

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HUTTON HENRY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Present: Councillors Mr K Knight (Chair), Mrs N Wood (Vice-Chair), Mrs J Grieves, Mr K Lawson, Mr D Bannon, Mr J Lyons, Mr J Manchester, Mrs M Lightowler, Mrs M Farry and Mr F Drake.

R Stocks (PCSO Peterlee Police) & 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs B Drake.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Participation

A resident expressed concerns re the volume and speed of traffic travelling down the back of Church Street in Station Town. It was noted that since the introduction of the allotments more vehicles were using this road for access and concerns were raised due to the speed they are travelling, especially as children are often playing in the street. The Parish Council agreed to report this issue but also advised that the more people who report it the more likely it is to have an impact. It was also suggested that people keep a note of days and times when it is happening. The resident also noted that the fence around the field had been damaged in an arson attack.

RESOLVED – that the clerk report both issues to Durham County Council.

R Stocks delivered the police report for Wingate, Station Town, and Hutton Henry.

- 25 Antisocial behaviour incidents
- No vehicle crimes
- No burglaries
- 8 criminal damage

Comparisons to last year were also presented showing that the number of incidents reported has decreased. She advised that several dispersal orders had been made and off-road motorbikes seized to crack down on ASB. The increased popularity of electric scooters was discussed, and the Parish Council felt it necessary to look to educate young people of the dangers. R Stocks also suggested the possibility of a Speed Watch Programme in the villages. Drivers found to be speeding are issued a warning letter, If the driver receives 3 letters they will be fined. This scheme has had success in other villages in the area.

RESOLVED – that R Stocks investigate where the speed watch equipment can be purchased and for how much. Clerk to advertise the scheme on HHPC Website and Facebook page asking for volunteers to get in contact.

4. **The Minutes of the Last Meetings** held on **12 July 2021 & 10 August 2021**, a copy of which had been circulated to each member were approved and signed by the chair.

Updates:

- DCC had declined the request for additional street lighting
- No response had yet been received with regards to traffic calming measures in Hutton Henry.
- The cemetery bins are sorted and are currently collected fortnightly.
- The Cemetery gates have been returned completing the Parish Hall renovations.
- Fireproof filing cabinets start from approximately £800 for 60 mins protection and the price increases with the amount of protection offered, trestle tables start £65 and similar church pews can be found for sale at around £300.

RESOLVED – that the information be noted.

5. **Correspondence**

F Thompson, reporter at the Sunderland Echo is doing a follow up podcast on the unknown male buried in the cemetery who was found at Seaham beach in 2006 and had suggested the possibility of a fundraiser to place a permanent headstone at the grave.

RESOLVED – the Parish Council agreed to the idea and to waive the usual cemetery fees.

Councillor F Drake advised that he had reported the damaged bollard at the chicane.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk request a meeting with the head of highways, Councillor Crute and the Parish Council to discuss speeding and traffic calming measures in the villages.

6. **Planning Proposals**

There were no planning proposals to discuss.

7. **Cemetery Report**

There had previously been complaints regarding the condition of the cemetery however, the bins were now on sight and the grass cutter fixed. The cemetery is looking smart again. It was discussed that the hedges needed cutting and that it would be easier to get a tractor in.

RESOLVED – that the Council pay to have the hedges cut, J Manchester to arrange.

8. **Clerks Contract**

RESOLVED – the Council agreed to extend the Clerks contract beyond the probationary period and agreed a pay increase of 2 points as a result of training completed.

9. Finance

- Payments

Recipient	Reason	Amount
G Stephenson	Logo Comp Winner	£20.00
L Hall	Meet & Greet Expenses	£67.24
WEL Medical	Defibs	£58.68
Viking	stationary	£97.31
SLCC	Textbook	£152.79
Premier Waste	Bins	£234.78
Gardens of Grace	Paths	£456.00
MD Shotblasting	Gates	£450.00
J Manchester	Strimmer blades	£79.00
NBK Leisure	inflatables	£625.00
Viking	stationary	£153.43
Mazars	External Audit	£360.00
L Hall/Boston Bulbs	Bulb grant	£729.19
DCC	Grass Cutting	£5,412.85
Kevin Mangles	Entertainer	£200.00
Robinsons of Wingate	Picnics	£347.00
DCC	Website	£747.56
E.On Next	Electricity	£0.65
L Hall	Crafts	£31.65
Hutton Henry CA	Meetings	£120.00
L Hall	Expenses fun day	£56.87
Rialtas	Accountancy Package	£595.80
A Tratties	Face painter	£60.00
Barclays	Charges	£15.00

- Income

Name	Reason	Amount
Scott Memorials	headstone	£140.00
cochrans	burial SL	£140.00
Greg Cavey	Cottage Rent	£382.50
Barclays	compensation	£50.00
DCC	P3 Funding	£380.00
Scott Memorials	headstone	£70.00
Greg Cavey	Cottage Rent	£382.50
Scott Memorials	headstone	£70.00

- Bank Balances as of 13th September 2021

Current Account: £146,344.95

Savings Account: £34,797.36

- External Auditors Report

The external auditors report had been received with no required action. The only recommendation was to ensure all reserves are formally earmarked moving forward.

RESOLVED – that the information be noted. The council also agreed to transfer £100,000 into the savings account.

10. **Meet and Greet**

The Parish Council held its first Meet and Greet event at St Francis Village Hall in Hutton Henry on the 22nd July 2021. Councillors commented that they had received positive feedback from residents and although it was not heavily attended the Council felt the event was of value and agreed to host it annually. It was discussed that the event could be alternated between Hutton Henry and Station Town, the Methodist Church was suggested. The cost of the event was £147.24.
RESOLVED – that the Meet and Greet be added to the agenda for March 2022.
11. **Fun Day**

The Parish Council held its first Fun Day in Station Town on 22nd August 2021. Again, Councillors commented that they had received positive feedback from members of the public who had hoped it would become an annual event. Given the very quick turnaround the Council were happy with the turnout and felt the day was a success and would like to make it an annual event. There were some comments regarding the lack of advertising and therefore a lot of people were unaware it was happening. The final Cost of the event was £1336.95.
RESOLVED – that the Fun Day be added to the agenda for March 2022.
12. **Parish Plan & Budget**

Councillors were asked to think about the Parish Plan - what are the main issues in Hutton Henry and Station Town?
RESOLVED – that the Council start this process in November 2021.

The Clerk presented the budget as it stands so far this year. Councillor Lyons questioned how the budget was set and the headings used. In terms of spending the reserves, the Clerk is still waiting to hear back from DCC with regards to leasing the land for the Pump Track. Councillor Crute is helping chase this up.
RESOLVED – that the Clerk meet with Councillor Lyons to discuss the Rialtas software package and decide how to proceed with next years budget.
13. **Citizens Award**

The Council had agreed in July's meeting to start a Citizens Award. There were no nominations.
RESOLVED – That the Clerk advertise on the HHPC website and Facebook pages, requesting nominations be emailed to huttonhenrypc@hotmail.co.uk.
14. **Pantomime**

It was suggested that the Council could subsidise tickets and arrange a bus to take the local children and their parents to see a pantomime. However, it was noted that many of the local primary schools already do this and would it not be better for the Council to donate to the schools towards their trips instead. This also meant that more young people were likely to benefit. It was also suggested that the Council donate to other organisations too such as local care homes etc.
RESOLVED – that Councillors readdress this matter at the next meeting.
15. **Queens Jubilee**

The Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations were discussed, and the Council agreed that they would like to get involved and plan some sort of event.
RESOLVED – that the Clerk investigate the beacon lighting event and the Councillors think about what they would like to do.
16. **Common Land Hutton Henry**

Councillors have received requests to have the disputed land in Hutton Henry returned to a wildlife site by reinstating the hedge and wildflowers. Having received legal advice from DCC, under sections 41 & 45 of the Commons Act 2006 the Parish Council have authority and therefore it was agreed that the Council would return the land to a wildlife area. The hedging would cost approx. £1000 and needs planting ASAP.
RESOLVED – that the Council agreed to rewild the site and pay the £1000 for the hedge. The Clerk is to write to the resident asking for their property to be removed.
17. **Complaint re piggeries**

Various complaints have been made to Councillors regarding the piggeries at Station Town including the number of fires and animals roaming loose. Goats are often roaming the area and have been known to enter people's property. It was noted that these issues have been raised previously and that the Council needed to request an update of the investigation. Parish Councillors have visited the site with representatives from DCC looking at the boundary the owner has created and the footpaths which have been diverted. It was also mentioned that there is an increase in the amount of traffic using the back of Church Street to access the piggeries.
RESOLVED – that the Clerk report the fires to environmental, including the County Councillors in all correspondence and seek an update on previous investigations.

18. **Clerks Training expenses**
RESOLVED – the Council agreed to pay all fees and training expenses incurred by the clerk.
19. **Stolen Litter bin at Station Lane**
RESOLVED – that the Clerk request the Clean and Green Team install a new bin however, it needs to be cemented in.
20. **Parish Council Name Change**
Data from the Action for Station Town Survey suggests that people in Station Town would like to see the name of the Parish Council change.
RESOLVED – that the Clerk find out exactly what is involved.
21. **Christmas lights**
Data from the Action for Station Town Survey suggests that people in Station Town would like to see Christmas lights in the Village. It had been discussed in previous meetings that the cost of lights was too high for what was able to be delivered. Alternatives were suggested including bigger and better Christmas Trees in both Villages and a decorating competition.
RESOLVED – the Council agreed not to have Christmas lights and instead to arrange a decorating competition. The Council would also purchase bigger Christmas trees. J Manchester to sort tree for Station town.
22. **Salt Bins**
RESOLVED – that the Clerk request a salt bin be placed at the back of Milbank terrace.
23. **Protocol between Councillors and Council Employees**
Postponed until next meeting due to Councillor apologies.
24. **Disposable of old IT Equipment and Archiving**
The Clerk asked for permission to dispose of old ICT equipment and archive old records.
RESOLVED – that the Clerk enquire about the costs.
25. **Parish Issues**
Wildflowers
The planting of wildflowers on the main road on the way into Hutton Henry from the A19 had been discussed in previous meetings. Having spoken to landscapers it was clear that this was not a simple task and would be very expensive. It was therefore discussed the planting of wild bulbs such as bluebells and daffodils instead which would return each year.
RESOLVED – it was agreed that the Council would enquire as to how much could be achieved for £1000 and the Clerk look to see if any grants were available.