

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
HUTTON HENRY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2021**

**Present:** Councillors Mr K Knight (Chair), Mrs N Wood (Vice-Chair), Mrs J Grieves, Mr K Lawson, Mr J Lyons and Mrs M Farry.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Lightowler, B Drake, F Drake & J Manchester.

**2. Declarations of interest**

Councillors K Knight and K Lawson declared an interest in the allotments.

**3. Public Participation**

A resident had several questions regarding the common land in Hutton Henry.

- 1) Have all the Parish Councillors seen the letter that was sent dated 16/09/21? **Yes, the letter was sent to all Councillors.** (The bench and raised planters have been removed as requested).
- 2) Have all the Parish Councillors seen the reply to the HHPC letter dated 22/09/21? **Yes, the reply was sent to all Councillors.**
- 3) Will the public be able to have continued access and use of this land as they can now under 'section 45 of the Commons Act 2006'? **Yes, the Council want the land to be used more regularly by residents.**
- 4) Are the Councillors aware that DCC have no objection with the barrels being placed on the land in August 2019? **The Council were aware that DCC had decided against any actions in 2019.**
- 5) Are the Councillors aware that DCC mowers could access the land between the half barrels that were 2m apart up to January 2020 but the Parish Council put the seat on the land in February 2020, which has now prevented access for the mowers? **DCC have assured the Council they have been cutting the grass and although access is harder due to the planters and seat, they were still able to access the land.**
- 6) Are the councillors aware that no trees or vegetation have been removed since Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019, which was done before the request in the minutes of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December? **The Council noted that an Oak Tree had been moved (which then died) as well as other vegetation more recently than 2019.**
- 7) Have all the Parish Councillors seen the land in question? **All Councillors in attendance at the meeting had visited the site, the Council could not say if those not in attendance had however, all Councillors have seen photographs of the land in previous meetings.**
- 8) Will HHPC respond to the letter that I wrote on 22/09/21? **Yes, the Council will issue a response.**
- 9) Will my questions be minuted? **Yes.**

At the request of residents, the Council have agreed to have the site rewilded with the hope of attracting more wildlife, with the vegetation changing according to the seasons. The Parish Council will take responsibility for keeping the area tidy.

**Resolved** – the Council will continue with the planned rewilding, the planters already in situ are to remain. Clerk to write a response to the letter dated 22/09/21.

**4. The Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 13 September 2021, a copy of which had been circulated to each member were approved and signed by the chair.**

**5. Correspondence**

The Council received a request from the Great North Air Ambulance requesting a donation.

**Resolved** – The Council agreed to make a £50 donation.

A resident had contacted the Council regarding the cemetery being used to exercise dogs, stating it was disrespectful.

**Resolved** – The Council agreed that it is not appropriate for people to exercise their dogs in the cemetery and will purchase new signage and post on the website and Facebook page.

## 6. Cemetery Report

The cemetery is looking neat and tidy however, the hedges still need to be cut.

Cemetery fees for 2022 were discussed and the Council agreed not to increase prices.

**Resolved** – The Clerk speak to J Manchester to request an update regarding the hedges and that the cemetery fees will remain the same for 2022.

## 7. Police Report

20 ASB incidents & 6 criminal damage incidents were reported between 01/09/21 – 30/09/21.

**Resolved** – that the information be noted.

## 8. Finance

### Payments

Recipient	Reason	Amount
Barclays Bank	Bank Charges	£15.00
Anglian Water	Water Rates	£41.32
Durham CC	Tractor Repairs	£467.26
Wel Medical	Defibrillator Pads	£191.88
Premier Waste Management	Cemetery Bins	£108.78
E.On Next	Electivity	£26.58
Lisa Hall	Expenses	£186.51
HHPC	Savings Transfer	£100,000.00
A Tratties	Face Painting	£60.00

### Income

Name	Reason	Amount
Scott Memorials	Headstone Inscription	£20.00
Gregg Cavey LTD	Cottage Rent	£382.50

### Bank Balances as of 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Current Account: £43,933.10

Savings Account: £134,797.36

## 9. Christmas Donations

Councillor Knight had contacted the Chair of Wingate Parish Council regarding matching the proposed donations, the Wingate Chair agreed to raise this at their next meeting.

**Resolved** – the Council agreed to wait to hear from Wingate PC before moving forward and look to arrange a meeting with Wingate PC.

## 10. Citizens Award

The Council received two nominations for the Citizens award, DH for his ability to bring sunshine to the community and SB & CW for their efforts to keep Hutton Henry looking neat and tidy - litter picking and maintaining the hedgerows.

**Resolved** – the Council agreed to speak to the recipients to ask their preference as a token of appreciation and to ensure they were happy to have their nominations shared on Facebook and Council website.

## 11. The Queens Jubilee

The Clerk presented Council with a report regarding the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

- Beacon Locations – the land outside of St Francis Village Hall in Hutton Henry and next to the Pit Wheel in Station Town were suggested as possible beacon locations.
- Types and costs of beacons were discussed, the Council agreed to order 2 globe beacons at a cost of £1176 + gas at approx. £120.
- It was suggested the Council invite school choirs to sing the song which is being written to mark the Jubilee.
- Lighting the beacon – it was suggested that residents nominate people to light the beacon and the Council would make the final decision.
- Other suggestions included a street party, pipers.

**Resolved** – the Council agreed to arrange an additional meeting to finalise plans.

## **12. Unadopted Road TS27 4RJ**

Councillor Deinali contacted the Council with a report regarding the state of the unadopted road in TS274RJ. Issues included poor drainage, the state of the road and the lack of a salt bin.

**Resolved** – the council have no authority but agreed to contact highways at DCC reiterating the concerns.

## **13. Playground inspection SLA**

The cost of the inspection SLA is £390.60 under the previous agreement terms of 24 inspections per year.

**Resolved** – the Council agreed to renew the playground inspections SLA.

## **14. Pump Track Costings**

DCC have agreed to lease the land to HHPC for £1000 plus an annual peppercorn payment for 25 years. The Council therefore agreed to approach the 5 previously suggested companies for proposals and quotes. Once these proposals have been submitted the plans will be shared with the public to receive feedback.

**Resolved** – L Hall to contact the contractors re quotes and reply to DCC with any questions regarding the lease agreement.

## **15. Protocol between Councillors and Council Employees – Councillor B Drake**

Postponed due to Councillor apologies.

## **16. Rewilding and Planters**

Gardens of Grace are going to spray and rotavate the common land in Hutton Henry, adjacent to Garden Cottage in preparation for planting the wild plants and vegetation. It was also suggested that the grass at the side of the road leading into Hutton Henry from the A19 could be planted. The Council asked for suggestions for planting locations in Station Town. The flower planters in both villages will be replaced with winter pansies and bulbs ready for spring (agreed in July's minutes).

**Resolved** – that the Councillors look for possible planting areas in Station Town.

## **17. Action for Station Town Survey Results**

All Councillors received the survey results prior to the meeting. Action for Station Town requested the Council support Beachdale Park by matching the £14k committed by AFST.

**Resolved** – the Council agreed to support the park, committing to £14k once the project is finalised.

## **18. Parish Issues**

### **Remembrance Day**

**Resolved** – Councillor Grieves agreed to order two wreaths.

### **Allotments**

**Resolved** – the Council agreed to keep the allotment rent at £30. Councillor Knight to request holders contact the Clerk. L Hall to arrange a skip.