**NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL: MARCH 2015**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Cornforth Parish Council will be held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 9th March 2015, when your attendance is requested.

**PLEASE NOTE**

**UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS 2014 MEMBERS ATTENDING THE MEETING NEED TO BE AWARE THAT THE PROCEEDINGS MAY BE THE SUBJECT OF PHOTOGRAPHY, FILMING, VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR PRESS.**

**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 9th February 2015. (Copy herewith)

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES 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 on items on the agenda and resume it following public participation.

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

At the time of the despatch of this agenda there were no letters or announcements to report.

8. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman as an elected member of the AAP Board will give a report of any matters which have arisen.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

Our County Councillor representative will report on any Durham County Council issues that have arisen since the last meeting. In addition, the Clerk will update the Members on actions by the County Council following referral of complaints about the footpath near the former Hare and Hounds and tipping along the Network Rail access.

10. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENTS – POSITION AT 28th FEBRUARY 2015.

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

11. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS TO 28TH FEBRUARY 2015.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** | **Cheque**  **No.** |
|  |  |  |  |
| NIL |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| R.B. Legion Men’s Section | Contribution | 30.00 | 616 |
| R. B. Legion Women’s Section | Contribution | 30.00 | 617 |
| R.A.O.B. Sphere Lodge | Contribution | 30.00 | 618 |
| Salvation Army | Contribution | 30.00 | 619 |
| West Cornforth Comm. Assoc. | Wreath | 36.00 | 620 |
| Stephen Edgoose | Computer repair | 120.00 | 621 |
| R. A. Sunman | Allowances | 90.93 | 622 |
| Altogether Greener | Ground maintenance | 2,316.76 | 623 |
| Cornforth Partnership | Awards for All payment | 800.50 | 624 |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary | 666.10 | S/O |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 4,150.29 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

RECOMMENDATION: That the schedule be approved.

12. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS FROM FEBRUARY’S WEEKLY LISTS.

At the time of the despatch of this agenda there were no planning applications being considered or decided by the County Council that were of note to this Parish Council.

13. NETWORK RAIL: ACCESS TO THE SCRAP YARD.

Members will be updated on the Council’s request for a meeting to discuss the above matter.

14. REPAIR WORK TO THE GREEN.

Durham County Council has prepared its specification for the repair work and the Clerk will present the details to the meeting, when Members will be asked to agree a list of tenderers.

15. WINTER WORKS IN THE CHURCHYARD AND ON THE GREEN.

Following damage to the container for dead flowers, the ground maintenance contractor has been asked for a specification and quote to replace it with something more substantial but with a lighter metal cover. A box of similar size to the existing and made of timber with an aluminium cover is suggested at an estimated cost of £684 and £450 respectively. In addition, there is a need to carry out work on two sets of trees. The first is to raise the crowns of trees on the Green to facilitate mowing using ride-on machinery, at a cost of £320. The second is to remove dead branches from the churchyard and take down a dead tree at the cost of £390.

As the container was damaged by volunteers carrying out tree work on behalf of the Church and as the Parish Council has already carried out a lot of tree work in the churchyard it is suggested that the Church Council be asked to pay for all of this work other than on the Green. Members’ approval to this course of action and to meeting the cost of tree work on the Green is sought.

16. LIVIN’ MEETING HELD 5TH MARCH 2015.

The Clerk and the Chairman will attend a meeting with Livin’ to consider the results of its consultation exercise to improve land at Laburnum Road. The Clerk will prepare a short report and circulate it at the meeting.

17. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

1. A request has been received from the Secretary of the Village Show Committee for assistance towards the costs of the show, which is to be held on Sunday 30th August and Monday 31st August 2015. The Committee has resolved to double the prize money for most categories within the show and publicise it more widely in order to boost interest amongst potential exhibitors. The Clerk, as Treasurer to the Committee, will advise Members of the Committee’s financial position.
2. Durham Miners’ Association has asked for support for the Durham Miners’ Gala. Last year the Parish Council paid for a message of support at a cost of £45.

18. FUTURE WORK TO THE ALLOTMENTS.

Following discussions with Northumbrian Water and assistance from Councillor Metcalfe the water leaks appear to have been dealt with and the supply has been reconnected. The Clerk is currently updating the waiting list in accordance with the Council’s instructions and the Prince’s Trust has helped clear two vacant plots. A date has been set for the collection of rents and it is suggested that the water usage be monitored monthly until the next bill is received. At that point it is suggested that the need for further work be considered.

19. THE COUNTY DURHAM PLAN.

Members will likely be aware that the interim findings of the Governments’ Planning Inspectorate have been severely critical of the above plan. The enquiry found that the plan made unrealistic assumptions about job growth and inward migration, which resulted in housing needs being far too high. The spatial distribution of development is not justified for Durham City and as the Parish Council commented at an early stage, the plan needed to assess the needs for settlements such as Cornforth. Incursions into the Green Belt , including 4,000 houses, is criticised and associated plans to provide two relief roads are considered unjustified, undeliverable, environmentally unacceptable and unsustainable. The County Council faces three courses of action, to continue with the plan, which is unsound, to amend it, for which there is too little time, or to withdraw it. The views of the Members’ are sought as to representations to the County Council.

20. REPLACEMENT SEATS AND DOG BINS ON THE GREEN.

Durham County has provided a quote of £1,504.65 including installation for four benches in the village and two replacement dog bins on the Green. The County has also been asked to turn the bench on Cuthbert’s Way through ninety degrees and install two of the former High Street litter bins in the Memorial Park. The Clerk will make application from Section 106 monies to fund the replacement seats at Stobbs Cross.

21. REPLACEMENT PRINTER/SCANNER.

The Clerk has been using his own equipment for scanning and printing since his appointment. The equipment is not fully compatible with the Parish Council’s computer which runs on Windows 8.1 software and it is now in need of replacement. Members are asked to approve the purchase of a new printer/scanner at a cost of up to £100.

21. SCHOOL OPEN DAY.

Members had asked that this item be placed on the agenda at the last meeting.

**NOTE: At the close of the meeting Members will be asked if they have any items for inclusion on the next agenda.**

To all Members of the Council,

Yours Sincerely, Ray Sunman/Clerk.

2nd March 2015.