjacent to his home. It referred to a complaint that the Parish Council may have received in this regard.

Advice had been sought from Durham County Council as the land in question had been identified as common land. Legal Services had advised that as the land was in unknown ownership, Section 45 of the Commons Act 2006 would apply. The Act gave DCC the power but not a duty to take such enforcement action as would be open to an owner of the land. The power is discretionary to be exercised if it was in the public interest to do so. As the planters did not prevent public access on foot to the land, nor did they look unsightly then it would not be in the public interest to secure removal at this time. However, should anything be done to impede or prevent public access then they would revisit.

Following the advice from DCC, it was suggested that a memorial bench be installed in memory of allotment holders that had recently passed away.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The resident be informed of the advice of DCC
- (ii) A memorial bench be placed on the land.

b) Christmas Trees

Hutton Henry Community Association had requested funding for their tree. Station Town residents had also made a request to supply a tree as the previous year.

RESOLVED that

- (i) A donation of £70 be given to Hutton Henry Community Association
- (ii) Councillor Manchester make arrangements for the tree to be supplied and erected in Station Town

c) Wreaths

Hutton Henry Community Association had advised that they were making arrangements for a remembrance service.

RESOLVED that the wreaths be ordered for both Hutton Henry and Station Town.

7. PLANNING PROPOSALS

Consideration was given to the following planning application:

DM/19/02938/FPA Proposed two storey gable extension and single storey extensions to front and rear at 28 Manor House Estate, Hutton Henry

RESOLVED that no objection be made.

8. CEMETERY REPORT

The cemetery was clean and tidy.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

9. **PARISH ISSUES**

a) **Trees on Hutton Crescent**

A local farmer had reported that the trees were overhanging and hitting his tractor.

RESOLVED that the farmer be advised to report this to DCC.

b) **Dog Bags**

Reference was made to an adjacent village providing dog bags to residents and enquired if the parish council could make this service available. It was advised that there were no buildings open for a long period of time that could house the bags.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

c) **Play Area**

Residents had reported that there was now a gap in the play area fence since the school erected their new fence.

RESOLVED that the school be contacted to make aware of the problem created since their fence was erected.

10. **EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

Consideration was given to the external audit report.

RESOLVED that the minor scope for improvement within the report be noted.

11. **FINANCE**

Invoices for Endorsement of Payment

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	Amount	CHEQUE NO
Durham County Council	repairs	£283.96	104048
NE Ambulance Trust	Defibrillators	£3916.80	104049
N Power	Utilities	£116.95	104050
Clerk	Expenses	£31.40	104051
Mazars	Audit	£360.00	104052
Eibe	Playground equipment	£14472.79	104053
Groundsman	Expenses	£73.50	104054
J Dent	Skip hire	£264.00	104055
Anglian Water	utilities	£44.79	104056
Durham County Council	Repairs and fuel	£147.78	104057
Clerk	Expenses	£45.62	104058
Groundsman	Expenses	£209.80	104059
Hutton Henry Community Association	Christmas Tree	£70.00	104060

Bank Balances as at 14 September 2019

Bank Statements were viewed by the Chair

Bank Balances were as follows:

Tracker Account £34,750.21

Current Account £145,792.49

12. **ANY ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES

Consideration was given to the fees and charges for 2020/21

RESOLVED that

- (i) there be no change in the fees charged for the cemetery.
- (ii) Allotments be increased to £30