

MINUTES OF CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: **SEPTEMBER 2018**

Minutes of the Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 10th September 2018.

Prior to the meeting Mrs. Burrows of Durham Community Action gave a presentation to Members on the creation of a Community Plan. Documents accompanying the presentation were given out for future reference. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Burrows for her assistance.

Present: Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson and

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

Apologies: Councillors: Mrs. S. Traynor and Mr. R. Vaughan.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The above apologies were accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made in respect of any item on the agenda.

3. MINUTES

The revised Minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2018 and the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th July, which had been circulated with the agenda, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no matters arising that did not appear on the agenda.

5. POLICE LIAISON

The Chairman and Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne had attended the latest PACT meeting. The issues of speeding around Salisbury Crescent had been noted. Verdun Terrace was to remain the police priority area.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents were in attendance at the meeting and asked to speak on the following issues:

- i) Speeding around the Oval and Salisbury Crescent - Councillors Mrs. M. Walker and P. Crathorne had both looked into the matter. The County Council as highway authority had no reported accidents or police reports and as a result action could not be taken. Residents were advised to attend

- the November PACT meeting and ask the police to monitor the situation and perhaps initiate a community speed watch scheme.
- ii) The condition of gardens and houses in Salisbury Crescent. The residents were grateful that the Chairman and Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne, acting as our County Council representative, had taken action and arranged a walkabout. The County Council would be taking action on those properties owned by private landlords, but some owned by Livin' were equally poor. Action had been promised by Livin', but the officer with that responsibility had not attended the walkabout.

The Clerk was asked to write to our MP supporting his private members bill on controlling private landlords.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Chairman reported that Cornforth Partnership had held a successful McMillan Day and that the Annual Village Show had been excellent.

8. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman reported that the recent meeting had included discussion on the need for £10M in cuts from the DCC budget; this needed public input. The AAP has £100K for bids across the various areas. At the close of the bidding process about 20 schemes had been put forward totalling £232K. A panel of seven members with no interest in any of the bids would rank them and they would then be considered by the Board.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES.

Our County Council representative, Mrs. P. Crathorne, reported that the Japanese knotweed reported around the Livin' garages had been treated. The rear lane to Roberts Square had been cleared. The problem between neighbours at Chester Crescent had been resolved as one party had moved away. Solicitors had found the heirs to the two properties in Glebe Villas, but they would not take responsibility for the overgrown gardens. It was felt that the County Council should still act.

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

The schedules of planning applications received by Durham County Council, up to and including 3rd September 2018, had shown the following proposals for development within Cornforth Parish:

- i) DM/18/02473/FPA – Mr. Aslam – 25 High Street, Cornforth – change of use of retail unit (A1) to two units, comprising a hot food take-away (A5) and retail (A1). No type of hot food had been specified. Members supported the proposal but asked that parking and the hours of operation be considered carefully.

10. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS FROM DURHAM COUNTY'S WEEKLY LISTS (CONT'D).

- ii) DM/18/02459/FPA – Mr. J. Lowe – 1 The Oval, Cornforth – single storey side /rear garage extension and vehicle crossing. (A1). Members resolved not to comment.
- iii) DM/18/01805/FPA – Mr. and Mrs. Jones – Holy Trinity Church Hall, High street, Cornforth – demolition of existing parish hall and the erection of four new dwellings and associated parking. Members felt access could be a problem and asked that any demolition be linked to landscape treatment within six months should the development be delayed.
- iv) DM/18/01987/WAS – Veolia – Veolia Transfer Station, Garmondsway, Cornforth – installation and operation of a vehicle wash water recycling facility, with a water tank, associated pump house and fuel tank. Members resolved to make no comments.

It was noted that the County Council has made no decisions on planning applications within the Parish since the last meeting.

11. WOODLAND MANAGEMENT.

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council is to carry out an extensive programme of woodland management across the County. Two areas of woodland in County Council ownership will be affected within the Parish. A small area adjoining Thrislington Quarry and a larger area of Cornforth Woods, adjoining the east-coast main railway line, will be the subject of selective thinning. Members resolved not to comment on the proposals.

12. ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE.

The Clerk reported that the Allotment Committee met on 23rd July 2018 and held discussions on the following issues:

- i) Removal of asbestos- the Parish Council's ground maintenance contractor attended the meeting. The asbestos consultant reported a low asbestos risk after samples were taken. NE Reclamation was chosen as the tenderer. A waste transfer certificate was issued after disposal. The work was supervised daily. Mr. Riddell will look further into concerns that asbestos was buried on site, but it was not clear who had dug out pits, or when or what had been put in them. This matter will be resolved prior to the next round of lettings in 2019. Councillor Mrs. M. Walker asked that the asbestos waste transfer certificate be made available to her in Cornforth House on Thursday next. This was agreed
- ii) The Clerk will write to all prospective lessees to see if they are still interested in becoming tenants and advising them that their selection will be subject to interview. The letter will also cover GDPR issues.
- iii) Draft questions to be put to interviewees were agreed along with guidelines/tenancy issues to be sent to them.

- iv) As the growing season was drawing to a close, the above items would be progressed during the autumn and winter.
- v) It was noted that three tenants still owed their rent and that the Clerk would progress this matter. Where they do not wish to continue, the tenants will be asked to remove all structures.
- vi) Durham County Council is reviewing its holding of allotments, of which there are 32 plots in Cornforth. It is seeking the views of all Town and Parish Councils in the County, by 12th October 2018, on the transfer of County allotments to them. It was agreed at the Allotment meeting to refer this matter to the September Parish Council meeting.

The above matters were agreed by the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to reply to the County Council on its review. The Parish Council then discussed the possibility of taking over the County allotments. Councillors Mrs. M. Walker and Mr. P Metcalfe argued in favour of transfer, but others raised management issues. The matter was put to a vote. The majority of members voted against the transfer, with Councillor Metcalfe voting in favour and three abstaining.

13. NEW LITTER BIN AT THE SURGERY.

The Clerk had asked the County Council to provide a quote for a new bin, but the matter had not been progressed.

14. GRASS CUTTING.

At the last meeting complaints had been received about the height of grass in some parts of the cemetery and about grass in the verges around the seat in Garmondsway Road. Members noted that the former complaint has been dealt with by our contractor and the latter referred to the County Council.

15. COUNTY DURHAM PLAN PREFERRED OPTIONS – CONSULTATION.

In accordance with Members wishes objections have been lodged with the County Council seeking changes to the notation on the plan showing the village as an area for mineral extraction and waste disposal and seeking changes to the plan to promote housing and regeneration within it. The Chairman read out his personal response to the County Council claiming discrimination against the less prosperous villages. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Livin' inviting officers to a meeting of the Parish Council to discuss housing development on its land in Cornforth and the condition of its vacant properties.

16. ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS AT THE OVAL AND SALISBURY ROAD.

This item had been covered under item 6 of the agenda.

17. VACANT HOUSES AND OVERGROWN GARDENS AT SALISBURY CRESCENT.

Following complaints about the above issue, the matter was raised with the County Council. The matter was reported under item 6 of the agenda.

18. INSPECTION OF EQUIPMENT AT THE MEMORIAL PARK.

An order has been sent to RoSPA to carry out an accompanied inspection of our equipment. No date had been set by them at the time of the meeting.

19. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

i) SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS TO 31st AUGUST 2018.

| Receipts | | £ | Cheque No. |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|------------|
| | | | |
| NIL | | | |
| | | | |
| Payments | | | |
| | | | |
| Cornforth Library | Contribution to sessions | 700.00 | 917 |
| Altogether Greener | Ground maintenance (period 2) | 2,648.60 | 918 |
| Altogether Greener | Ground maintenance (period 3) | 2,648.60 | 919 |
| Durham County Council | Parish Poll election charges | 1,483.63 | 920 |
| The Cornforth Partnership | Room hire £320 | 634.56 | 921 |
| | Photocopying £96.50 | | |
| | Web maintenance £218.06 | | |
| R. A. Sunman | Allowances and expenses (July) | 112.18 | 922 |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary (July) | 666.10 | S/O |
| H. M. R. & Customs | Tax and N.I.C. | 588.82 | 923 |
| Gordon Fletcher | Accountancy fee | 250.00 | 924 |
| Cornforth Village Show | Contribution | 1,000.00 | 925 |
| R. A. Sunman | Allowances and expenses (Aug) | 97.07 | 926 |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary (Aug) | 666.10 | S/O |
| Zurich Municipal | Insurance 2018/19 (replacement for cheque No.912) | 2,922.89 | 927 |
| Altogether Greener | Ground maintenance (period 4) | 2,648.60 | 928 |
| | | | |
| | Total Expenditure | 17,067.15 | |
| | | | |
| | Net Expenditure | 17,067.15 | |

The schedule was approved.

ii) BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENTS – POSITION AT 31st JULY 2018.

The statement for the period ending 31st July was attached with the agenda. At the time of the despatch of this agenda no bank statement had been received for August 2018. The bank reconciliation statement for that period was therefore circulated at the meeting. Both statements were received.

NOTE: At the close of the meeting Members were asked if they had any items for inclusion on a future agenda. The following matters were requested.

- i) It had been noted that Arriva had applied to amend the route of the No. 56 bus by the end of September 2018, by not going round by Garmondsway Road and Lichfield Road. As any discussion on this matter at the October meeting would be ineffective, the Clerk was asked to act to object to the amendment, which would miss out many elderly people.
- ii) The Community Plan – to discuss the papers left by DCA.
- iii) The creation of a Finance Committee – this was a specific request from Councillor Mrs. M. Walker. The Clerk would agenda the item if Standing Orders allowed.

To all Members of the Parish Council.

Yours Sincerely, Ray Sunman, Parish Clerk: 19th September 2018.

Signed:

Dated: