

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
HUTTON HENRY & STATION TOWN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Present: Councillors Mr K Knight (Chair), Mrs J Grieves, Mrs N Wood, Mr J Lyons, Mr D Bannon & Mrs J Glenville.

Also Present: 1 member of the public

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 To agree apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Farry and M Lightowler.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th July 2023

3.1 To agree the minutes

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed by the Chair.

3.2 Update from the Clerk

Salt Bin HH

The questionnaire only received two responses re moving the salt bin.

Resolved – the council agreed to leave the bin at its current location.

Overgrown Hedge from HH – ST

LH noted that the overgrown hedge which residents had complained about had been cut back by the council.

Overgrown Footpaths ST

These paths had been cut back however JL noted that they were again overgrown.

Resolved - the council agreed to cut them again.

4. Public Participation

A Resident from Church Street had several complaints including speeding vehicles, vehicles using the green spaces and off-road bikes. Due to the number of issues raised, the council asked that the complaints be put into writing to the Clerk.

5. Correspondence

AFST – Application for Tree Grant

AFST had contacted the Council re partnering in a project to plant trees in the Parish.

Resolved – the council agreed as they do not own any land, it would be easier if ASFT spoke directly to Durham County Council.

DCC – Purchase of land in Hutton Henry

DCC noted that a request had been received to purchase land adjacent to The Brooke, Hutton Henry to be used for pasture and amenity use. Concerns were raised under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 in that authorities are obligated to obtain the best price. The Council also agreed the land should only be sold for grazing.

Resolved – LH to contact DCC with concerns.

Headstone Request

A family member contacted the council for permission to fix and clean up a headstone which had been laid flat due to safety concerns. They also requested the names of additional family members who moved away from the area could be added to the inscription.

Resolved – the council had no objections to the headstone being repaired but stated that any additional inscription would need to include “laid to rest” to make clear those remains are not interred at the cemetery.

CDALC – AGM Saturday 7th October, 10am at County Hall

Resolved – K Knight & L Hall to attend.

PCC Off Road Bike Campaign

A new initiative to reduce the number of off-road bikes in the area had been launched in partnership with Crime Stoppers. Rewards were being offered for information that led to the destruction of vehicles. LH had shared the information to Facebook.

Resolved – that the information be noted.

6. Parish Report

6.1 Parish Update

6.1.1 Bench Repairs Hutton Henry

New legs had been made for the bench. Once the bench had been replaced the wooden lats need treating.

Resolved – that the information be noted.

6.1.2 Historical Map

The map will not be displayed at St Francis. The council will frame it and look to hang it in the Methodist Church.

Resolved – that the information be noted.

6.1.3 The Plough Inn, Hutton Henry

The new owners are in and have agreed to be a guardian for the defibrillator. It has also been suggested that we have a book exchange – in pub and Millbank Church. They had also suggested having recycling services in the carpark.

Resolved – the council agreed a budget of £300 for bookshelves. LH to make enquires re recycling services.

6.1.4 Memorial Plaque

The plaque was ready to be installed. LH had emailed the school re attending with some students to unveil it and was awaiting a reply.

Resolved – that the information be noted.

6.2 Cemetery Report

6.2.2 To discuss quotes for hedge and tree cutting.

Quote 1 - £1300 + vat

Quote 2 - £450 + vat per day up to 10 days (£4500)

Quote 3 - £1280 + vat

Resolved – the council agreed to accept quote 1.

6.3 Allotments

6.3.1 Allotment Standards

Allotment holders had complained about weeds. The council noted that it had been a particularly hard year with the weather.

Resolved - a skip will be onsite in October. The council agreed to have the 3 empty plots sprayed with insect friendly weed killer and rotavated in the spring.

7. Police Report

7.1 To review the Police Report

There was no police report to discuss.

7.2 PACT Meetings

The next meeting is 15th November in ST.

8. Planning Proposals

8.1 To review planning proposals:

DM/23/01558/FPA Conversion and extension of former stables to create a new dwelling including creation of outdoor amenity space. The Stables, Station Town, TS28 5EW

Resolved – the council had no objections.

9. Citizens Award

9.1 To discuss nominations and prizes awarded.

There were no new nominations.

10. Finance

10.1 Expenditure 10/07/23 – 10/09/23

Post Office	Postage	£13.65
Barclays	Bank Charges	£12.00
SLCC	CiLCA Fees	£450.00
DCC	Wages	£4429.22
JRB Enterprise	Dog Bags	£393.12
Robinsons	Picnics FD	£681.00
Creative Ape	Seat HH	£360.00
Eon	Electricity	£76.93
Mazars	External Audit	£378.00
Wingate PC	Bingo	£447.94
J Manchester	Expenses	£32.99
A1 Trophies	Plaque	£114.42
Premier Waste	Bins	£129.14
Currys	Printer	£166.99
Vodafone	Top Up	£10.00
CDALC	Training	£10.00
Amazon	Storage	£25.48
Rospa	Park Inspection	£90.00
DCC	Event License	£50.00
Ark Therapies	FD	£280.00
Animal Ark	FD	£150.00
Gardens of Grace	Parish Paths	£420.00
More Than a Pretty Face	FD	£155.00
DCC	Grass & Bins SLA	£5825.56
Pound Stretcher	FD	£31.00
K Mangles	FD	£250.00
Nationwide Ambulance	FD	£432.00
NBK Leisure	FD	£875.00
Viking	Stationary	£90.10
DCC	Selective License	£300.00
L Hall	Expenses	£67.25
Scott	Refund	£70.00
Home Bargains	FD	£36.85
Farmfoods	FD	£24.96
		£16,878.60

10.2 Income 10/07/23 – 10/09/23

Greig Cavey	Cottage Rent	£765.00
Various	Burial Fees	£360.00
DCC	Fun Day Grant	£400.00
		£1525.00

Bank Transfers

Community to Savings	£30,000
Savings to community	£13,000

10.3 Bank Balance and Reconciliation

Community Account –	£5,484.49
Savings Account –	£167,618.88

10.4 Budget Review

The budget to date was discussed, spending was as expected.

Resolved – that the information be noted.

10.5 External Auditors Report

LH noted that there were no recommendations made on the report.

Resolved – that the information be noted.

10.6 SLCC Membership

The council **agreed** to renew the membership at £146.

11. Vacant Houses and ASB

Several complaints had been made regarding the empty houses in Station Town.

Resolved – it was agreed the council invite various organisations to a separate meeting to discuss this issue.

12. Joint Working with Wingate PC

LH noted that the two planned Family Fundays were cancelled due to the weather, however the main summer activity programme was a huge success with over 1200 children attending over the 6 weeks. 19 children attended the away day to South Sheilds at a cost of £285.

Bingo continues the last Tuesday of every month and numbers remain constant.

Resolved – that information be noted.

13. Pump Track Update

TMJ advised that the lease was now in an agreed form and had requested an engrossment form from DCC.

Resolved – that the information be noted.

14. Summer Garden Competition

14.1 To judge the entries.

The council **agreed** the winners in each category. JG to purchase vouchers, LH to sort certificates. The council also agreed not to run the competition due to lack of interest.

15. Speed awareness signs

15.1 To discuss quotes to have children's drawings made into lamppost signs

Quote 1 - £63.70 per size including fittings

Quote 2 - £57.75 no fittings

Quote 3 - £48.00 no fittings

Resolved – the council agreed to accept quote 1 having 8 signs made in total.

16. Complaint to DCC – Update from Clerk

LH noted that the complaint was submitted on 8th August 2023 and a response should have been received by 24th August. LH had chased up on 4th September.

Resolved – LH to chase this again.

17. Remembrance Day 2023

The council **agreed** to order an additional box of lamppost poppies which will be erected at the end of October and taken down at the start of December. LH to investigate wreaths.

18. Policies & Procedures

18.1 To agree the following council policies and procedures

There were no policies to discuss.