MINUTES

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** held on Monday 11th October 2021.

Meeting opened at 7.00p.m.

**Present:** Councillor: Mrs. P. Crathorne **(Chairman)** and

Councillors: Dr. S.C. Drew **(Vice Chairman)**, Mrs. M. Poole, Mr R. Poole, Mr. R. Vaughan,

Mrs M Walker, Mrs J. Grafton, Mr P Mayew, Mr P Metcalf.

In attendance: Mr D. Snowball (Parish Clerk)

**92\_21/22 APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs H. P. Drew and council accepted the apology.

Councillor Walker’s apologies for lateness were also noted, as she had been delayed and joined the meeting at Agenda Item 6.

**93\_21/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to make declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

There were no declarations of interest.

**94\_21/22 MEMBERS DISPENSATION**

The Clerk informed the meeting that there were no dispensations for this meeting.

**95\_21/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was one member of public present, no questions were raised.

**96\_21/22 MINUTES**

Ordinary meeting: Monday 13th September 2021

It was proposed by Councillor Dr S. Drew and seconded by Councillor Mr R. Poole and.

***RESOLVED:***

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 13th September 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**97\_21/22 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The chairman informed the meeting that she had attended the CDALC A.G.M. with the Clerk and the two presentations from the NALC solicitor and Mrs J. Weaver were well received.

Some vandalism had occurred on a private piece of land with damage made to a number of bee hives and fortunately the bees had been saved and taken to another location.

**The meeting received the report**

**98\_21/22 POLICE LIAISON**

Councillor Dr S Drew informed the meeting that he had attended the P.A.C.T. meeting and that the next P.A.C.T. meeting was due to be held on 20th October 2021 at 6.00p.m. at 66 High Street. The meetings last approximately one hour with general discussion and crime figures reported. The P.C.S.O. for Cornforth appears to have a good relationship with a number of young people from the village.

**99\_21/22 A.A.P. REPORT**

Councillor Mrs P. Crathorne informed the meeting that there had been no A.A.P. meeting held to report on.

**It was noted that there had been no meeting held.**

**100\_21/22** **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

County Councillor Mrs E. Peeke distributed a copy of the information that she was presenting to this meeting of the Council.

She had attended both the Bishop Middleham and Cornforth Horticultural shows.

Two wreaths have been ordered for the Remembrance events and that she would be attending Billingham’s commemorations this year.

Help has been provided for several families in Cornforth and the portfolio holder, Councillor M. Wilkes has explained that he is reviewing the County Council’s policy regarding trees. The tree issue is County Wide and there are only two tree officers covering the County. Livin have also been spoken to about a problem tree and this is being removed due to its condition.

She has been looking into the funding local villages receive form local employers and businesses and Cornforth seems to have missed out on any financial commitment from local quarries and how this can be redressed.

**The meeting received the report**

**101\_21/22 OUTCOME OF THE ANNUAL EXTERNAL AUDIT**

The clerk presented the report to the meeting and informed members of the unqualified audit opinion and the accounts are in accordance with proper

practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The Clerk expanded on the matters that the auditor had drawn to the attention of the council and that the actions for these are contained within this report.

It was proposed by councillor Mrs M. Poole and seconded by councillor Mr P. Metcalfe and

**RESOLVED:**

That members;

1. receive the external auditor’s Audit Completion Letter, External Audit Report and Certificate in respect of the 2020/21 Annual Governance and Accountability Return.
2. note the arrangements made by the Clerk to publish public notice of the completion of the audit and the audited Annual Governance and Accountability Return on the Council website.
3. note the unqualified external audit opinion highlighting that *“the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met”*
4. Agree for the Clerk to source suitable companies for quotations to complete a building condition survey for 66 High Street, Cornforth.
5. Contact the clerk if they have any items/ideas that they or residents may have raised with them that meet the requirements for the correct use of council reserves and submit these and/or discuss them with the Clerk for inclusion in a report to be brought to council for consideration.

**102\_21/22 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES**

The clerk presented the report to the meeting and members were asked to consider and decide upon the report recommendation.

It was proposed by councillor Mrs J. Grafton and seconded by councillor Dr S. Drew and

**RESOLVED:**

To continue with the process to advertise and do all possible to fill the five vacant councillor positions.

**103\_21/22 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTAION ON MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENTEMORIAL PARK REFURBISHMENT UPDATE**

The clerk presented the report to the meeting and members were asked to consider and decide upon the report recommendation.

It was proposed by councillor Mrs M. Poole and seconded by councillor Mr P. Metcalfe and

**RESOLVED:**

That the clerk submits the following comments on behalf of the council as follows:

**CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL - consultation comments.**

Cornforth Parish Council wish to comment and raise concern on the following in connection with the:

*Draft Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocation Document, which alongside the County Durham Plan, that will be used to make decisions on planning applications for mineral working (quarrying and related development) and on new waste development proposals.*

The Council wish to express serious concerns with the current flooding of Garmondsway Road, an issue that has previously been raised, that will be further impacted by the increased movement of large vehicles creating mud, dust and other debris that will be washed into the drainage system, especially during road cleaning and inclement weather.

Concern is also made in connection with the heavy wear and tear to the road surface that the road will be subjected to over the course of time from the increased traffic from the proposals.

and finally: -

What will be the total cumulative tonnage per day that the bridge over the motorway will be placed under and is this in line with the specifications and load bearing capability of this bridge?

**104\_21/22 FINANCIAL RESERVES POLICY**

The clerk presented the report to the meeting and members were asked to consider and decide upon the report recommendation.

It was proposed by councillor Mr P. Metcalfe and seconded by councillor Dr S. Drew and

**RESOLVED:**

That the Financial Reserves policy is received and adopted.

**105\_21/22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Clerk informed the meeting that there were no planning applications for consideration at this meeting.

**It was noted that there were no planning applications for consideration.**

**106\_21/22 BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT**

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mr R. Poole and seconded by Councillor Mrs J. Grafton and

***RESOLVED:***

To receive the statement and for it to be signed by the Chairman Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne and Councillor Mrs M. Poole.

**107\_21/22** **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS**

Following discussion, it was proposed by councillor Mr R. Poole and seconded by councillor Mrs J. Grafton and

***RESOLVED:***

To receive the Income and expenditure analysis.mark

***Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.***

Signed (Chairman):

Date: