**CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: FEBRUARY 2013**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Cornforth Parish Council will be held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 4th February 2013, when your attendance is requested. The agenda for the meeting is attached.

**AGENDA**

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To consider declarations of a personal or prejudicial interest with regard to any item to be transacted.

3. MINUTES

To confirm as a true record the Minutes of the meetings held on 7th and 14th January 2013. (Copies herewith)

4. MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ON THE AGENDA

5. POLICE LIAISON

To receive a report on the PACT meeting from the Vice Chairman.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman will adjourn the meeting to facilitate public participation and resume it following public participation.

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

At the time of the despatch of this agenda there were no items to report.

AAP ISSUES

The Chairman will provide an update from the latest AAP meeting.

9. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – POSITION AT 31st JANUARY 2013.

The Clerk will circulate the current bank reconciliation statement and a comparison of this year’s budget to actual expenditure for this period at the meeting.

10. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS JNUARY 2013.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** |
|  |  |  |
| Nil |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary | 666.10 |
| R. A. Sunman | Allowances and mileage | 59.93 |
| Cornforth Partnership | Room hire and printing | 581.22 |
| AllAboutTrees | Tree survey and report | 264.00 |
| Scarlet Band Buses | Trip to Pantomime | 60.00 |
| Doggie Ducklings | Trip to Gala Theatre | 100.00 |
| Royal British Legion | Donation to Wreaths | 170.00 |
| Royal British Legions Men’s Section | Donation | 30.00 |
| Royal British Legions Women’s Section | Donation | 30.00 |
| R. A. O. B. Sphere Lodge | Donation | 30.00 |
| Salvation Army | Donation | 30.00 |
| Sedgefield and District C. A. B. | Donation | 400.00 |
| Rossendales Collect (H. M. R. & C.) | Tax and N.I.C. | 195.96 |
| H. M. R. & C. | Tax and N.I.C. | 586.53 |
| Northumbrian Water | Allotments Water | 200.98 |
| W. C. & D. C. Assoc. | Pantomime | 431.00 |
| W. C. & D. C. Assoc. | Room hire | 224.00 |
| Cornforth Partnership | Awards for All | 698.25 |
|  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 4,757.97 |
|  |  |  |
|  | NET EXPENDITURE | 4,757.97 |
|  |  |  |

RECOMMENDATION: That the schedule be approved.

11. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS FROM DECEMBER’S WEEKLY LISTS.

At the time of the despatch of this agenda, there were no planning applications received by the Strategic Office or the South West Office of Durham County Council which were of note to this Council.

Following the last meeting, the Parish Council’s objection to the application referenced, 7/2012/0418/DM by Mr. Ernest Oliver for the erection of a detached dwelling house on land East of “Barcroft”, The Green, Cornforth was relayed to Durham County Council. Despite our serious concerns about the access arrangements, the application was granted as the County Highway Engineers did not support our view.

Other than the above, the Clerk had not been notified of any other decisions made by the staff of the County Council at the time of the despatch of this agenda.

12. ALLOTMENT SURVEY.

Following the reports made by Members on the above survey at the last meeting, a report is attached setting out the main findings, issues and priorities for consideration.

13. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

A media day is to be held in Cornforth Primary School in which Star Radio will teach pupils about advertising and the media and work with them to create a Podcast celebrating the individuality of West Cornforth and the school. The media day is part of Star Radio’s “Star in School” programme and will be partly funded by “livin”. The school is seeking the support of the Parish Council towards the cost of the work which in total is £1,290. “livin” is willing to meet half the costs of the day which will take place over the summer and the Parish Council is asked to provide the remaining £645.

14. COUNTY COUNCIL LAND IN THE HIGH STREET.

Members will recall that Durham County Council is disposing of land which is surplus to its operational requirements. A piece of land at the western end of Cornforth High Street, between Thrislington Villa and the former Chapel, has become available under this disposal. The land, which is currently used for grazing, forms the “stop” at the end of the street and is visually important. In addition, the land extends behind Thrislington Villa. The Parish Council had expressed an interest in acquiring the land for a formal planted area or garden, with Cornforth Partnership expressing an interest in the remainder as a Community Garden/Allotment. The County Council is willing to discuss selling the land to the Parish Council rather than going to auction. Given the constraints on Parish Council expenditure in 2013/14, Members views are sought about acquiring the land.

15. PATH TO THE REAR OF SCARLET BAND.

This item was reported to the last meeting. The water logged condition of this footpath has been reported to officers of the County Council who deal with designated rights of way.

16. FLOODING FROM FIELDS TO THE EAST OF MIDDLEHAM ROAD.

Prolonged rain and recent snow melt has caused considerable flooding across Parish Council land on Middleham Road and down Slake Terrace. A house has suffered water damage and part of the road has collapsed. The Chairman and the Clerk have made contact with the farmer, Smiths Gore on behalf of the landowners (The Church Commissioners), Durham County Council, The Fire Brigade and The Environment Agency. Some remedial and emergency work has taken place, but the drains need de-silting and a joint meeting is required to seek a permanent solution.

17.REMEDIAL WORKS ON THE GREEN.

The County Council has been advised of the Parish Council’s concern about the use of boulders on the Green as a solution to prevent vehicular encroachment. A meeting is being sought with Mr. Peter Dunn to address issues of lifting paving and this will discussed at the same time.

18. GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT.

At the meeting which considered and set the precept in January, there was discussion about the likely effects of the LCTSS on the future expenditure of this Parish Council. As a result, Members felt that it should reconsider the impact of seeking a new ground maintenance contract for 2013/14 and instead seek to extend the period of the present contract with Durham County Council for a further year. Two of the implications of such a decision would be certainty of expenditure in 2013/14 and that the new Parish Council to be elected in May would be able to consider the matter which would form a considerable part of its budget in coming years.

**NOTE: At the close of business Members will be asked if they have any items**

**to be included on the next agenda.**

Yours Sincerely

Ray Sunman/Clerk: 28th January 2013.

To all Members of the Parish Council.