**MINUTES OF CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

**MARCH 2019**

Minutes of the Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 11th March 2019.

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, Mr. C. Hodgson, Mr. P. Metcalfe, Mrs M. Poole, Mr. R. Poole, Mrs. S. Traynor, Mr. R Vaughan and Mrs. M. Walker.

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. C. Baker, Mrs. J. Grafton and Mr. J. Grafton.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The above apologies were accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne declared a personal interest as a County Councillor with regard to the item on the ground maintenance contract.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2019 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

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

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

5. POLICE LIAISON

The Vice Chairman reported that there had been no PACT since the last meeting of this Parish Council.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public in attendance at the meeting asked to speak with regard to the Memorial Park and asked that when proposals were put forward they include suggestions on a skate board ramp and security cameras.

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Mr. Williams about litter and had arranged with Cornforth Partnership to hold a presentation event with the Civic Pride group, inviting Network Rail.

The Clerk reported that he had received quotes from “All About Trees” to survey the ash tree on the Green and prepare a management plan for the Parish Council’s trees. It was agreed that in view of our insurer’s demands the work be carried out.

8. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman advised that the AAP would receive a presentation on the County Durham Plan at its next meeting and that it was looking for volunteers to serve on the Board.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

Our County Council representative reported that Durham County Council’s had set a 2.9% rise in its precept. The Durham County had adopted a climate change policy. County Councillor Crathorne was now serving on a working group looking into the problems of closing doctors’ practices and how to deal with a general shortage of doctors. The County Council was taking forward the sale and improvements of the houses at Glebe Villas and the May’s shop where a safety issue had been identified. County had won a best fire services award. The “Spruce-up” team had started work but the work was now at a stand-still. The MP’s surgery held last Friday had been poorly attended. Graffiti reported on the bridge is likely a Network Rail issue. Councillor Mrs. Pool asked that paving in High Street be cleaned.

10. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS FROM DURHAM COUNTY’S WEEKLY LISTS.

The Clerk reported that schedules of planning applications received by Durham County Council, up to and including 4th March 2019, showed the following proposals for development within Cornforth Parish:

1. DM/19/00488/FPA – Mr. Calland – 20 Oswald Close, Cornforth – Erection of a single storey side/rear extension.
2. DM/19/00274/FPA – Mr. and Mrs. Jones – Former Parish Hall, High Street, Cornforth – Demolition of hall and erection of four new dwellings with associated parking.

Members resolved not to make comments on the above applications.

The County Council had made the following decisions in respect of development within the Parish, which were noted:

1. DM/17/01612/OCMW – Tarmac – Retention of concrete batching plant until 2030 - Approved.
2. DM/18/03585/FPA – SLP Developments – Slake Terrace Inn – Erection of a single dwelling – Refused.

11. DURHAM COUNTY PLAN.

The Chairman, Members and The Clerk had attended the presentation on the above plan on 25th February and subsequently made representations to the County Council. It was noted in discussing the land use policies for the village that the Bank’s site had been allocated for employment development. This proposal was questioned, as the site had been the subject of several permissions for housing. The reply from the County Council indicated that the employment status would be in place for five years after the site was vacated. Members resolved to object to this issue in addition to its earlier comments, particularly as the development of this site for housing had figured in the reasoning to replace the school.

12. ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVISIONS AND POLLING STATION LOCATIONS.

The Clerk reported that the County Council was carrying out a consultation exercise during March on revisions to the electoral boundaries and the locations of Polling Stations. The County Council has no alterations of their own to suggest with regard to either issue, but is seeking local views on the need for change. Members’ views were sought and it was resolved that the County Council be advised that the Parish Hall had been lost as a polling station and that the Community Centre be used instead.

13. MEMORIAL PARK.

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had not replied on the costs involved in implementing the work required in the RoSPA report. In the meantime, he had sought equipment details from a number of providers as a starting point for dialogue with mothers groups, young people and the school, through Cornforth Partnership.

14. CASUAL VACANCY.

Durham County Council has been advised of the resignation of Mr. M. Simpson. A notice has been published and should an election not be called for, the Parish Council would be able to co-opt a new Member.

15. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A request for support has been received towards the 135th Miners’ Gala. The Parish Council usually takes out a £45 message of support in the Gala Souvenir Brochure. It was agreed that the gala be supported in this way.

1. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENTS – POSITION AT 28th FEBRUARY 2019.

The bank reconciliation statement for the above period was circulated at the meeting. It was agreed and signed by the Chairman and Councillor Mrs. M. Poole.

1. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS TO 28TH FEBRUARY 2019.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** | **Cheque****No.** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Miscellaneous |  | 2,960.94 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| West Cornforth Community Association | Affiliation fee | 20.00 | 959 |
| West Cornforth Community Association | Hall hire | 330.00 | 960 |
| R. A. Sunman | Allowances (December) | 76.08 | 961 |
| Newsquest  | Ground maintenance advert | 352.89 | 962 |
| Blachere | Removal of lights | 485.76 | 963 |
| R. A. Sunman | Allowances (January) | 162.32 | 964 |
| Lumalite | Instalment 3 | 783.29 | 965 |
| R. B. Legion Poppy Appeal | Wreathes for 2 ceremonies | 428.00 | 966 |
| R. B. Legion Cornforth Branch | Donation | 30.00 | 967 |
| Salvation Army | Donation | 30.00 | 968 |
| West Cornforth Community Association | Wreaths | 36.00 | 969 |
| Cornforth Partnership | Awards for All (January) | 582.86 | 970 |
| H. M. R. & Customs | Tax & N.I.C. (Nov – Jan) | 599.63 | 971 |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary | 666.10 | S/O |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **Net Expenditure** | **1,621.99** |  |

The schedule was approved.

1. GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT 2019/20.

The Clerk reported that four tenders were returned following the PQQ process. The tenders were opened by Members and after arithmetic checks had been undertaken, SE Landscapes was found to have submitted the lowest tender at £20,600 p.a. Members confirmed the appointment of this company as our ground maintenance contractor for the next two years. Councillor Mrs. Crathorne took no part in this decision.

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

**for inclusion on a future agenda. The following matter was suggested:**

1. The cleaning of the millennium stones.

To all Members of the Parish Council.

Yours Sincerely, Ray Sunman, Parish Clerk: 24th March 2019.

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