**MINUTES OF CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

**FEBRUARY 2020**

Minutes of the Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 10t February 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, Mrs. J. Grafton, Mr. J. Grafton, Mr. C. Hodgson, Mr. P. Metcalfe, Mr. P. Mayhew, Mrs. S. Traynor, Mr. R. Vaughan and Mrs. M. Walker.

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. C. Baker, Mrs. M. Poole and Mr. R. Poole.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The above apologies were accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman and Councillors Mrs. P. Drew, Mrs. S. Traynor and Mr. R. Vaughan declared an interest with respect to items 18 a) i) and ii).

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th and 20th January, which had been circulated with the agenda, were agreed, with an amendment to the attendance of Mrs. J. Grafton and Mrs. J. Grafton and signed by the Chairman.

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

The Clerk reported that he had received no reply from Tarmac with regard to a Liaison Meeting. There were no other matters arising that were not covered on the agenda.

5. POLICE LIAISON

The figures for the PACT meeting covered the two months of November and December 2019. The Vice Chairman reported that there had been 6 ASB incidents, mainly related to mental health issues. There had been one incident of the burglary of Christmas presents, with the apprehension of the perpetrator. There had been 3 incidents of violence outside the surgery, assault on a guard at Tarmac and a fight between youths at a bus stop. There had been criminal damage to a fence, caused by a dispute over money. There had been one case of theft of diesel from vehicles at Banks; the vehicles had been relocated to prevent further incidents. The vehicle related theft was related to number plates removed to aid fuel theft. Diesel thefts at Tursdale Industrial Estate had resulted in apprehension of the thieves and no more had occurred.

5. POLICE LIAISON CONT’D.

The weekend problem of quad bikes at Verdun Terrace was caused by residents from elsewhere. This would be a PACT priority. Councillor Mayhew commented that the police had been too late to be effective. The police now have monies for youth development. The next PACT meeting would be in March 2020.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public attending the meeting.

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

There were no matters to report under this item.

8. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman reported that there had been no AAP Meeting.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

Our County Council representative reported that:

1. The level of Council Tax would be set at the next meeting, with the police asking for a 4.8% increase to help fund 68 new officers over the next 3 years and new equipment.
2. The County Council had reviewed the location of polling stations and the Community Centre would be used, henceforth.
3. The closure of ward 6 of Bishop Auckland Hospital was rejected and left intact.
4. Tarmac was keeping the roads clean.
5. Rubbish at the allotments had been seen to and tipping by the former Hare and Hounds reported.

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 26th January 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 Clerk reported that, as yet, no further details had been received. It was agreed that “The Partner” would publish details when received and funds would be applied for as soon as possible.

12. VE DAY 75 CELEBRATIONS.

A meeting had been held in the village to discuss the events to be held in May and Members were advised of current proposals:

1. Friday 8th – The Last Post would be sounded at 2.55pm, with a toast in The Square and Compass and a bar-b-que and raffle at 4pm.
2. Saturday 9th – A family picnic, hot and burgers, cakes, a fancy-dress competition and raffle would be held at the Community centre at 4pm.
3. Sunday 10th – Word is still awaited from the Reverend Norman on a details of a church service.

13. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS.

The Parish Council’s arrangements with Blachere to provide Christmas lights is at an end. A meeting of the Members of the Christmas Lights Working Group would be held to acquire new lights.

14. THE FUTURE MAINTENANCE OF THE CHURCHYARD.

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 Council has taken the view that as long as the churchyard remained open for burials it would meet the costs as a service to the residents. It is currently rumoured that only four plots for graves remain. A letter has been sent to The Reverend Norman asking for clarification of the position, but no reply has been received.

15. GROUND MAINTENANCE WORK.

The Clerk reported that discussions have been held with our contractor on a number of maintenance issues. SE Landscaping has been asked to provide an estimate for the work on trees on Parish Council land following the survey carried out by “All-About-Trees”. The company has been reminded of its obligation to cut back the bankside on Station Road and the work has been carried out. The annual cutting back of trees and hedges in the Memorial Park has been completed. In addition, the contractor has been asked to repair the containers in the churchyard used to hold dead flowers. The metal cover is to be removed and once cleared a dumpy bag will be put into the container by the Oswald Close entrance to make regular emptying easier.

16. AWARDS FOR ALL.

Cornforth Partnership has advised that the family based project funded through the above scheme is complete and that it has met our joint responsibilities for the accounting of the spending of the grant. The financial records will be held by the Partnership for seven years as required.

17. REQUEST FOR LITTER AND DOG BINS.

Cornforth Partnership has received requests for more litter and dog bins in the village. It has been suggested that a dog bin be provided along the cut leading to Hollyhurst Road and this was agreed. Additional bins will be provided in the Memorial Park as part of the refurbishment project. Members’ views were sought on further provision.

18. ISSUES FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

1. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR JANUARY 2020.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** | **Cheque**  **No.** |
| NIL |  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |  |
| The Cornforth Partnership | Poop bags | 474.57 | 102029 |
| The Cornforth Partnership | Administration (Oct – Dec) | 476.15 | 102030 |
|  | Room hire £360.00 |  |  |
|  | Photocopying £29.75 |  |  |
|  | Website £86.40 |  |  |
| Anglian Water | Allotment Water | 62.53 | 102031 |
| West Cornforth Comm. Assoc. | Room hire | 330.00 | 102032 |
| West Cornforth Comm. Assoc. | Affiliation fee | 25.00 | 102033 |
| West Cornforth Comm. Assoc. | Christmas Party contribution | 227.00 | 102034 |
| H. M. R. & C | Tax and N.I.C | 601.80 | 102035 |
| R. A. Sunman | Allowances (Nov & Dec) | 148.86 | 102036 |
| Blachere | Christmas lights | 485.76 | 102037 |
| SE Landscaping | Ground maintenance (Nov & Dec) | 4,120.00 | 102038 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total Expenditure** | **6,951.67** |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Recommendation: That the schedule be approved.

1. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.
2. The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Cornforth Partnership seeking financial assistance for its work in many fields in the village including family support, employment and training, community activities and environmental improvements. The Parish Council has included a sum of £6,000 in its budget to help the Partnership and this sum is much appreciated by its staff as it demonstrates local Council support for its work. The letter and extracts from the accounts were distributed with the agenda. The Chairman spoke in respect of this item and then he and the other Councillors who expressed a personal interest left the meeting. The Chair was taken by Councillor Dr. S. Drew. In the discussion that followed, it was agreed that it was important to show the Parish Council’s support for this work. The support, at £6,000, was approved unanimously.
3. The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from West Cornforth and District Community Association for a contribution towards the cost of replacing the boilers. The total costs are £9,699.03, plus VAT (£11,638.83). The expenditure is unexpected and urgent action is needed in case of the failure of the system. The letter and an extract from the Association’s accounts had been circulated with the agenda. The Councillors who had already left the meeting took no part in the discussion or the decision. Whilst there was discussion about the quality of the solution on offer, a sum of £10,000 was agreed towards the costs. At that point the four Councillors returned to the meeting and Councillor Hodgson took the Chair.
4. The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from the Village Show Committee requesting financial support towards the cost of the show. The Council had included a sum of £1,000 in its budget to make such a contribution and Members agreed to make it.
5. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – POSITION AT 31st JANUARY 2020.

The bank reconciliation statement was circulated at the meeting and approved. Thereafter, it was signed by the Chairman and by Councillor Mrs. H. P. Drew, in the absence of Councillor Mrs. M. Poole.

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

**for inclusion on a future agenda.**

No items were requested, but Councillor Mrs. S. Traynor asked that the condition of the block paving on the Green be examined. Mrs. P. Crathorne was asked if, as County Councillor, she would look into the use of rights of way by motor cycles.

**THERE WAS NO MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE CLOSE OF THIS MEETING.**

To all Members of the Parish Council.

Yours Sincerely, Ray Sunman, Parish Clerk: 2ND March 2020.

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