

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HUTTON HENRY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2021**

Present: Councillors Mrs J Thomas, K Knight, Mrs M Farry, Mrs J Grieves, Mrs B Drake, F Drake, Mrs N Wood, J Manchester and K Lawson

Also Present: 4 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence submitted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Farry declared an interest in item 5b.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public referred to the last meeting and explained that she did not get a chance to speak as she has joined late due to the technical difficulties of no one being able to access the meeting. She commented that she was saddened that the technical difficulties had not been referred to in the minutes. The Clerk advised that she was made aware there was a problem with the link just before 7pm. A new link was created and emailed to all Councillors and published on the Facebook page for any interested residents at 7.02pm. The meeting did not commence until 7.15pm to allow all interested parties to see the email and the public announcement. It was not felt relevant to refer to it in the minutes.

The member of the public advised that she had emailed the Chair via the parish council email address. The Clerk had responded but no response had been received from the Chair. The Clerk explained that she managed the inbox and although addressed to the Chair, the information requested would be provided by the Clerk. The member of public queried why her email wasn't listed in correspondence. The Clerk advised that it was not necessary to list her email, the questions were answered and a response given, presumably to the satisfaction of the member of the public as she did not respond further. No Council decision was required and other Councillors did not need to know the content of every email/correspondence received.

The member of the public explained that there had been no introductions so she was not aware of who everyone was. It was pointed out that everyone's names were on the screen and the majority of people in attendance knew each other as they were residents of the villages.

The member of the public referred to the Facebook page and queried why she could not post on the page. It seemed the only way to get in touch was to email the parish council. Councillors Mrs Farry advised that the guidance and social media policy which had been agreed by the council was pinned to the top of the Facebook page and also available on the website.

A resident advised that he had joined the meeting to get a feel for what was discussed at the parish council and felt that no progress was being made. The Chair advised that members of the public had 20 minutes to raise any issues they wished to discuss.

4. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on **18 JANUARY 2021**, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

a) Salt Bins

A bin had been requested at Manor House Estate and the road leading past The Common. A decision was awaited from DCC on if the locations met their criteria.

b) Litter Bins

The Clerk advised that one of the new litter bins had been stolen. Castle Eden Fencing had offered to cement the remaining two bins into the ground and this had now been done.

c) Chicane

An officer from DCC had visited the site and assessed the chicane, the signing and lining were correct and illuminated with street lighting present and the design of the chicane was to standard. The missing signs which had been damaged would be replaced. Unfortunately they advised they could do no more at the chicane and most of the incidents that occurred were due to anti social behaviour/driving which was out of their control and could not be designed out simply by changing the road layout.

Councillor Drake referred to previous reports and minutes regarding the chicane. This had been ongoing for a number of years. Bollards had only been put on one side. The Clerk explained that DCC felt a bollard was only required on one side to stop motorists going onto the path and by-passing the chicane.

d) Christmas Street Lighting

Information had been received from Wingate Parish Council. Lights could only be installed on metal poles which first needed to be tested to ensure they could take lights. Testing was required every 3 years, cost of which was approx. £3,000 by a specialist contractor. Commando boxes would need to be installed which would cost approx. £3,000 for 17 columns. Wingate use a company called LITE, whereby they hired the lights and paid for them to be put up and taken down. 33 lights cost £10,000. First year costs could be around £12,000 to £15,000 with annual costs therefore approx. £7000. Power was paid on an honesty basis to whoever was used as the electricity supplier.

The Clerk advised that if the project was to go ahead, then this would need to be budgeted for in the precept, therefore increasing the level of Council Tax to residents of both villages.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs Drake conduct further research.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a) Inflatables

A request for financial assistance had been received from a group of residents who were dressing in inflatable characters and visiting the children in the area. They were planning on doing an easter theme to deliver easter eggs to the children in Station Town, Wingate and Hutton Henry. A go fund me page had been set up for donations. The Clerk advised that they were not a registered charity and the difficulty would be that they did not have a bank account for the project.

Councillor Farry advised that she had spoken to the organiser and offered to work in partnership as the council had agreed to provide easter packs to children in Station Town and Hutton Henry. It was suggested that the council could provide the packs and the inflatable characters deliver them. The organiser had advised that they wanted to do the project on their own. Councillor Farry had wished them well in their project.

RESOLVED that the application be refused.

b) Church Street Allotments Association

A request for financial assistance had been received from Church Street Allotments Association. The site was DCC managed however the allotment holders had formed an association. They had asked DCC to fund a water supply which had been refused. Northumbrian Water had advised that the site would need an inspection at a cost of £138. They would eventually accumulate funds but at the moment did not have the funding for the initial inspection.

RESOLVED that £138 be agreed to fund the inspection.

6. PLANNING PROPOSALS

DM/21/00262/FPA Erection of concrete three sided muck midden (retrospective) at Kenny Farm, Station Town

RESOLVED that no objection be made.

7. CEMETERY REPORT

The cemetery was clean and tidy. The roof had been leaking on the Parish Hall and a local contractor had been contacted to look at it.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

8. FINANCE

Invoices for Endorsement of Payment

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	Amount	CHEQUE NO
Durham County Council	Fuel	£39.38	104146
Durham County Council	Litter Bins	£1188.00	104146
Zurich	Insurance	£4142.03	104147
J Collins	Expenses	£45.79	104148
Church Street Allotment	Donation	£138.00	104149

Bank Balances as at 15 January 2021

Bank Statements were viewed by the Chair

Bank Balances were as follows:

Tracker Account £34,794.75

Current Account £148,272.25

9. PARISH ISSUES

a) Flower Tubs

The Clerk advised that all permissions had now been received. There would be four tubs in Station Town and two tubs in Hutton Henry.

RESOLVED that a tender be sent to local companies.

b) Station Lane/Gladstone Terrace issues

DCC had provided an update on the following:

- 14 Station Lane, the owner had not engaged any further. It was understood that the owner intended to default on their mortgage and allow the bank to repossess the property.
- 5 Station Lane, no further engagement from the owner
- 28 Millbank Terrace, no engagement from the owner, further letter to be sent.

Councillor Drake queried if there was any update on Gladstone Terrace. The Clerk advised she was request an update.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted and an update be requested on Gladstone Terrace.

c) Front Garden Competition

It was advised that Peterlee Town Council had been doing a garden competition for a number of years. It was suggested that Members look at their terms and conditions and think about what categories would be suitable.

RESOLVED that an agenda item be placed for the meeting in May.

d) Bridge at Station Town

It was reported that the bridge at the rear of the allotments was dangerous. There were missing railings with gaps in.

RESOLVED that the bridge be reported to DCC.