**MINUTES OF CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

**MARCH 2014**

Minutes of the meeting of Cornforth Parish Council which was held in the Community Centre, Cornforth, at 7.00pm on Monday 10th March 2014.

Present: Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson and

Councillors: Mr. C Baker, Mrs. H. P. Drew, Dr. S.C. Drew, Mrs. S. Neville, Mrs. M. Poole, Mr. R. Poole, Mr. M. Simpson, Mrs. S. Traynor and Mr. R. Vaughan.

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. T. Cutmore, Mr. S. Stewart, Mr. P. Metcalfe and Mr. A. Wilson.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The apologies were as noted above.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2014 were agreed as a true record 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 meeting of the PACT group or any dates fixed for future meetings.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no requests by the member of the public present to speak.

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

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence had been received:

1. Ferryhill Town Council will be holding a Brass Band Concert in St. Luke’s Hall on Saturday 5th April 2014 commencing at 7pm. Members were asked to advise the Clerk if they wished to attend.
2. The Historical Society had asked, through the Chairman, for a meeting with and help from the Parish Council in establishing a calendar of events to commemorate WW1.
3. Chilton Town Council will be holding a Civic Dinner in April. Members were asked to advise the Clerk if they wished to attend.

 8. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman as an elected member of the AAP Board gave a report on the County Council’s presentation to the last meeting, in which it began its consultation process on how parish and town councils and the voluntary sector could help it deliver services.

 9. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

Our County Council representative, Councillor Simpson, reported on the following Durham County Council issues:

1. The County Council has set its budget for 2014/15 and still needs to save £104M from 2015/18. It intends to have other organisations deliver its services, with libraries and the Sure-Start programme amongst them.
2. Councillor Simpson had reported the condition of the yards in Hawthorne Terrace to the Community Action Team. This team doesn’t operate countywide at all times and could not assist. Environmental Health also proved ineffective as these were privately owned properties. No. 11 has been cleaned up, but No. 7 remains a problem. The Land Registry is to be approached about ownership. Members discussed creating a gated development to solve the problem of fly tipping in the yards. The County Council would be asked to investigate this solution but it was difficult to get total agreement from all residents.
3. The County Council’s IT for its Councillors was still ineffective.
4. The History Society was to receive £200 from the Members’ Initiative Fund.
5. TicTac was to hold a meeting in Morden Parish Hall on 14th March in opposition to the Iles Wlnd Farm. Councillor Simpson was to attend.

10. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – POSITION AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2014.

The Clerk had circulated the current bank reconciliation statement and a comparison of this year’s budget to actual expenditure for this period at the meeting. The schedule was noted.

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

11. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS: FEBRUARY 2014.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** | **Cheque****No.** |
|  |  |  |  |
| H.M.R.& CUSTOMS – V.A.T. |  | 28,446.76 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Hibbitt’s Electrical | Tree wrap - The Green | 171.60 | 537 |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary  | 666.10 | S/O |
| Durham County Council | Xmas decoration – timer replacement | 1,152.44 | 538 |
| CDALC | Publications provided | 55.10 | 539 |
| West Cornforth & Dist. Comm. Association | Pantomime payment | 515.00 | 540 |
| West Cornforth & Dist. Comm. Association | Room hire 2013 | 194.00 | 541 |
| Zurich Management Services | Membership fee | 114.00 | 542 |
| R. A. Sunman | Allowances | 117.63 | 543 |
| Newsquest | Ground maintenance tender advert | 367.20 | 544 |
| Ferryhill Town Council | Mayor’s Charity Dance Tickets | 25.00 | 545 |
| Cornforth Historical Society | Donation to funds | 200.00 | 546 |
| Royal British Legion | Poppy Appeal | 201.00 | 547 |
| West Cornforth & Dist. Comm. Association | Affiliation fee | 18.00 | 548 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 3,797.07 |  |
|  | NET INCOME | 24,649.69 |  |
|  |  |  |  |

The above schedule was approved.

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

There were no planning applications received or decisions taken by the Strategic Team or the South Western teams of Durham County Council which were of note to this Council.

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

13. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

The Clerk reported that the following request for financial assistance had been received:

1. Durham County Brass Band Association – the Association, which is dedicated to supporting the North East’s Brass Band Heritage, is seeking a donation to its costs.

Members agreed that his request be declined as not in accord with its policy.

14. GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT.

The Clerk reported that he had received three sealed tenders. It was agreed that at the close of the meeting the cheque signatories present and other Members wishing to do so open the tenders and that, following an arithmetic check and a check of references, they choose a contractor for this work.

15. CONDITION OF YARDS IN HAWTHORNE TERRACE.

This matter had been dealt with under item 9.

16. CUSTOMER FIRST CONSULTATION.

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council is consulting on its communication policy with its customers. Details of the draft policy had been enclosed with the agenda. Members’ views were sought and after discussion the Clerk was asked to draft this Council’s response.

17. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL TREE POLICY.

The Vice Chairman reported on Durham County Council’s draft policy for dealing with its own and other trees. He felt that this was a common sense policy but a little rigid in its scope and interpretation. The County Council would be inspecting road-side trees, then its own trees on property and in woodland. It would provide a service of removing dangerous trees, but would charge the private owner. Members resolved to accept the policy but not to respond to the consultation.

18. REFERENCE TO THE MONITORING OFFICER

The Clerk reported that he, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman and Clerk had, as agreed, prepared and sent a reply the Monitoring Officer. Since the despatch of the agenda a response had been received which was read out in full to the meeting. In view of the lack of any comments by the Monitoring Officer or recommendations for action enclosed in his reply it was agreed that a copy of the Parish Council’s letter and the tables enclosed with it would be made available to Members at the meeting, but that no further action be taken. It was agreed that Mrs. Walker who attended the meeting be allowed to see Mr. Taylor’s reply and furnished with a copy.

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

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

**to be included on the next agenda. The following items were requested:**

1. The condition of the pavement outside of May’s shop and the newsagent’s shop. This was a problem due to blocked gutters.
2. Christmas tree lights following a meeting of the working group.
3. The filling of the casual vacancy.

Ray Sunman/Clerk: 12th March 2014.

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