

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

Minutes of the Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 9th July 2018.

Present: Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson and

Councillors: Mr. C. Baker, Mrs. P. Crathorne, 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. H. P. Drew, Dr. S. C. Drew, 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 Minutes of the meetings held on 11th and 25th June 2018, which had been circulated with the agenda, were discussed. Mrs. M. Walker asked that the minutes of 11th June 2018 be amended by the inclusion of the reasons behind the Parish Council being the body making the application to Awards for All (item 14). This was agreed and the minutes were approved with this amendment 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

Councillor Mrs. J. Grafton reported on the latest PACT meeting.

There had been 42 incidents reported.

There had been four thefts; a bicycle had been stolen from Garmondsway Road, cable had been taken from the High Street, drinks had been stolen from the Premier Inn and gates had been stolen from a property in Hawthorne Terrace.

There had been two issues of criminal damage; fencing had been broken in Elvet Close and a vehicle had been damaged in Lichfield Road.

There had been one incident of assault by a person known to the police.

Residents in Barratt Way were being pestered by a gang of young children. Mary Hodgson, our Police Community Support Officer, was making this a PACT priority and suggested a regeneration group be formed. Because of the ages of the children involved, residents were going to speak to the head-teacher of the village school.

5. POLICE LIAISON (CONT'D).

The problem of off-road bikers remains a major issue for residents in the Garmondsway Road area. Two off road bikers had been issued with court orders. Mary Hodgson had asked the quarry owners for boulders to restrict access, but no action had yet been taken. This would remain a priority. At this point Mary Hobson joined the meeting and was able to aid discussion on item 6.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were four residents in attendance at the meeting and one asked to speak on the issue of off-road bikes. This was a major problem and he was pleased that the issue was already being addressed. They were a danger, both to themselves and other road users as they drove recklessly through the village. Mary Hobson advised that one biker would be going to court and several had been warned. The traffic and bike sections were already aware of the problem. Obstructions to the quarry area wouldn't stop everyone and she was going to ask Cornforth Partnership if it could find an outlet for this group, on courses or on areas outside of the village.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter through Cornforth Partnership about the availability of grants to help commemorate the Centenary of Armistice Day. A fund raising event was being held by the British Legion on 16th July, which would help the village qualify for the grants. The Clerk was instructed to look into the terms of the grants and make a n application if possible.

8. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman reported that the recent meeting had been dominated by the issue of the new County Durham Plan. The plan again ignored all villages outside of the central corridor of the county, proposed no regeneration of them and, by concentrating on housing development in the so-called sustainable villages, consigned others to decline.

A presentation would be held on 16th July in the Dene Bank Centre, Ferryhill, from 4pm to 7pm. Members were urged to attend.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES.

Our County Council representative, Mrs. P. Crathorne, reported that at County level much time had been expended on the County Plan issue. Locally, the dog bins had been put in, the garage area cleared up, anti-social behaviour in Chester Crescent had been addressed and the problem of rubbish in the back street of Roberts Square had been dealt with. A copy of the new Durham County Plan had been left in Cornforth House and could be inspected there.

County Councillor Mrs. Crathorne also discussed the issue of a number of overgrown gardens in the Salisbury Crescent area with a resident who attended the meeting.

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

The Clerk reported that the schedules of planning applications received by Durham County Council, up to and including 2nd July 2018, included no proposals for development within Cornforth Parish. The schedule of decisions made by the County Council showed the following:

- i) DM/18/00524/FPA – Mrs. B. Andrews – 22 The Green, Cornforth – Replacement of upvc bow windows at the front with upvc sash windows.

11. PARISH PLAN.

A letter from Cornforth Residents' Association had been enclosed for information, setting out its intention to commence the process leading to the formulation of a Parish Plan. In addition, a copy of a second letter from the Secretary was circulated at the meeting. The Clerk had carried out a level of research and been in contact with Durham Community Association, which has assisted in the creation of a number of such plans. It was agreed that, in order that all Members understand the processes involved, the Community Association be invited to give a presentation and illustrate it with examples of completed plans at the September meeting.

12. ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE.

As it had not proved possible to call a meeting of the Allotment Committee prior to this Parish Council, it was agreed that the Clerk arrange a meeting during the recess with a view to reporting to the September meeting. Dates of 23rd or 30th July 2018 were agreed. The Clerk reported that he had discussed the claim of asbestos being buried on the site with our ground maintenance contractor. That the material buried was broken concrete was not accepted by Councillor Metcalfe.

13. NEW LITTER BIN AT THE SURGERY.

The County Council had been asked to provide a quote for a new bin. When received, Members agreed that it be installed during the recess.

14. GRASS CUTTING.

The Clerk reported that the complaint received about the height of grass in some parts of the cemetery had been addressed through our contractor. The issue of grass in the verges around the seat in Garmondsway Road had been referred to the County Council.

15. COUNTY DURHAM PLAN PREFERRED OPTIONS – CONSULTATION.

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had published its new County Plan. The consultation period ends on 3rd August 2018. A copy of the Plan can be inspected in Cornforth House. There is little mention of Cornforth, except to show it as an area for the extraction of minerals and for waste disposal. The main focus of the plan is for development of Durham's central corridor, at the expense of any other areas and with no mention of regeneration. Members agreed to object to the plan, asking that the village be excluded from the mineral extraction/waste disposal notation shown in the plan. It was felt that concentrating on housing development in the central corridor adversely affected the sustainability of this village, particularly with no regeneration mentioned. The Clerk was asked to frame a response to this end, telling the County Council where land was available for housing in the village. In addition, a meeting was to be sought with Livin' to persuade them to build three bedroomed family housing on its land in Cornforth.

16. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

i) REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Cornforth Library for £700 to support the summer programme of events for children and families. Following clarification through our County Councillor that the sessions we support would be provided free of charge, it was agreed that the Parish Council approve the cost.

ii) SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS TO 30th JUNE 2018.

Receipts		£	Cheque No.
Northern Electric	Way leave payment	31.69	
Tarmac	Tursdale memorial statue	3,500.00	
Durham County Council	Precept and LCTSS	102,939.00	
	Total Income	106,470.69	
Payments			
Altogether Greener	Payment of under paid invoice 2017/18	180.00	909
Altogether Greener	Period 11 for 2017/18	2,648.60	911
Altogether Greener	Period 1 for 2018/189	2,648.60	910
Zurich Municipal	Insurance	2,661.92	912
Cheque cancelled			913
R. A. Sunman	Allowances	89.93	914
Thrislington Banner Group	Financial Support 2018/19	500.00	915
Lumalite	Christmas Tree	807.02	916
R. A. Sunman	Salary	666.10	S/O
	Total Expenditure	10,202.17	
	Net Income	96,268.52	

Recommendation: That the schedule be approved.

16. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

iii) BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENTS – POSITION AT 30th JUNE 2018.

The bank reconciliation statement for the above period was circulated at the meeting and 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) To discuss the findings made during the recess on the condition of equipment in the Memorial Park and to progress the refurbishment and development of it.
- ii) To report the outcome of the Allotment Committee meeting.

To all Members of the Parish Council.

Yours Sincerely, Ray Sunman, Parish Clerk: 10th July 2018.

Signed:

Dated: