**CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: MARCH 2021**

Notice is hereby given that a REMOTE MEETING of Cornforth Parish Council will be held at 7pm. on Monday 22nd March 2021 when your attendance is requested. The details for joining the meeting have been given in a separate email from Councillor Paul Metcalfe, who will host the meeting. Alternatively contact Paul metcalfe@live.co.uk. The agenda for the meeting is attached.

**PLEASE NOTE**

**UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS 2014 MEMBERS ATTENDING THE MEETING NEED TO BE AWARE THAT THE PROCEEDINGS MAY BE THE SUBJECT OF RECORDING BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR PRESS.**

**AGENDA**

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To consider declarations of a personal or prejudicial interest with regard to any item to be transacted.

3. MINUTES

To confirm as a true record the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2021. (Copy herewith)

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

To discuss any items arising from the previous minutes that are not included on this agenda.

5. POLICE LIAISON

To receive a report on any PACT meetings held in the interim from the Vice Chairman.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman will adjourn the meeting to facilitate public participation on any item on the agenda and resume it following public participation.

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

At the time of the despatch of this agenda, no correspondence had been received.

8. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman will give a report of any matters which have arisen.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

Our County Council representative will report on any Durham County Council issues that have arisen.

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

At the time of the despatch of this agenda, which includes applications lodged up to and including 15th March 2021, the following application had been received by Durham County Council, which was of interest to the Parish Council:

1. DM/21/00575FPA – Mr. A. Stanley – 11 Verdun Terrace – Single storey rear extension and outbuilding

No recent decisions by the County Council have been made on applications of interest to the Parish Council.

11. WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY AND MONITORING

Following the Government’s Digital Services staff’s request for an update on the above issue, I had asked our website designer to draft a reply to be sent to the GDS. I have been unable to contact our designer and Cornforth Partnership has had similar difficulty with regard to work he is doing for them. As a result, our website has not been updated and this state of affairs needs to be resolved quickly. I have therefore asked the staff of Cornforth Partnership to resolve the problem, even if this means that we have to create another website.

12. GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT.

The current ground maintenance contract expires on 31st March 2021. It will not be possible, given the restrictions surrounding the forthcoming elections, to seek new tenders. It is suggested that the current tender be extended, either for a year or some lesser period, so that the new Parish Council has adequate time to review its needs and revise the terms, if necessary. Members will recall that the Council made enquiries about the likely closure of the cemetery. If it were to close, then its maintenance would fall to the County Council. In these circumstances, the new Parish Council would need to consider an annual rather than a three year contract.

13. CHRISTMAS MOTIFS AND ARTIFICIAL TREE.

The Parish Council has arrangements with Blachere Illumination and Lumalite to provide illuminated Christmas decorations. Both contracts are at an end and Members’ views are sought to either extend the contracts for a further year or seek new contracts with the same or different suppliers after May 2021.

14. ISSUES FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

1. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – POSITION AT 28th FEBRUARY 2021.

The bank reconciliation statement for the above period is attached.

1. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2021.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** | **Cheque**  **No.** |
| NIL |  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Cornforth Partnership | Web site repayment | 380.00 | 102099 |
| R. A. Sunman | Allowances and expenses | 171.38 | 102100 |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary | 666.10 | S/O |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total expenditure** | **1217.48** |  |

Recommendation: That the schedule be approved.

1. Cornforth Partnership has been successful in obtaining grants towards the refurbishment and redecoration of Cornforth House and No.66 High Street; the latter is owned by the Parish Council. The Parish Council has already approved a request to meet the Third Party Contribution for Tarmac’s contribution to the works at around £3,000. Cornforth Partnership has now approached the Council for support of £6,000 to meet the shortfall in grant to refurbish and decorate No. 66 High Street. Members’ views are sought.

15. APPOINTMENT OF A TEMPORARY PARISH CLERK.

In accordance with Section 11 of the Standing Orders of this Parish Council, dealing with staffing and matters of a sensitive and/or confidential nature, this item and the associated papers are not to be disclosed to the public or considered whilst they are present.

The personal details of a potential candidate for the above post are enclosed with this agenda for your consideration.

**NOTE: At the close of the meeting Members will be asked if they have any items**

**for inclusion on a future agenda.**

To all Members of the Parish Council.

Yours Sincerely, Ray Sunman, Parish Clerk: 17th March 2021.