

Minutes for the Monthly Parish Meeting of Croxdale and Hett Parish Council
Wednesday 25 February 2026, 7.00 pm
Croxdale Community Centre

Parish Council Members Present:

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

Also Present:

County Councillors J Blakey and G Hutchinson were in attendance.

104/25. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies of absence was received from Councillors G Hollingsworth, A Watt and County Councillor K Genner.

105/25. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

106/25. Policing:

The Clerk shared Policing crime stats: 3 incidents being recorded for the period December 2025 within the Parish. The next PACT Meeting is on Wednesday 25 March 2026, 10.30 am, Croxdale Community Centre.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

106/25. Public Participation:

There were no members of the public in attendance.

107/25. Minutes:

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 14 January 2026 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

108/25. Matters Arising:

i. Hett Litter Pick:

DCC confirmed Hett litter will take place w/c 23 February 2026. Councillor Watt raised concerns regarding the noticeable increase in litter around Hett and requested for this to be reported to DCC.

Resolved: For Members' information. Clerk to action accordingly.

ii. Hett Drainage:

Clerk confirmed no further update received from the landowner's Solicitor following queries received in December 2025; this was followed up further on 2 February 2026.

Resolved: For Members' information.

iii. Allotments:

The following updates were provided by the Clerk:

- Two tenant allotment rents are outstanding. Reminders have been issued; deadline was 31 January 2026.
- Letters to all tenants regarding fees and charges for 2027 was issued on 11 February 2026.
- Allotment skip hire was provided from 7-9 February 2026. Overall charges were £636.00 due to 28 tyres being placed in the skip which are an additional charge (£280.00).
- Letters to applicable tenants regarding the new frontage fencing at Front Street East was issued on 11 February 2026. Start date yet to be confirmed until the vacant garage is demolished. It is envisaged this could be complete by the end of the financial year.
- The recent vacant allotment at the rear of Front Street East is in the process of been re-let. No response received to date from the former tenant regarding the equipment in Councillor Pyle's shed.
- Allotment survey – this will be considered at March's meeting to consider the feedback received to date and options from other Town/Parish Councils in relation to companies used and software for allotment survey management together with costs.

Resolved: Updates For Members' information.

iv. Fencing, 23 Front Street, Croxdale:

The planning application in relation to the above was refused – no further updates have been received in respect of numbers 20/21 Front Street.

Resolved: For Members' information

v. Cemetery Building:

The application to Historic England was made on 17 February 2026 for the cemetery building to be listed.

Resolved: For Members' information

vi. Footpath, Croxdale:

Clerk confirmed this was reported to DCC on 8 February 2026 and currently awaiting a response.

Resolved: For Members' information

109/25 Parish Clerk Update / Correspondence:

i. Council Tax Notice – 2026/27:

Clerk circulated the proposed notice for circulation within the Parish outlining the PC Precept and Council Tax Setting for 2026/27. It was noted, whilst the PC has maintained the Precept, due to the Tax Base increasing from 297.4 to 306.30 it has resulted in a decrease of 2.91%; which is out of the PC control.

Resolved: For Members' Information. Clerk to circulate Notice on PC website.

ii. Croxdale Cemetery Request:

Clerk informed Members of a request received from a member of the public enquiring if a conker tree could be planted at Croxdale cemetery in memory of his dad who is terminally ill. The tree currently measures 5ft2 inches. The proposed location is the top left-hand corner of the cemetery in between two trees. There is no associated cost to the PC and no

close graves in its vicinity so would not be interfering with existing graves as well as grass cutting. A small plaque would be placed, in the future. Responsibility for the tree, once it is fully grown and established, will transfer to the PC (as is the case for the other trees within the cemetery). However, while the tree is still growing and becoming established, responsibility for its care and maintenance will remain with the family.

Resolved: The request was duly approved, Clerk to inform resident accordingly outlining stipulations regarding responsibility and if the tree is to be removed at any time in the future, to inform the PC accordingly.

110/25. Financial Matters:

(i) Financial Report for the Period 1 April – 31 January 2026:

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 31 January 2026. The current net bank balances totalled £62,380.36.

The following payments were approved for the period February 2026:

Parish Clerk	Clerk's Wages – February	£487.90
HMRC	Tax Contributions	£121.80
Dave Dove	GDPR Email Accounts Fee – Monthly Charge	£32.00
Parish Clerk	Parish Expenses: Postage Stamps	£13.92
Destro Landscapes	Cemetery Maintenance/Grass Cutting + Additional Duties	£1,578.84
Bishop Middleham Plant & Recycling Limited	Skip Hire - Allotments	£636.00

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

111/25. Scheme of Works for Approval:

(i) Removal of Garage Structure / Contents:

Clerk shared 3 quotations received in relation to the above works at the rear of Front Street East, including separate fees for the removal of the garage contents only.

Company	Fee – removal of contents & structure	Detail	Fee – removal of contents only
1)	£3,000 (max)	Empty garage contents and demolition of garage structure and removal = £2,800. Costs will vary due to additional costs per tyre (£20.00 each)	£1200 + £20 per tyre = £1300
2)	-	The garage structure would be taken down free of charge, if the PC was to arrange for the removal of the contents and skip(s) for the structure materials	-
3)	£3,600	To clear, remove and dispose of the contents and the structure	£2,520

Resolved: It was considered preferable to proceed with either Company 1 or Company 3 to ensure the works could be completed promptly and avoid any delays to the allotment fencing. Company 1 provided the most competitive quotation in terms of cost and was therefore successful in securing the works.

(ii) Croxdale Cemetery Fencing:

A quotation was received from a contractor who previously carried out fencing works at Croxdale and Hett Cemeteries. The cost to repair the damaged fencing was £983.93 (exc VAT).

Additional repair works was identified as part of their assessment at a cost of £562.25 (exc VAT). These repairs run perpendicular to the original repairs identified initially and parallel to the cemetery entrance from the A167.

Resolved: Both repair works was duly approved; Clerk to inform contractor accordingly in order for the works to be scheduled and to advise the farmer of the proposed start date for information.

(iii) Cemetery Building General Maintenance:

The cemetery maintenance contractor provided a quotation to clear the guttering at a cost of £40.00 to help with the appearance of the building in the interim, whilst the roof/building restoration works were on hold.

Resolved: The additional expenditure was approved in terms of cemetery maintenance and are to be carried out as soon as practical.

112/25. Croxdale Inn Car Park Rental Agreement – 2026/27:

Councillor Pyle proposed that the agreement with the current tenant for the rental of the car park be withdrawn and that the area instead be made available to allotment holders for the communal storage of materials.

A vote was then taken on whether to continue renting the car park to the existing tenant. The majority (5) voted in favour of retaining the current arrangements.

It was further proposed that the rental fee be increased by 3% (in line with inflation), rising from £775.00 to £790.00.

Resolved: To continue with the rental of the car park, subject to an annual review, at a revised fee of £790.00 for 2026/27. The Clerk is to notify the owner of the Croxdale Inn of the new charges. Subject to the tenant's agreement to the revised fee and their decision to rent the car park for 2026/27, a reminder will be issued confirming that allotment holders may use the car park if desired, with appropriate signage provided. Allotment holders may continue to use the car park for the short-term storage of materials.

113/25. Planning Issues:

No new planning applications was discussed/received.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

114/25. County Councillor Reports:

County Councillors Blakey and Hutchinson provided an update in relation to – the new food waste collection service, fly-tipping incident at Hett, (which has been actioned) and budget updates in relation to council tax increase for 2026/27 and reduction in neighbourhood wardens as efficiency savings.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

115/25. AOB:

Rear of Front East, Croxdale:

Councillor Pyle reported recent suspicious activity to the rear of Front Street East involving a male member of the public who was defecating in the area; which was reported to the Police.

Resolved: For Members' Information.

Hett Hedge Cutting:

Councillor Watt requested a letter be issued to Mr Layfield who carried out this year's hedge cutting at Hett, free of charge.

Resolved: Clerk to issue letter accordingly.

Croxdale Cemetery:

Councillor Walker reported feedback from a resident regarding damage to their marble headstone/surround which may have been as a result of grass cutting, undertaken last year.

Resolved: Clerk to inform cemetery maintenance contractor of the feedback.

Cherry Tree:

Councillor Kerrison raised if the planting of cherry trees which was requested a number of years ago would be actioned to County Councillors.

Resolved: Due to the timescales of the initial request, this would be unlikely at the current time.

Road Plainings, Hett:

Councillor Watt requested if further road plainings could be available in the car park at Hett Village Hall.

Resolved: County Councillor Blakey agreed to action.

116/25. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 25 March 2026 at 7.00 pm, Hett Village Hall.