

MINUTES OF CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: **NOVEMBER 2017**

PRESENTATION

Prior to the commencement of the meeting there was a training session presented by staff of Durham County Council on the Code of Conduct for Councillors. Councillors from outside of Cornforth attended to take advantage of this session. In order to assist Members, the latest CDALC Model Code of Conduct was enclosed with the papers. The councillors received a copy of the papers used in the presentation. At the close of the presentation, the Chairman and Members thanked the staff.

THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

Minutes of the Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 13th November 2017.

Present: Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson and

Councillors: Mr. C. Baker, Mrs. H. P. Drew, Dr. S. C. Drew, Mrs. J. Grafton, Mr. C. Hodgson, Mrs. M. Poole, Mr. R. Poole, Mr. M. Simpson, Mrs. S. Traynor, Mrs. M. Walker and Mrs. A. Wilson.

Apologies: Councillor: Mrs. P. Crathorne, Mr. J. Grafton and Mr. R. Vaughan

1. **INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

The above apologies were received.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made with regard to any items on the agenda.

3. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 2nd and 9th October 2017, which were circulated with the agenda were approved and signed by the Chairman. The one exception noted was that Councillor Mrs. S. Traynor attended the 2nd October meeting but was absent from the meeting held on 9th October 2017.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ON THE AGENDA**

There were no items arising that were not included on this agenda.

5. **POLICE LIAISON**

The Vice Chairman reported on the PACT meeting held on 1st November 2017. The figures presented covered two months. There were 18 reported incidents of anti-social behaviour, 10 of which related to the use of quad bikes on the Stobbs Cross field. Warnings were given and a bike was confiscated; the bikers changed location. There were 2 incidents related to alcohol and domestic abuse in the Chester Crescent area. A family moved out and the situation is now quiet.

5. POLICE LIAISON (CONT'D)

There were no burglaries, some minor theft of garden ornaments, and an incident of criminal damage. The PACT priority will be the Stobbs Cross area. The next meeting will be held on the second Wednesday in January 2018.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Chairman had attended three memorial services in remembrance of Armistice Day, at the school, Tursdale, and in the High Street in the previous week. All had been well attended. Ferryhill Town Council is to hold a charity quiz night and a Civic Carol Service on 11th December 2017.

8. AAP ISSUES

The Chief Executive of Durham County Council gave the last AAP meeting a presentation on the level of cuts facing the County Council seeking feedback on the options. The LCTSS would continue for another year, but would end in 2020, pending any announcement on a replacement scheme.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

Our County Council representative, Mrs. P. Crathorne, submitted a report read by the Chairman. The County Council would need to make cuts of £19M in 2018/19 and has launched a consultation programme seeking resident's views. New housing allocation figures from the Government will allow the County to make progress on the County Durham Plan. The Teaching Assistants have accepted the revised terms of the County Council. New Boundary Changes have been posted on the web-site, but Parliament has yet to vote on them.

The Chairman read out a paper from the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner on paying for policing.

10. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS FROM DURHAM COUNTY'S WEEKLY LISTS.

The Clerk reported that at the time of the despatch of this agenda, which included applications up to and including 30th October 2017 no applications had been received by Durham County Council which were of interest to Cornforth Parish Council.

However, the following application had been approved which related to development in the Parish:

- i) DM/17/02921/FPA – Miss Aaleyah-Jae Clarke – 2 Ash Terrace, Cornforth – single storey extension to the rear.

The decision was noted.

11. ALLOTMENTS.

A Member had asked that this item be included on the agenda. The Clerk reported that he had instructed the ground maintenance contractor to spray the allotments affected by asbestos with herbicide and remove the material as soon as it is safe to do so. Tenants had expressed concerns about safety issues related to the remaining structures. Members agreed to remove the remaining sheds as soon as safely possible. It was agreed to suspend all lettings until after this work had been carried out.

A tenant had complained about the lack of access to his allotments. This had since been resolved, but the change in tenancies by the end of February 2018 would allow the Parish Council the ability to improve access and revise plot boundaries. Members agreed to call a meeting of the Allotments Sub Committee to discuss the situation. In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to write to the police and DCC about fly-tipping opposite Mr. Watson's plot.

12. TRAINING FOR MEMBERS ON GDPR.

The Clerk reported that CDALC had organised a training seminar on the General Data Protection Regulations, which come into force next May. The training was held in Spennymoor Town Hall on 1st November 2017 and most of our Councillors attended this session or had received training elsewhere. The new Regulations, an EU initiative, are essential to cope with data protection in the current climate of cyber-crime and data loss. The Regulations will apply to this Parish Council and to all bodies holding data, both electronically and in hard copy. However, the Regulations cover such a wide range of organisations, from multi-national companies to the smallest voluntary groups, that it is unclear how a small Parish Council will be expected to respond. It seems likely that we will have to take group action to ensure compliance and access the correct level of expertise. NALC will be advising all Town and Parish Councils following their planned meetings and CDALC will keep us advised. The Clerk undertook to keep the Council informed of progress.

13. CORNFORTH CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.

A Member has asked that this item be placed on the agenda. The closure of the Church Hall had caused difficulties for a group of mothers in that had planned a children's Christmas party at that venue. There were problems in finding another venue both for the party and for fund raising. Members debated alternative locations and organisers, but concluded that at this late stage there was little the Parish Council could do. It was agreed that through the Recreation and Amenities group and with the involvement of local parents and Cornforth Partnership the matter should be addressed in June/July 2018.

14. PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD AT THE OVAL.

Members were advised that a board had been acquired and would be erected on the shop wall at The Oval. Councillor Mrs. A. Wilson has kindly agreed to manage the display of material on the board. After discussion on the parameters and rules governing the content of what is to be displayed, Councillor Mrs. Wilson should liaise with the Clerk and agree individual requests.

15. THE SEDGEFIELD CHARITY.

Members were advised that Councillor Mrs. S. Traynor, who serves on the Sedgefield Charity, wishes to give up her involvement. The charity meets 2 to 3 times a year and the village representative need not be a Parish Councillor. The matter is to be placed on the December agenda, giving further time for consideration by potential replacements.

16. MAYS' PROPERTIES IN CORNFORTH.

Members were advised that the three properties owned by the Mays family have given cause for concern for many years and the matter could not be resolved as they were the subject of probate. The properties comprise a shop in the High Street and two houses in Glebe Villas. It is understood that entitlement has been finalised, but nothing has since been done to improve them. Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne had already approached the County Council to press the owner to take action. It was agreed to place the item on December's agenda in order to the County Council time to respond.

17. TURSDALE WAR MEMORIAL.

The Clerk advised Members that the statue is now complete. The final tranche of grant from Tarmac is dependent upon the statue being put into position. The grant needs to be claimed by the end of the 2017/18 financial year. Arrangements have therefore been made with Mr. Lonsdale for the erection of the statue early in 2018, the Centenary Year of the end of the First World War. An application to clean the plinth, replace lettering and improve stone work is with the War Memorials Trust. Their next quarterly meeting is at the end of November. Enquiries have been made about a suitable and significant date for an unveiling/dedication ceremony. Members asked that our Member for Parliament be included in any guest list for an unveiling. The Clerk will keep Members advised of progress and the matter will be discussed again in December.

18. MEMORIAL PARK ACCESS GATE.

The Clerk advised that the gate used by the ground maintenance contractor to access the Memorial Park had been vandalised. The Chairman and the Clerk repaired it, only for the gate to be stolen a week later, (in the first week in November 2017). The police have been advised. The contractor can still gain access, although he does tend to come in across land to the south. Measures need to be taken to stop children running through the gap and into the road and then to find a permanent solution to the problem Members' views were sought. It was agreed that immediate steps be taken to close the gap on a temporary basis, whilst alternatives were considered and priced.

19. TARMAC CONSULTATION ON WORKING CORNFORTH QUARRIES.

Members were informed that Tarmac had carried out a public consultation exercise on their future working of the Thrislington and Cornforth Quarries. The Chairman and Clerk had attended the exhibition held on 11th November 2017 and reported their concerns to the meeting.

19. CONSULTATION ON WORKING CORNFORTH QUARRIES.(CONT'D)

The Council felt it a matter of concern that the owners proposed to quarry road stone from Cornforth Quarry West rather than Cornforth Quarry East as previously agreed. The Council agreed to write to both the owners and the County Council suggesting that the existing phasing be adhered to.

20. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

i) BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENTS – POSITION AT 31st OCTOBER 2017.

It was noted that bank statement for October had not been received and the bank reconciliation statement for this period would need to be circulated at the next meeting.

ii) SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS TO 31st OCTOBER 2017.

Receipts		£	Cheque No.
H.M.R.& C.	VAT Claim	14,794.21	
Payments			
Graphic Pavement Signs	Notice board	250.94	847
Altogether Greener	Period 4 No additions	2,648.60	848
Altogether Greener	Period 6 No additions	2,648.60	849
R. A. Sunman	Allowances (September)	94.73	850
Cornforth Partnership	Room hire £360.00 Photocopying £17.85 Poop bags £231.40 Summer edition of The Partner £127.12 Office supplies £43.87 Website £145.20	925.44	851
NWA Business	Allotment water	95.00	852
Seventeen (café)	Poppy event catering	100.00	853
BDO Llp	External audit	480.00	854
Wrights Stems	100 th birthday bouquet	40.00	855
Cornforth Partnership	Donation to core costs	6,000.00	856
R. A. Sunman	Salary	666.10	S/O
	Expenditure	13,949.41	
	Net Expenditure	(844.80)	

The schedule was approved. It was agreed that the use of poop scoop bags be discussed at the January meeting.

At the close of the meeting Members were asked if they had any items for inclusion on a future agenda.

- i) It was agreed that following the recent training the next meeting should adopt the revised Code of Conduct for Members.

To all Members of the Parish Council.

Yours Sincerely, Ray Sunman, Parish Clerk: 14th November 2017.

Signed: **Dated:**