

Minutes for the Monthly Parish Meeting of Croxdale and Hett Parish Council

Wednesday 30 July 2025, 7.00 pm

Croxdale Community Centre

Parish Council Members Present:

Councillor L Griffiths (Chair), Councillor I Clark, Councillor P Kerrison, Councillor A Smith, Councillor M Walker, Councillor A Watt and Councillor I Watt.

Also Present:

No County Councillors were in attendance.

36/25. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor D Pyle, G Hollingsworth and County Councillors Blakey and Hutchinson.

37/25. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

38/25. Policing:

The Clerk shared Policing crime stats: 0 incidents being recorded for the period May 2025 within the Parish. The next PACT Meeting is on Wednesday 13 August 2025, 10.30 am, Croxdale Community Centre.

Councillor Smith raised concerns from residents of the new Police Custody Suite at Spennymoor, regarding the lack of information given to people when released, in terms of travel for example, which is seeing an increase in footfall passing through Croxdale.

Resolved: For Members' Information. Clerk to contact the Police to determine what, if any information is given to people on release to alleviate concerns to residents/members of the public.

39/25. Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

40/25. Minutes:

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 25 June 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

41/25. Matters Arising:

i. Hett Litter Pick:

DCC confirmed July's litter pick took place on 21 July 2025. Councillor I Watt commented recent litter picks have been well attended to.

Resolved: For Members' information.

ii. Hett Village Green:

Clerk provided an update following confirmation received on 3 July 2025 that a response has been received from Mr Gibson of Hewitts Solicitors and the deed of easement is now finalised. The PC Solicitor has therefore now shared a copy of the amended easement to the remaining landowner's Solicitor to determine if they want to make any changes so the land easement documentation is identical; and currently awaiting feedback.

Resolved: For Members' information.

iii. Allotments:

The following updates were provided by the Clerk:

- Tree works at the Poultry Centre were complete on 9 July 2025 – upon inspection of the trees, there were no birds nesting, therefore the works were able to be completed sooner than anticipated.
- Tree – rear of Front Street East – response was received from DCC on 13 July 2025 confirming the tree is in satisfactory condition and only requires a small number of fire damaged branches to be pruned back. The tree is to re-inspected on an annual basis via DCC as part of their tree management.
- The annual allotment/garage inspection will take place during August (date TBC).
- Repairs to wire fencing, Poultry Centre – awaiting confirmation that the works are now complete.
- In relation to garages, Clerk followed up progress with Langley Lodge Developments on 16 July 2025, regarding timescales for the garage to be demolished and currently awaiting a response.

Resolved: For Members' information. Clerk to arrange for the removal of the fire damaged tree branches when able due to potential bird nesting.

iv. Road Ownership, Rear of Front Street East, Croxdale:

Clerk queried with DCC further and a response was received on 14 July 2025 confirming that it's a popular misconception that the presence of street lighting is an indication that a street is maintained by DCC. There are many cases across the county where private streets have adopted DCC street lighting installed; this is a legacy issue and is not currently accepted practice.

Resolved: For Members' information.

v. Funding for Boulders:

Clerk confirmed an initial response was received from Tarmac on 17 July 2025; however, no further update has been received.

Resolved: For Members' information.

vi. Trustee – Hett Village Hall Association:

Councillor Griffiths confirmed this is to be raised at the next meeting of HVHA on 20 August 2025.

Resolved: For Members' information.

vii. Tree Planting Scheme:

Clerk advised a response was received from DCC on 8 July 2025 confirming a new design proposal for the scheme is currently being drafted and once approved, the PC will be consulted upon. Once details are finalised and will be proceeding, with a view for planting

this coming winter, the PC will be informed at the appropriate time. Councillor Kerrison questioned the proposed location which may be out of the Parish area.

Resolved: For Members' information.

viii. New / Replacement Bench, Salvin Street, Croxdale:

Confirmation was received that the land and bench ownership are Believe Housing responsibility who have requested costs from DCC on future repair/replacement.

Resolved: For Members' information.

ix. Planning Application: Land at Porch House Farm, East Street, Hett:

The above planning application was approved by Planning Committee on 2 July 2025. A letter from the Chairman which was addressed to the Committee was sent to Planning on 26 June 2025.

Resolved: For Members' information.

x. Browney FC:

Clerk advised Members a response was received from Browney FC on 2 July 2025 which was noted, in addition to confirmation that the container and signage are to be removed during the summer holidays. Clerk advised from August, DCC will revert to cutting the football field on a 2-week cycle (weather dependant) during the grass cutting season, up until 31 October 2025.

Resolved: For Members' information.

xi. Dog Fouling - Croxdale:

No progress update was reported from County Councillor Blakey due to her absence. Clerk advised regarding the missing stencils; via a former Parish Councillor, the dog stencils had previously broken. Clerk questioned if the PC wishes to purchase new stencils as well as spray paint, with indicative costs (via Amazon) being £17.48, plus standard delivery charges.

Resolved: The purchase of new dog stencils and spray paint were duly approved.

42/25 Parish Clerk Update / Correspondence:

(i) Parish Clerk Pay Increase – 2025/26:

Clerk advised Members agreement has been reached on the pay award for local government services employees, covering the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Resolved: For Members Information. This payment will be included from August's pay.

(ii) Post Office Limited - Front Street East:

Clerk informed Members of notification received on 18 July 2025, regarding the introduction of additional post office services at Croxdale Corner Shop. Councillors Smith and Kerrison also reported recent damage to the post box outside of the Corner Shop by a member of the public, which been reported to Royal Mail.

Resolved: For Members' information.

43/25. Financial Matters:

(i) Financial Report for the Period 1 April – 30 June 2025:

A financial update prepared by the Clerk was circulated to Members which included a detailed schedule of receipts and payments for the financial year to date and bank reconciliation to 30 June 2025. The current net bank balances totalled £70,216.76.

The following payments were approved for the period July 2025:

Parish Clerk	Clerk's Wages – July 2025	£472.59
HMRC	Tax Contributions	£118.20
Dave Dove	GDPR Email Accounts Fee – Monthly Charge	£28.00
Special Branch TS	Allotment Tree Works	£900.00
Defib Store	IPAD SP1 Defibrillator Battery	£246.00

Resolved: For Members' Information. The above payments were approved for payment.

44/25. Scheme of Works: Croxdale Cemetery Building Restoration:

Clerk prepared scheme of works for approval in relation to the restoration works in respect of the stone-built cemetery building (within the cemetery grounds) at Croxdale Cemetery. Works (as part of phase 1) included to make the building water tight in the first instance by way of roof repairs (or replacement roof as required) following assessment and new / replacement guttering.

The scheme of works was reviewed and following discussion are to be extended to include pointing works and to repair/repaint fascia's and external doors.

Resolved: The scheme of works was duly approved, subject to the additions as agreed above. Clerk to arrange for quotations to be sourced and to be considered at the next PC meeting on 24 September 2025.

45/25. Planning Issues:

The Clerk reported the Parish Council has received the following planning application(s) for consideration:

- a) DM/25/01748/FP - installation and operation of a battery energy storage system facility incorporating batteries, transformers, inverters, switch rooms, substation, water tank, other associated infrastructure plus cable ducts, fencing, access track, landscaping and drainage infrastructure – Land to the South of Hett Moor Farm, Hett.

On a separate planning matter, Councillor Griffiths reported the planning application at Hett regarding a holiday let has been refused.

Resolved: Members agreed to object to the planning application on the same grounds as per the previous planning application in relation to the installation of a battery energy storage system.

46/25. County Councillor Reports:

No County Councillors were in attendance.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

47/25. AOB:

Pothole, Hett Lane:

Councillor I Watt reported a large pothole is located on Hett Lane (from the Coach and Horses Pub) which has been marked in white paint as a deterrent, due its size which could cause significant vehicle damage if driven over. Councillor I Watt also reported incomplete works to road repairs throughout Hett.

Resolved: Clerk to report pothole to DCC accordingly.

Streetlighting Removal, Hett:

Councillor Griffiths reported feedback from residents regarding the proposals to relocate street lighting to the houses behind the Green, which are to be placed in different locations, due to the land/footpath been unadopted, which some residents are not in agreement with. Resurfacing works were also proposed to be carried out, however the works are now on hold until this is resolved. Concerns have been relayed to DCC from the PC to date and currently awaiting a response.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

48/25. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 24 September 2025 at 7.00 pm, Hett Village Hall.