**CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: MARCH 2020**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Cornforth Parish Council will be held in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 9th March 2020 when your attendance is requested. The agenda for the meeting is attached.

**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 10th February 2020. (Copy herewith)

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

To discuss any items arising from the previous minutes that are not included on this 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 any item 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 items to report.

8. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman will give a report of any matters which have arisen.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

Our County Council representative will report on any Durham County Council issues that have arisen since the last meeting.

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 1st March 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 company has provided the details requested and a Working Group Meeting will be held at the close of this meeting to consider them.

12. VE DAY 75 CELEBRATIONS.

Town and Parish Councils throughout the UK have been asked by SSAFA, the armed forces charity, to take the lead in arranging celebrations to mark the 75th Anniversary of the end of the war in Europe on 8th May 2020. Members have been advised of some of the detail and a further meeting has been held in the village to discuss the events to be held on these date. Members will be advised of current proposals and asked to consider making a contribution to costs under item 15.

13. 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 Reverend Norman has advised that sufficient plots remain to ensure that the churchyard will remain open until this date. In his view, when the churchyard is formally closed, the maintenance of it will transfer to the County Council.

14. REVIEW OF POLICIES: GRANT GIVING.

Cornforth Parish Council has need to review its various policies. The Council’s policy on giving grants was approved ten years ago and whilst it remains valid in terms of a process, the General Power of Competence has altered its legal basis and the number and variety of applications for assistance seems to be increasing. A copy of the policy is attached and Members are asked to consider updating it.

15. ISSUES FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

1. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – POSITION AT 29TH FEBRUARY 2020.

At the time of the despatch of this agenda the bank statement for the above period had not been received and the reconciliation statement will be circulated at the meeting.

15. ISSUES FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (CONT’D).

1. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2020.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** | **Cheque****No.** |
| NIL |  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |  |
| R. A. Sunman | Allowances | 222.15 | 102039 |
| Digital dog  | Website | 190.00 | 102040 |
| SE Landscaping | Ground maintenance | 2,060.00 | 102041 |
| Cornforth Village Show | Contribution | 1,000.00 | 102042 |
| The Cornforth Partnership | Contribution to core costs | 6,000.00 | 102043 |
| West Cornforth Comm. Assoc. | Contribution to boiler costs | 10,000.00 | 102044 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total Expenditure** | **19,472.15** |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Recommendation: That the schedule be approved.

1. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.
2. A letter has been received from Cornforth Partnership seeking financial assistance for its work in the community to deliver a range of VE Day celebrations over the three day period 8th – 10th May 2020. The contribution for £500 would help fund rosettes, prizes, coconuts, old fashioned games, promotional materials and other resources for the event, bringing the community together.
3. A letter has been received from West Cornforth Primary School asking the Parish Council to make a contribution towards costs of over £24,000 for projects to provide quality 0-2 baby care, a safe outdoor woodland investigation scheme for 0–5s and an all-weather cycle and running track. It is unclear how the estimates have been arrived at, how the projects relate to schemes already approved at the school and to what extent the school is meeting the costs from the school’s curriculum and capital budgets. Should the Parish Council be minded to support the projects, Members should be aware that it has made no budget provision for them and that it has committed to providing a refurbished Memorial Park in the 2020/21 financial year.

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

**for inclusion on a future agenda.**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT AT THE CLOSE OF THIS MEETING MEMBERS NEED TO HOLD A MEETING OF THE MEMORIAL PARK WORKING GROUP AND OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE.**

To all Members of the Parish Council.

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