**MINUTES OF CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: FEBRUARY 2012**

Minutes of the meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 6th February 2012.

Present: Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson and

Councillors: Mr. K. Clasper, Dr. S. C. Drew, Mrs. H.P.Drew, Mr. P. Metcalfe, Mrs. S. Neville, Mrs. M. Poole, Mr. R. Poole, Mr. M. Simpson, Mrs. S. Traynor, Mr. R. Vaughan, Mrs. M. Walker and A. Wilson.

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. T Cutmore and Mr. M. J. Pennick.

1.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest made with regard to any item to be transacted.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 9th and 16th January 2012 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ON THE AGENDA

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

4. POLICE LIAISON

The Vice Chairman gave a report on the PACT meeting. Three vehicles were broken into on the High Street. The use of a quad bike has been causing problems in the Maughan Close area. Youths drinking in the Oval and Chester Crescent area have been causing problems and this will be a police priority during February. The next meeting will be held on 23rd February at 5.30pm in the Sure Start Centre.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

6. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Clerk reported that he had received the following invitation addressed to the Chairman:

a) Sedgefield Town Council Civic Ball – 7.15 pm. Friday 2nd March 2012 at the Hardwick Hall Hotel – tickets £26.50 – dress code Black Tie or lounge suits. The Chairman asked that any interest be expressed to the Clerk.

Signed: ...................................................... Dated: ..........................................

6. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE (CON’D)

b) The Chairman read out a letter from the sheltered housing provider “LIVIN”, advising that it had consulted with tenants on the closure of Thurston Grange. Members expressed concern about the future accommodation of tenants, the timescale and the future of the site. There were also implications arising from the Governments proposals to alter housing benefit where single people rented a large property. It was resolved to ask a representative to attend a meeting.

c) The Chairman had received a request for funding for events held in Cornforth at the library. The Clerk advised that the Council had included an item in the 2012/13 budget to cover this item and Members resolved to release it in the next financial year

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7. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman gave a report on the level of Members’ grant received through the AAP. Through a variety of applications Cornforth had received 18% of the monies available. Next year it appeared our County Councillors have committed their monies to the Ferryhill Leisure Centre, a facility that DCC propose to close. This was considered most unsatisfactory by the Parish Council and a watching brief was to be kept on the situation. The next AAP meeting will be held on 14th March 2012.

8. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – POSITION AT 31st January 2012.

The Clerk was unable to circulate the bank reconciliation statement as no statement had been received for February by the time of the meeting.

Signed: .......................................................... Dated: ..................................

9. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS JANUARY 2012.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** |
|  |  |  |
| Nil |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary | 640.75 |
| R. A. Sunman  Royal British Legion  W.C. & D. C. Assoc.  R.B.L Men’s Section  Society of Local Council Clerks  R.B.L Women’s Section  R.A.O.B. Sphere Lodge  Salvation Army  Cornforth in Bloom  Cornforth Partnership  Northumbrian Water  JWS Power-cleaning  W.C.& D.C. Assoc  W.C.& D.C. Assoc  Cornforth Partnership  H.M.R.& C. | Allowances and sundries  Rem’bnce Sunday wreathes  Affiliation fee  Donation  Fees  Donation  Donation  Donation  Donation  Room hire and printing  Allotment water usage  Bus shelter cleaning  Room hire  Pantomime costs  Employment Support Project  Tax and N.I.C. | 77.88  100.00  18.00  30.00  10.60  30.00  25.00  30.00  170.00  540.00  154.39  60.00  194.00  440.50  2,500.00  542.45 |
|  | TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE | 6,282.20 |
|  |  |  |

RECOMMENDATION: The schedule was approved.

10. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS FROM JANUARY’S WEEKLY LISTS.

There had been no applications notified by either the Strategic Office or the Spennymoor Office of Durham County Council at the time of this meeting.

11. CORNFORTH IN BLOOM.

This item was included at the request of Members.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had made a small financial contribution to the group of volunteers taking forward this project. The group had made significant progress and the Parish Council considered how it might add to the impact of the group’s work, particularly in the High Street. It was resolved to set up a Sub Committee to make proposals for the High Street. Councillors Mrs. Neville, Traynor and Walker plus Mr. Poole and Mr. Vaughan would form the group. Issues to be addressed to include dog bins, street furniture, painting buildings and poor shuttering.

Signed: ...................................................... Dated: ............................................

12. D.C.C. TRAVELLER’S POLICY.

This item was included at the request of Members. The Clerk had circulated the above policy document and Members discussed its content. It was generally felt that this policy was designed to avoid confrontation with gypsies and travellers at the cost of the amenity and disturbance to residents. Whilst it stated that stop-over points were being sought we had seen no action on this issue. The issues which caused sites to be considered unsuitable did not cover the County Council land behind “Cost-cutters”, which the County regarded as unsuitable. No action had been taken to close off this land as promised by the County. The County had not cleared the rubbish from land on the by-pass as its policy held would happen. It had failed to act to remove caravans from the highway in Hawthorn Terrace and continued to allow travellers to play the system by adopting an attitude of appeasement. These issues to be set out in a letter to the County Council and a response sought.

13. DOG FOULING.

This item was included at the request of Members. The issue of dog fouling continues without address by the County Council. Since the last meeting press statements have indicated that the Neighbourhood Warden Scheme run by Durham County Council is to be cut with the loss of 20 jobs and the service merged with dog wardens. Such action will exacerbate the problem. The matter has been raised in the PACT meeting and will be raised generally with the Neighbourhood Wardens. In Cornforth the problem is particularly acute in the Glebe Villas area. The poor service and lack of bins is to be raised in a letter to the County Council.

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

**of business to be included on the next agenda. The following matters were requested:**

a) Bus service 113 (Ferryhill/Spennymoor/Bishop Auckland) is operated by Scarlet Band Motor Services from Cornforth. An item is requested for the next meeting to see if the outgoing and returning buses could help our workers and students by picking up in Cornforth.

b) Footpaths 10 and 15 – it would seem that work being carried out by a local farmer, Mr, Martin, on what we consider to be Durham County Council land could be jeopardising these two footpaths. An item was requested on the next agenda to cover this matter.

c) The Clerk was asked to agenda an item on the condition of the footpath by Moneys’ Buildings.

Signed : ...................................................... Dated: .............................................

Ray Sunman/Clerk: 24th February 2012.