**MINUTES OF CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

**JANUARY 2021**

Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at 7.00pm Monday 18th January 2021.

Present: Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson and

Councillors: Mrs. P. Crathorne, Mrs. H.P. Drew, Dr. S. C Drew, Mr. P. Metcalfe, Mrs. M. Poole and Mr. R. Poole.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for all other Councillors who had chosen not to take part in a remote meeting or who could not take part for technical reasons.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in relation to any items on the agenda.

3. MINUTES

Members confirmed as a true record the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2020, circulated with the agenda.

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

There were no items arising from the previous minutes that were not included on this agenda.

5. POLICE LIAISON

The Vice Chairman reported that there were no issues arising from PACT meetings to report.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Ferryhill Town Council seeking our support with regard to the Leemside railway line and the reopening of Ferryhill station. The Members resolved to support the proposals.

8. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman reported that 20 projects had been considered by the AAP. Cornforth Partnership had been successful in getting its two projects approved, including the refurbishment of its headquarters.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

Our County Council representative reported that Public Health England had recorded a lowering of Covid cases in the County, but the current measures were to remain in place. May’s shop is now up for auction. Quad bikes had proved a problem in the village; wardens had been advised and photos sent as evidence. The County Council had been advised of and dealt with incidents of fly tipping in the highway; issues on private land had been referred to the landowners for action.

County Councillor Crathorne advised that a recent planning application had been received for the development of the former Church Hall. Members considered the current proposals to be over intensive development and asked the Clerk to advise the County Council of those views.

10. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS FROM DURHAM COUNTY’S WEEKLYLISTS.

With exception of the above proposed development, at the time of the despatch of this agenda, which included applications lodged, up to and including 11th January 2021, no other applications had been received by Durham County Council, which were of interest to the Parish Council, nor had any decisions been made.

11. REFURBISHMENT OF THE MEMORIAL PARK.

At the last meeting the Parish Council approved the spending of a further £36,000 in order to carry out the works, bringing its contribution to £86,000. A site meeting was held with Kompan earlier this month to finalise the details of the works. After discussion with them and Durham County Council on the need to provide new footplates for the Kompan Miram equipment, the cost of the works has risen by a further £3,000. Members agreed to fund the additional work.

Tarmac has been advised of the Parish Council’s willingness to meet the shortfall in funding the scheme based on a contribution from Tarmac of £20,000. We have recently been advised that the application will not be considered until late next month and the funds will not finally be approved for a further six to eight weeks thereafter. We have been advised that a contract cannot be let until final approval is given; this takes the likely completion date well beyond our May deadline. We have asked for the application to be given priority, but this cannot be guaranteed. Kompan has been advised of the situation. Members agreed to await the outcome of Tarmac’s decision and to delay the start date. Should additional funding be required as a result of the additional works or a smaller approval from Tarmac, the Council resolved to meet it from the reserves.

12. WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY AND MONITORING

The Parish Council has already taken action to ensure that its website is accessible to everyone under the terms of Website Accessibility Regulations 2018. As reported to the last meeting, the Government’s Digital Services staff, part of the Cabinet Office, has assessed our website and, as it does not fully comply at present, asked for improvements within twelve weeks. The list of issues had been passed to our web designer with a request for urgent action and the Council has been advised that he will endeavour to ensure compliance by early February 29021, as requested.

13. ISSUES FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

1. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – POSITION AT 31st DECEMBER 2020.

The bank reconciliation statement for the above period was attached and received by the Members. The Clerk will ensure it is signed by the Chairman and Councillor Mrs. M. Poole.

1. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR DECEMBER 2020 AND JANUARY 2021.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** | **Cheque****No.** |
| NIL |  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |  |
| SE Landscaping | Ground maintenance | 2,060.00 | 2088 |
| R. A. Sunman | Allowances and expenses | 194.73 | 2089 |
| Mazars LLP | External audit fees | 480.00 | 2090 |
| Blachere Illumination | Remove lights | 437.18 | 2091 |
| The Cornforth Partnership | General administration | 560.97 | 2092 |
| The Cornforth Partnership | Core costs contribution | 6,000.00 | 2093 |
| Great North Air Ambulance | Contribution | 500.00 | 2094 |
| Anglian Water | Allotment water | 104.46 | 2096 |
| Lumalite | Christmas tree | 783.29 | 2097 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total Expenditure** | **11,120.63** |  |
|  |  |  |  |

The above schedule was approved.

**NOTE: At the close of the meeting Members were asked if they had any items**

**for inclusion on a future agenda. None were requested, but Councillor Metcalfe undertook to prepare a scheme for an additional gate to the allotments for discussion.**

**Signed: …………………………………. Dated: …………………………………**

To all Members of the Council

R. A. Sunman Parish Clerk

23rd January 2021.