

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HUTTON HENRY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 9 MARCH 2020**

Present: Councillor Mrs J Thomas (Chair)
Councillor Mrs M Farry, Mrs J Grieves, Mrs B Drake, F Drake, P Marsh, Mrs M Lightowler and Mrs N Wood

Also Present: A number of residents

A resident referred to the consultation on the name change and asked when Station Town had been removed from the name. The Clerk advised that Station Town had never been in the title, the Boundary Commission had some years ago conducted a review and Hulam was taken out of the parish area. It was advised that the consultation was seeking the views of residents, it was not a vote. Some residents expressed concern that they had not received the leaflet. Parish Councillors advised that some leaflets were still to be distributed.

A resident referred to a number of fires in Station Town and asked what the Council could do. The Clerk advised that the Council had written to the MP for Station Town and he had offered to meet with representatives to discuss the ASB in the area. The MP was concerned that there was under reporting to the police of the issues which the community was suffering. Without issues being reported to the police, they could not evidence the need for more resources to be targeted in the area. Residents advised that it was not just ASB it was criminal activity.

A resident referred to recent social media whereby the possibility of a security firm should be employed to patrol the area and explained that they thought it was a complete waste of public money. The police and MPs should be the avenue for tackling ASB and criminal activity.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J Manchester, K Knight and Lawson.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **POLICE REPORT**

There was no police report.

4. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on **10 MARCH 2020**, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

Meeting with MP to discuss ASB in Station Town

The Clerk advised that the Chair and Vice Chair would meet with the MP and report back to the next meeting.

Flower Planters

Permissions were still being sought to install flower planters in the villages.

Empty Property in Station Lane

DCC had made contact with the owner who had expressed that they would like help with finance and selling the property. Information had been provided on what assistance was available. They would be contacted once they had considered the information.

Gladstone Terrace

DCC had not received any response from the owner of the property. They would make further attempts to engage. They do have other legislative powers that could be used but need to demonstrate that all other avenues have been exhausted.

Lighting in Milbank Terrace/Dormand Court

DCC had advised that the lights installed are in line with Street Lighting Policy. Given that there had been some redevelopment works in the area, there could be some footpaths that were unlit. They would require a map with specific areas of concern.

RESOLVED that Councillor F Drake provide a map with the areas of concern.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Land adjacent to Yard House, Station Town

A request had been made to DCC to purchase land adjacent to be used for access/parking of motorhomes.

RESOLVED that no objection be made.

b) Consultations by DCC

The current consultations by DCC were available to view on comment on their website:

- Co Durham and Darlington Road Safety Strategy
- Selective Licensing

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

c) Allotment No 29

The tenants have requested permission to keep chickens and place a bee hive on the allotment.

RESOLVED that the request be agreed.

6. PLANNING PROPOSALS

There were no planning applications.

7. CEMETERY REPORT

The cemetery was clean and tidy.

8. PARISH ISSUES

Updates on:

a) Change of name for Parish Council

The Clerk advised that 25 responses had been received to date.

b) Street Lighting in Dormand Court/Milbank Terrace

The Clerk advised that this was discussed earlier in the agenda. Councillor Mrs Drake advised that following the walk around she was still awaiting a report from Kay Woodhall at DCC.

RESOLVED that the report be requested from DCC.

9. **FINANCE**

Councillors suggested that additional hours be authorised for the Clerk due to the additional work undertaken recently in respect of the consultation on the name change.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised for an additional 10 hours overtime.

Invoices for Endorsement of Payment

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	Amount	CHEQUE NO
Viking Direct	Stationary/Toner	£371.36	104080
Regal Print	Leaflets	£57.00	104081
Durham County Council	Website	£722.08	104082
Durham County Council	Repairs	£466.34	104082
Clerk	expenses	£30.60	104084
N Power	Utilities	£87.11	104083
Groundsman	expenses	£45.82	104085

Bank Balances as at 14 February 2020

Bank Statements were viewed by the Chair

Bank Balances were as follows:

Tracker Account £34,767.54

Current Account £120,380.40

10. **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

a) Councillor Mrs Drake to move

That Hutton Henry Parish Council begins the process of commissioning a Children’s Play Area for Station Town on the eastern side of the area of the ‘Winding Wheel’ facing Townsend Court adjacent to Milbank Terrace using the sum of £40,000 reserved in parish council funds for the purpose; together with additional funding for two lighting standards and on-costs specifically to illuminate the play area.

Motion was moved by Councillor Mrs Drake and seconded by Councillor Mr Drake.

It was advised that the land where the pit wheel is located is owned by DCC. Any play area would need to be visible, safe and secure so there was no vandalism. A suggestion was that this could be broadened to include a skate park.

RESOLVED that further consideration be given providing a suitable location was found.

b) Councillor Mrs Drake to move

That Hutton Henry Parish Council developing best practice policies for its role of engaging in the civil parish area adopts the following policies:

**Child Protection Policy
Safeguarding Policy**

**Youth Group Consent Form
Volunteers Policy
Identifies insurance cover**

Motion was moved by Councillor Mrs Drake and seconded by Councillor Mr Drake.

Councillors advised that they were happy to fund any activities for children but could not facilitate them therefore it was not felt that the policies were required or any change to the insurance policy.

RESOLVED that the Council be open to welcoming any requests for funding.

c) Councillor Mr Drake to move

That Hutton Henry Parish Council organise a Front Garden's Competition to be judged in July 2020 in two parts Hutton Henry Ward and Station Town Ward. Garden Competition Hutton Henry Parish Council Summer 2020

Two Parts both: Hutton Henry & Station Town

Front Gardens in each place First Prize £75 2nd Prize £50 3rd Prize £30 4th Prize £20

A small cup for winners and certificates for all.

Prizes: £10 & certificate for:

**The Best Hanging Basket Displays
The Best Containers
Best Water Feature/Pond**

**To Award the Prizes approach a County Councillor
Judges: out of area to be advised.**

Motion was moved by Councillor Mr Drake and seconded by Councillor Mrs Wood

Councillors felt that a garden competition may be feasible as not everyone had a front garden and did not want to discriminate anyone in the villages. It was felt that more thought was required on how this would work.

RESOLVED that more thought be given on the workings of the competition.

d) Councillor Mr Drake to move

Litter Picking: A resident of Station Town has requested that the Parish Council provides litter picking equipment to residents who are already litter picking in areas not on the Durham County Council's litter picking areas in Station Town

Motion was moved by Councillor Mr Drake and seconded by Councillor Mrs Wood

Five residents had offered to litter pick but equipment was required.

RESOLVED that costings be sought on the equipment.

11. ANY ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED the next meeting will be held on Monday 20 April 2020 due to the next meeting falling on easter Monday.