

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
HUTTON HENRY & STATION TOWN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 9 OCTOBER 2023**

Present: Councillors Mr K Knight (Chair), Mrs M Farry (Vice Chair), Mrs J Grieves, Mrs J Glenville, Mr J Lyons & Mr D Bannon

Also present: Cllr S Deinali, N Appleby (representing PCC), PCSO Gray & PC Davis and 2 members of public.

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 To agree apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr N Wood & M Lightowler

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Participation

There were no questions from the public.

4. Empty Houses Station Town

The council noted that number 14 and 5 Station Lane were the main issue with reports of ASB and numerous complaints made about their appearance. The police are aware of these issues and have increased their patrols and are working with the young people who have been identified. The council discussed improving the appearance of the properties with specialist boarding and tidying up the gardens etc. Cllr Deinali suggested the council approach the AAP for funding. LH to speak to DCC regarding permissions.

A member of the public noted they had been making enquiries regarding these empty houses for many years (including number 1 and number 2 Gladstone Terrace). Progress had been made in terms of identifying ownership but nothing further.

The Council agreed the short term priority was to improve the appearance of these houses (and make them safe) whilst pushing DCC for enforced sales.

NA spoke about the PCC's ASB scheme which is being piloted in County Durham with certain 'hot spots' being identified. It was noted that Station Town was not one a hot spot as the data does not support ASB being an issue in the area. The Council were again encouraged to remind residents to report all incidents of ASB using the various methods available (See appendix A).

Cllr D Bannon joined the meeting at 7pm.

5. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th September 2023

5.1 To agree the minutes

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

5.2 Update from the Clerk

See agenda items.

6. Correspondence

DCC Review of polling districts

DCC had asked for any comments for the review.

Resolved – the Council had no comments or concerns.

DCC website SLA

DCC notified the council that they would no longer be offering website services as of 1st April 2024. LH noted that CDALC were making enquiries on the council's behalf re providers.

Resolved – that the information be noted.

7. Parish Report

7.1 Parish Update

- The bench in Hutton Henry had been returned, KK had volunteered to sand and varnish it.
- KK attended the CDALC AGM, the leader of DCC spoke briefly about how they relied on Parish Councils then left as did the PCC which meant he was unable to ask any questions.
- **Speeding Signs** the posts are larger than expected therefore the clips cost an additional £11 per sign **resolved** – the council agreed to pay the additional costs.

7.2 Cemetery Report

A complaint had been received regarding damaged flower vases in the cemetery. LH noted that such vases are not permitted in the cemetery, as per the cemetery rules, as they prevent the Groundsperson from cutting the grass.

Resolved – that the information be noted.

7.3 Allotments

LH to order a skip for the end of the month.

KK noted that the trees on the community allotment had bindweed growing around them, but following advice suggested leaving it till next year and spraying weedkiller around the trees.

Resolved – that the information be noted.

8. Police Report

8.1 To review the Police Report

See appendix B.

8.2 PACT Meetings

The next PACT meeting is on Wednesday 14th November at St Francis Village Hall.

9. Planning Proposals

9.1 To review planning proposals:

There were no planning proposals to review.

10. Citizens Award

10.1 To discuss nominations and prizes awarded.

There were no new nominations for the Citizens Award.

11. Finance

11.1 Expenditure 11/09/23 – 08/10/23

DCC	Wages	£2,214.61
The Poppy Shop	Remembrance	£99.97
Wave	Water Rates	£66.27
Microsoft	Subscription	£59.99
Gardens of Grace	Cemetery & Paths	£2,040.00
TMJ Solicitors	Pump Track	£1,724.60
Wingate PC	Summer Activities & Bingo	£1,670.20
Cllr J Grieves	Garden Vouchers	£250.00
Eon	Electricity	£38.68
L Hall	Expenses	£65.25
Cllr K Knight	Gazebo Repairs	£27.47
SLCC	Subscription	£146.00

J Manchester	Grave Digging	£50.00
Post Office	Postage	£7.65
Barclays	Fees	£6.00
		£8,466.69

11.2 Income 11/09/23 – 08/10/23

Community Fund	Pump Track Grant	£8,000.00
Various	Burial Fees	£190.00
Greig Cavey	Cottage Rent	£382.50
		£8,572.50

Bank Transfer - £8,000

11.3 Bank Balance and Reconciliation

Community Account - £11,590.30

Savings Account - £161,618.88

12. Joint Working with Wingate PC

The Citizens Advice Bureau will be at Wingate Community Centre, 9-12pm on 17th & 31st October, 14th & 28th November and 12th December.

Bingo is still running, the last Tuesday of the month at Wingate Community Centre, 11.45-1.30pm. Email the Clerk to register.

SK shared the attendees to each of the summer sessions according to where they lived. Between 10 and 20 children from the parish attended every day.

Fun with Food funding had been secured for activities during October half term. However, places were limited to 50 people.

31st October	Ark Therapies	1 - 3.30
1st November	Steves Creepy Crawlies	1 - 3.30
2nd November	MR Entertainment	1 - 3.30

13. Pump Track

13.1 Update from the Clerk

The lease was now finalised and LH had emailed the AAP and Procurement to get the project moving forward.

13.2 To review the Budget

Due to the rising cost of materials etc and the £8,000 grant obtained from the National Lottery it was proposed that the budget be increased to £100,000.

Resolved – the council agreed to increase the budget.

14. Complaint to DCC – Update from Clerk

LH had not received a response to the complaint and was liaising with CDALC re next steps and asked how far the council wished to take the matter.

Resolved – it was agreed the council wished to escalate the complaint.

15. Flower Planters

GofG had quoted £360 to have the flower planters updated for winter.

Resolved – the council agreed to this quote.

16. Parish Council Events

The council agreed to hold a family Fun day on the 7th July 2024.

17. Halloween Packs

MF requested funds to offer entertainment packs for the ½ term holiday. **Resolved** – the council agreed to a budget of £350. LH to produce a poster. The deadline to order is the 18th October with delivery on Sunday 29th October.

18. Policies & Procedures

18.1 To agree the following council policies and procedures

There were no policies or procedures to agree.

Appendix A

Did you know that 999 and 101 are not the only ways to report a crime?

Durham Constabulary have an online chat function on their website:

<https://www.durham.police.uk/Report-It/101-Live-Chat/101-Live-Chat.aspx> this facility is useful to report smaller incidents and non-urgent matters.

You can report incidents completely anonymously through Crimestoppers by phone, 0800 555 111 or online.

Anti-social behaviour can be reported via the Durham County Council Do It Online website

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/asb>

Your local Neighbourhood Warden Service deal with environmental problems and have the power to issue fixed penalty notices for environmental crimes

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/neighbourhoodwardens>

In case of an emergency, always dial 999.

Appendix B

A Youth has been referred to the ASB team and has been placed on an Anti-Social Behavior contract.

There was a total of 40 jobs rang into the Police for the month of September.

Criminal Damage x 5

Vehicle Fire x 2

Vehicle Damage x 2

Window Smashed x 1

ASB

No reports of ASB

Burglary

Residential x 1

There are ongoing investigations with the vehicle damage in the area.

There has been no reports of ASB for September.

The next PACT meeting will be held on the 15th November at Hutton Henry.