**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL: FEBRUARY 2015**

Minutes of the meeting of Cornforth Parish Council which was held in the Community Centre, Cornforth, at 7.00pm on Monday 9th February 2015.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor Mr. A., Hodgson.

Councillors: Mr. C. Baker, Mrs. H. P. Drew, Dr. S. C. Drew, Mr. C. Hodgson, Mr. P. Metcalfe, Mrs. S. Neville, Mr. R. Poole, Mrs. S. Traynor, Mr. R. Vaughan and Mr. A. Wilson.

Apologies: Mr. T. Cutmore, Mr. S. Hodgson, Mrs. M. Poole and Mr. M. Simpson.

PRIOR TO CALLING THE MEETING TO ORDER THE CHAIRMAN ADVISED MEMBERS THAT THE PROCEEDINGS COULD BE RECORDED AND THAT THOSE ATTENDING COULD EXPECT TO BE REPORTED UPON.

1. APOLOGIES.

The above apologies for non-attendance were noted.

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 meetings held on 12th January and 26th January 2015 and circulated with the agenda were agreed as a true copy.

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

The Clerk reported that he had sent Durham County Council the details of the precept and resources requested for 2015/16. He advised the Members that the County Council viewed the precept as a 2.2% increase on a Band “D” Council Tax payer. As the Government had now made it clear that it did not intend to cap Town and Parish Council increases or require them to hold a referendum for any figure over 2%, the Parish Council figure could remain unaltered.

5. POLICE LIAISON

The Vice Chairman reported that there had been no PACT meeting in the month.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to facilitate public participation and resumed it following public participation.

Mrs. Walker, Mrs Wilson and Mr. Wilson attended the meeting and Mrs Walker spoke about the “walkabout” held with the County Council’s Community Team on 20th January 2015. Whilst there was no specific item on the agenda covering this issue, the Chairman agreed that it could be reported under item 4 of this agenda as it related to items 9 and 14 of the previous meeting.

The meeting with Jennifer Jones and Fire Officers had been previously arranged and concentrated on the Hawthorne Terrace and Roberts’s Square areas, including the Memorial Park. Those attending found 29 cases of tipping, 6 sewers in need of attention, 3 cases of fly-tipping, 31 cases of dog-fouling in the Memorial Park and two cases of bin fires. The County Council was able to deal with most of these issues within 24 hours. The Fire Officer will deal with ongoing action to deal with the fires and a matter involving a damaged roof had been reported to Building Control. Mrs. Walker pointed out that the Parish Council could adopt bye-laws to prevent dogs from being exercised in the Memorial Park.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Walker for her report and pointed out that the “walkabout” had been intended as a follow-up to the Team’s earlier work. It was regrettable that the team had not met also with Parish Council Members waiting to meet them in Cornforth House on that day.

For the record, a Mr. Wilson had attended to speak about Parish Council notice boards. The Clerk advised him that the matter could not be raised at the meeting or placed on the agenda because of the short length of time that had passed since it was last discussed and action determined.

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Chairman reported that “Doggie Bulldogs”, a local charity, had raised £1,000 for the school to acquire team sports strips. The Members expressed their thanks to those involved and passed on the Head Teacher’s gratitude.

 8. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman advised Members that as yet no further decisions involving grants to local projects had been taken.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

In the absence of our County Council representative no report could be given.

10. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENTS – POSITION AT 31st DECEMBER 2014 AND 31ST JANUARY 2015.

The Clerk had circulated the bank reconciliation statements and a comparison of this year’s budget to actual expenditure for this periods at the meeting. The contents were noted.

11. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS TO 31st JANUARY 2015.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** | **Cheque****No.** |
|  |  |  |  |
| NIL |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal | Wreathes for Remembrance Sunday | 290.00 | 609 |
| Lumalite | Christmas tree hire | 783.29 | 610 |
| Hibbitts Electrical | Supply to tree wrap | 118.74 | 611 |
| West Cornforth and District Community Association | Affiliation fee | 20.00 | 612 |
| Northumbrian Water | Allotment water | 356.23 | 613 |
| Altogether Greener | Ground maintenance | 2,474.44 | 614 |
| R. A. Sunman | Allowances | 97.63 | 615 |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary | 666.10 | S/O |
|  | TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 4,806.43 |  |

The above schedule was approved.

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

The Clerk reported that the following planning applications had been received by Durham County Council which were of note to this Council:

1. DM/14/03712/AD – 10/12 High Street Cornforth – Installation of an illuminated fascia sign.
2. DM/15/00127/MIN – Lafarge – Extension of the life of the quarry for 15 years, an internal haul road and restoration works.

It was resolved to make no representation with regard to the illuminated sign, but that the Parish Council views on the quarry, reported at the last meeting, be forwarded to the County Council

 Members noted that only one decision had been made affecting this Council:

1. DM/14/02872/MIN – Thrislington Works – Extension of the life of the concrete batching plant.

13. NETWORK RAIL: USE OF SCRAP YARD AND TIPPING ON ACCESS FROM BYPASS.

Members were advised that Network Rail felt that it had no responsibility to remove any rubbish from the site as it only held a right of way across it and would give no information about the landowner. The Clerk was instructed to contact the County Council. In addition, the Clerk was instructed to write to Network Rail about the scrap yard access and arrange a meeting.

14. REPAIR WORK TO THE GREEN.

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council appears to have prepared its specification for the repair work, but seems to be under the impression that the Highways Team is to do the work. The Clerk had spoken to Mr. Dunn but he had not been sent any details for presentation at the meeting. This item will be placed on the next agenda and Members will be asked to agree a list of tenderers.

15. OVERGROWN VEGETATION ON FOOTPATH AT FORMER HARE AND HOUNDS.

A Member had asked that this item be placed on the agenda. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Durham County Council to cut the vegetation back.

16. THE VILLAGE PANTOMIME: COSTS AND ENTRANCE CHARGES.

A Member had asked that item be placed on the agenda. After discussion, it was agreed that in 2015 the pantomime would be given more publicity and that a flat charge of £2 a head would be made.

17. FUTURE WORK TO THE ALLOTMENTS.

Members asked for an item to be placed on the agenda to discuss the need for work following the disconnection of the water supply. The Clerk had circulated a brief note at the meeting, setting out the current tenancy situation, vacant plots, the waiting list and water costs as a basis for discussion. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for the water to be reconnected so that repairs could be carried out. The tenants would be advised of the situation and all residents on the waiting list be asked to confirm their interest in having a tenancy.

**NOTE: At the close of the meeting Members were asked if they had any items for inclusion on the next agenda. The following matters were agreed:**

1. Replacement dog bins on the Green
2. Allotments.
3. School Open day following demolition.

Ray Sunman/Clerk.

17th February 2015.

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