**MINUTES OF CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

**FEBRUARY 2019**

Minutes of the Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 11th February 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, Mr. C. Hodgson, Mr. P. Metcalfe, Mr. R Vaughan and Mrs. M. Walker.

Apologies: Councillors: Mrs. J. Grafton, Mr. J. Grafton, Mrs M. Poole, Mr. R. Poole, Mr. M. Simpson and Mrs. S. Traynor.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The above apologies were accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Councillor declared an interest of a personal or financial nature with regard to any item on the agenda.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2019 were agreed with an amendment to item 9, where the savings by the County Council should have read £39.5M. The minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2019 were also approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

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

5. POLICE LIAISON

The Vice Chairman reported that the next PACT meeting would be held on the first Wednesday in March.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Chairman reported that he had received the resignation from the Council of Mr. Michael Simpson. The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr. Simpson regretting his decision to resign and thanking him for his contribution over the years. It was hoped that if the process of finding a replacement Member permitted, then the new incumbent would be in post before the Annual General Meeting in May.

8. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman advised that there were no issues from the AAP meeting to report.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

Our County Council representative reported that Durham County Council’s had not yet set its precept. The Durham County Plan was now out to public consultation. Traffic issues associated with the quarries had been raised. The County Council and various agencies had been approached with regard to empty houses, including those on Salisbury Crescent. The “Spruce-up” team had started work and were going to take out the overgrown shrubs adjoining the chemist’s shop.

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 4th February 2019, showed the following proposals for development within Cornforth Parish:

1. DM/19/00229/FPA – Mr. G. Bolam – 72 Garmondsway Road, Cornforth – Erection of a single storey side extension.
2. DM/18/03884/VOLMW – Tarmac – Thrislington Quarry – Variation of conditions to change working methods and working hours on Phase 2 and vary the S106 agreement in terms of the High Grade Dolomite removed from the site.
3. DM/19/00025/MIN – Cornforth Quarry East – Stobbs Cross Lane, Cornforth– Environment act 1995: Periodic Review of Mining Sites – Application for the determination of new planning conditions for working and restoration relating to Planning Permission MRA/7/2.
4. DM/19/00026/MIN – Cornforth Quarry West - Stobbs Cross Lane, Cornforth– Environment act 1995: Periodic Review of Mining Sites – Application for the determination of new planning conditions for working and restoration relating to Planning Permission IDO/7/5/1.
5. DM/19/00039/FPA – Tarmac – Cornforth Quarry West – Stobbs Cross Lane – Improvements to existing access to quarry including widening.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would oppose further working of Cornforth Quarry West and seek major improvements to the existing access. The grounds for opposition were that the disruption to residential amenity and problems of road safety were unjustified as adequate reserves of road stone were available in other parts of these quarries. Should the County Council be minded to grant permission, then blasting be restricted in accordance with County Policy M37(b), a full independent traffic assessment be undertaken and that a new access be constructed with a junction to the A177, with a holding area and new wheel washers. The Clerk and the Chairman would liaise to agree a detailed response for submission.

11. DURHAM COUNTY PLAN.

The Clerk reported that the next stage of public consultation on the above plan had commenced on 25th January 2019. The closing date for representations is 8th March 2019, prior to the next meeting of the Parish Council. A considerable number of presentations of the plan will be held throughout the County in the next month. The nearest venue for Cornforth residents is on 25th February 2019 at Dene Bank Institute. Members’ views were sought and it was agreed that the Chairman, other Members and the Clerk would attend the Ferryhill presentation and draft a formal response for submission by the deadline.

12. SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING AND STRATEGY DOCUMENTS IN THE COUNTY.

The Clerk reported that the County Plan will be accompanied by other documents and there are two strategies being published on which the County is seeking views. The Building for Life and the Residents Amenity Standards documents are non-statutory supplements to the Plan dealing with the quality of the environment and standards for new residential development. The Housing Strategy and the Homelessness Strategy set out the County’s policies on these issues. A presentation will be made at the Glebe Centre in Murton on 21st February 2019.

13. MEETING WITH LIVIN’.

The Chairman, Clerk and Members of the Parish Council met with Mr. Walker of “livin” and his colleagues on 28th January 2019 following a “drive-about”. It was a very useful meeting covered the problems and possibilities of new build, empty property, the treatment of sites that had been used for dumping, the state of garages, low demand and misconceptions by prospective tenants about barriers to letting property. It was agreed to hold regular quarterly meetings to progress these matters.

14. MEMORIAL PARK.

Members of the Parish Council had met with Durham County Council to progress this matter. The County Council took as a basis the RoSPA report and will prepare a schedule of works and costs for the treatment of the park and its equipment as a starting point for the Parish. In the meantime, the Clerk has sought equipment details from a number of providers and will circulate them as a starting point for dialogue with mothers groups, young people and the school.

15. MINERAL LINE IN CORNFORTH.

The Clerk of Coxhoe Parish Council had written to ask if this Council would wish to acquire part of the old mineral line through the village and join with them in creating a long distance cycle way. Members declined to become involved in what could prove a very expensive and risk prone venture, bringing in quad bikes and resulting in other disturbance.

16. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

1. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS TO 31st JANUARY 2019.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** | **Cheque**  **No.** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Allotment rents |  | 320.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Blachere Illumination | Christmas lights | 759.00 | 951 |
| NWA | Allotment water | 60.68 | 952 |
| Altogether Greener | Ground maintenance (period 7) | 2,648.60 | 953 |
| Altogether Greener | Ground maintenance (period 8) | 2,648.60 | 954 |
| Thinford nurseries | Supply of plants and bulbs | 1,916.29 | 955 |
| North East Air Ambulance | Donation | 500.00 | 956 |
| Cornforth Partnership | Awards for All (December) | 483.50 | 957 |
| Cornforth Partnership | Administration (Oct – Dec 2018)  Room hire £400.00  Photocopying £71.40  Web maintenance £163.32  Web hosting annual fee £86.40 | 721.12 | 958 |
|  |  |  |  |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary | 666.10 | S/O |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **Net Expenditure** | **10,083.89** |  |

The schedule was approved.

1. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENTS – POSITION AT 31st JANAURY 2019.

The bank reconciliation statement for the above period was circulated at the meeting. It was signed by the Chairman in accordance with the direction of the internal auditor and by Councillor Mrs. H. P Drew in order to comply with 17c of the Standing Orders.

**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 the Clerk was asked**

**to write to Arriva about the missing No. 56 service at 8.50am and 9.20am on 11th**

**February 2019.**

To all Members of the Parish Council.

Yours Sincerely, Ray Sunman, Parish Clerk: 21st February 2019.

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