

MINUTES OF CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: **JANUARY 2019**

Minutes of the Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 14th January 2019.

Prior to the meeting, the Chairman asked those present if anyone other than the Clerk was going to record the meeting. No one disclosed their intention to do so.

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. P. Metcalfe, Mrs. M. Poole, Mr. R. Poole, Mrs. S. Traynor, Mr. R. Vaughan and Mrs. M. Walker.

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. C. Hodgson and Mr. M. Simpson.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The above apologies were accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th December, which had been circulated with the agenda, were approved with the amendment that Councillor C. Baker had attended the meeting and, thereafter, signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no matters arising which were not covered on the agenda.

5. POLICE LIAISON

The Vice Chairman reported that there the PACT meeting received a report that there had been 12 anti-social behaviour incidents, related to rowdy parties. There had been 4 suspected burglaries, but nothing had been taken. There had been 8 reported assaults, due to disputes amongst friends. There were no reports of criminal damage. A problem had been reported with regard to 11-13 year olds in Maughan Close; this was to be a police priority area. Councillor Mrs. Grafton added that this problems extended to the Parish Council allotments. The police were to be advised about damage to the allotment bridge. The trailer beneath the railway-bridge and parking up to Money's Buildings had been reported. The PACT meeting dates might change to accommodate police shift working.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The resident in attendance at the meeting spoke about the continued problem of litter in the village. It was hoped that this could be addressed during the County Council's "spruce-up" programme starting shortly.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The following item had been received by the Clerk:

- i) an email from Mrs. Wilson drawing the Council's attention to the need to improve and update the website and the ICO guidance on its content. Councillor Mrs. Crathorne was still working with Mr. Cooke on improving the website, but he had been absent from work of late.

8. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman advised that he had attended the last AAP meeting, but that 2 public representatives were required to serve upon it. Councillor Mrs. J. Grafton volunteered.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

Our County Council representative reported that Durham County Council would be going ahead on the Oswald House proposals.

The Council still had to make £39.5 savings over the next 4 years.

The County Plan had been to Cabinet and would go out to public consultation.

The Slake Terrace application had been called in and the County advised of the culvert beneath it. The plans were likely to be amended.

Work on the web site was nearing a conclusion, but it is possible we may seek County Council help.

The County Council had re-consulted of the issue of reducing street lighting around Tursdale. The Clerk was asked to object on the same grounds as previously.

The launch of "Spruce-up" was to be on 28th January 2019 and last a month. Action had been requested at Poplar Terrace, Salisbury garages, the wall opposite Cornforth House, the trees in Robert's Square, the shrubs by the chemist's shop, on empty shops and on the County's land at Thrislington Villas. Mrs. Crathorne would raise the encroachment on the highway at Money's Buildings as a separate issue.

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 7th January 2019, showed no proposals for development within Cornforth Parish.

The County Council has made the following decisions on planning applications within the Parish since the last meeting.

- i) DM/18/01987/WAS – Veolia Waste Transfer Station, Garmondsway Road – Install and operate a vehicle wash water recycling facility, water tank and associated pump house and fuel tank

- ii) DM/18/02733/FPA – Mr. B. Midgley – 9 Maple Grove – Single storey side extension.

11. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER.

Further to the item reported at the December meeting, the Clerk advised that the Monitoring Officer had reported with regard to the complaint made to him. The complaint was made by Councillor Mrs. M. Walker concerning the alleged conduct of Councillor A. Hodgson and Mrs. P. Crathorne at the Parish Council meeting held on 8th October 2018. The decision made was that no further action be taken in respect of the complaint relating to lack of respect and bullying/intimidation. It was further recommended that all Councillors undertake training in general conduct at meetings. The alleged failure of Councillor Hodgson in not declaring an interest on the issue of the making of an application to “Awards For All” was to be investigated further. Councillor Mrs. Crathorne apologised to Councillor Mrs. Walker for her conduct at the October meeting.

12. MEETING WITH LIVIN’.

The follow-up meeting in the village with Livin’ staff, deferred because of the Christmas break, has been rearranged for 2pm. on 28th January 2019. All Members are invited to attend.

13. MEMORIAL PARK.

The Clerk has arranged a meeting with Durham County Council for 9am on 21st January 2019 in the park. In the meantime, he asked Members to consider the level at which they may wish to commit monies for improvements to the park from the Council's reserves when they set the budget later this month.

14. TREE SURVEY.

The Clerk had asked “All About Trees” to quote for an electronic survey of the large ash tree on The Green. This a repeat of an earlier piece of work. The company has also been sent plans of land on which this Council has responsibility for the trees and asked for a quote for survey work following advice from our insurers.

13. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

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

Receipts		£	Cheque No.
NIL			
Payments			
Lumalite	Christmas tree	783.29	943
H.M.R. & Customs	Tax and N.I.C.	396.06	944
Cornforth Partnership	Awards for All (November)	575.43	945
Cornforth Partnership	Contribution	6,000.00	946
Panto Co. UK	Pantomime payment	690.00	947
Playsafety Ltd	RoSPA survey	270.00	948
Premier Traffic Management	Road closures for Remembrance Sunday	456.00	949
R. A. Sunman	Allowances	77.38	950
R. A. Sunman	Salary	666.10	S/O
	Net Expenditure	9,914.26	

Recommendation: That the schedule be approved.

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

At the time of the despatch of this agenda no bank statement had been received for December 2018. The bank reconciliation statement for that period was therefore circulated at the meeting. After discussion it was agreed and signed by the Chairman and Councillor Mrs. Poole, in accordance with item 17 c of the Financial Regulations.

iii) SECTION 137 LGA 1972 2019/20.

The Ministry of housing, Communities and Local Government has advised that the appropriate section 137 for Parish Councils is £8.12 per head. This Parish Council budgets for a figure of £10,000 in a financial year, well below this figure.

iv) BUDGET MEETING 2019/20.

Members are reminded that a meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7pm on 21st January 2019 to set a budget and the precept for 2019/20.

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

- i) That the February meeting would be preceded by a meeting of the Allotment Sub Committee, to agree an agenda for a meeting with the tenants.
- ii) That a meeting of the Christmas Lights Group be held to discuss improving the tree at the Community Centre and investigating the possibility of a tree at the school.

To all Members of the Parish Council.

Yours Sincerely,
Ray Sunman, Parish Clerk: 18th January 2019.

Signed:

Dated: