**MINUTES OF CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

**MARCH 2020**

Minutes of the Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 9th March 2020.

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: Mrs. P. Crathorne, Mrs. H. P. Drew, Dr. S.C. Drew, Mr. P. Metcalfe, Mr. P. Mayhew, Mrs. M. Poole, Mr. R. Poole, Mrs. S. Traynor, Mr. R. Vaughan and Mrs. M. Walker.

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. C. Baker, Mrs. J. Grafton, Mr. J. Grafton and Mr. C. Hodgson.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The above apologies were accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman and Councillors Mrs P. Crathorne, Mrs. P. Drew and Mrs. S. Traynor declared an interest with respect to item 15 iii) a) on the agenda.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th February, which had been circulated with the agenda, were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

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

The Clerk reported that he had received notification from Tarmac of the resumption of the Liaison Meeting. There were no other matters arising that were not covered on the agenda.

5. POLICE LIAISON

The March meeting of the PACT meeting would be held on Wednesday at 5pm. in the Primary School.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public attended the meeting but made no request to speak on any item on the agenda.

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Clerk reported that he had received a request for support towards the Durham Miners’ Gala. It was agreed that the Council would send its usual good-will message at a cost of £45.

8. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman reported that the last meeting had been attended by Mr. G. Elliot accompanied by a guest from Barnstable, where an AAP type organisation was soon to be established. The meeting received a presentation on the Ladder Project and discussed the Ward 6 closure at Bishop Auckland Hospital.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

Our County Council representative reported that:

1. The level of the precept had been set at 3.99% higher and allowed to increase to cover social care costs.
2. The County Council is to provide three new leisure centres and refurbish others.
3. Concessionary bus fares to aid women pensioners would be paid from 1st March 2020.
4. Public Health funding was likely to be cut by £18M under the new Government formula.
5. Fly-tipping in the village had been reported.
6. The houses on Glebe Villas were still the subject of negotiation.
7. The allotment road was to be resurfaced.

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

At the time of the despatch of this agenda, which included applications up to and including 1st March 2020, no 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.

Kompan had been asked to provide a single plan covering the whole of the park, for clarity and better public understanding, together with costs for the work. The company has provided the details requested and a Working Group Meeting will be held at the close of this meeting to consider them.

12. VE DAY 75 CELEBRATIONS.

The Clerk reported that, Town and Parish Councils throughout the UK had been asked by SSAFA, the armed forces charity, to take the lead in arranging celebrations to mark the 75th Anniversary of the end of the war in Europe on 8th May 2020. Members have been advised of some of the detail and a further meeting has been held in the village to discuss the events to be held on these date. Members were advised of current proposals and asked to consider making a contribution to costs under item 15.

13. THE FUTURE MAINTENANCE OF THE CHURCHYARD.

The Clerk reported on this matter as follows: the Parish Council currently maintains the churchyard. The arrangement is voluntary and the Council has paid for the cutting of the grass and clearing of dead flowers as part of its current ground maintenance contract, which runs until 31st March 2021. The Reverend Norman has advised that sufficient plots remain to ensure that the churchyard will remain open until this date. In his view, when the churchyard is formally closed, the maintenance of it will transfer to the County Council. The Clerk’s report was received.

14. REVIEW OF POLICIES: GRANT GIVING.

The Clerk advised that Cornforth Parish Council has need to review its various policies. The Council’s policy on giving grants was approved ten years ago and whilst it remains valid in terms of a process, the General Power of Competence has altered its legal basis and the number and variety of applications for assistance seems to be increasing. A copy of the policy is attached and Members are asked to consider updating it. It was agreed that it would amend its practice in line with that of Clipstone Parish Council. Prior to the next meeting the Clerk would circulate a draft of an application form and policy for Members to discuss and approve.

15. ISSUES FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

1. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – POSITION AT 29TH FEBRUARY 2020.

The bank reconciliation statement was circulated at the meeting, approved and signed by the Chairman and nominated Councillor.

1. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2020.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** | **Cheque**  **No.** |
| NIL |  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |  |
| R. A. Sunman | Allowances | 222.15 | 102039 |
| Digital dog | Website | 190.00 | 102040 |
| SE Landscaping | Ground maintenance | 2,060.00 | 102041 |
| Cornforth Village Show | Contribution | 1,000.00 | 102042 |
| The Cornforth Partnership | Contribution to core costs | 6,000.00 | 102043 |
| West Cornforth Comm. Assoc. | Contribution to boiler costs | 10,000.00 | 102044 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total Expenditure** | **19,472.15** |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Recommendation: That the schedule be approved.

1. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.
2. The Councillors declaring an interest in this item left the meeting. The Vice- Chairman, Councillor Dr. S. C. Drew took the Chair. The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Cornforth Partnership seeking financial assistance for its work in the community to deliver a range of VE Day celebrations over the three day period 8th – 10th May 2020. The requested contribution for £500 would help fund rosettes, prizes, coconuts, old fashioned games, promotional materials and other resources for the event, bringing the community together. After discussion, the contribution was unanimously agreed. The Chairman, Councillors Mrs. P. Crathorne, Mrs. H. P. Drew and Mrs. S. Traynor returned to the meeting.
3. The Clerk reported a letter had been received from West Cornforth Primary School asking the Parish Council to make a contribution towards costs of over £24,000 for projects to provide quality 0-2 baby care, a safe outdoor woodland investigation scheme for 0–5s and an all-weather cycle and running track. It was unclear how the estimates have been arrived at, how the projects related to schemes already approved at the school and to what extent the school is meeting the costs from the school’s curriculum and capital budgets. Members were advised that should the Parish Council be minded to support the projects, no budget provision had been made for them and that the Council has committed to providing a refurbished Memorial Park in the 2020/21 financial year.

Members felt that they could not support the proposals at this time, but resolved to advise the school to approach the AAP and the Community Action for Living Fund.

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

**for inclusion on a future agenda.**

Members asked that The Clerk investigate the provision of a new litter bin on Lichfield Road and the staining of the stone work on the Tursdale War Memorial.

For the next agenda Members asked to discuss the web-site and dog fouling.

**AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING MEMBERS HELD A MEETING OF THE MEMORIAL PARK WORKING GROUP AND OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE.**

1. WORKING GROUP ON THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE MEMORIAL PARK.

The proposals and costs put forward by “Kompan” were presented by The Clerk and carefully examined by the Members. The Parish Council unanimously approved the proposals for new equipment, the repair of existing equipment and ancillary works as set out in the design and sales quote of the company. The quoted costs of £16,921.58 (inc. VAT) for the Toddlers’ Play Area and £132,872.16 (inc.VAT) for the Junior Play Area, £149,793.74 in total, were agreed and The Clerk instructed to seek grants with a view to the proposals being completed by May 2021.

1. MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE.

Present at the meeting: The Chairman of the Allotment Committee, Councillor Mr. P Metcalfe, Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson, de facto Member, Councillor, Mrs. M. Walker and Councillor Mrs. P Crathorne.

Water usage – There had been no change in the relatively low usage of water. The supply was to be switched on for the Spring and Summer.

Allotment rent – This was to remain unchanged for 2020/21. Consent forms and requests for payment to be sent to tenants.

Plot 19 – It was agreed that this be let to Joanne and Robert Beethan-Yelland of 29 Palm Road, Cornforth.

Updating the waiting list for prospective tenants. It was agreed that an advertisement be placed in the window of Cornforth House asking prospective tenants to complete an application form.

To all Members of the Parish Council.

Yours Sincerely, Ray Sunman, Parish Clerk: 22ND March 2020.

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