**MINUTES OF CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

**FEBRUARY 2017.**

Minutes of the Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 10th February 2017.

Present: Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson and

Councillors: Mr. C. Baker, Mrs. H. P. Drew, Dr. S. C. Drew, Mr. C. Hodgson, Mr. P. Metcalfe, Mrs. M. Poole, Mr. R. Poole, Mrs. S. Traynor, and Mrs. M. Walker.

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. T. Cutmore, Mrs. S. Neville, Mr. M. Simpson, Mr. R. Vaughan and Mr. A. Wilson.

1. APOLOGIES.

The above apologies were accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Councillor Mrs. S. Traynor declared an interest with regard to a request for financial assistance from Cornforth in Bloom to be taken under item 7.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2017, a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda, were agreed and signed by the Chairman. The Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2017 were yet to be circulated.

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 meeting held in February and that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 1st March 2017 at 5pm in Cornforth school.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

A number of residents attended the meeting, but none wished to speak on any items on the agenda.

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Chairman reported that he had received a request for financial assistance from the Parish Council from Cornforth in Bloom to meet the £151.00 costs of the RHS insurance premium for 2017. As all their current funds were committed to projects it was agreed that the costs be met. The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Post Office, advising that from March the service would be transferred to 19 High Street, Cornforth. Members resolved not to make any objection.

8. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman as an elected member of the AAP Board reported that the Board had not met since the last meeting.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

Our County Council representative was not available to report County Council issues.

The Clerk reported that the County Council had acted to try to resolve the tipping situation at the Balaclava. If no action was taken by the landowner within a month the County Council would serve a notice to remove the tipping.

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

The Clerk reported that at the time of the despatch of this agenda, which included applications up to and including 6th February 2017, the following applications had been received that were of interest to this Parish Council.

1. DM/16/03955/FPA – Mr. M. Valks – 1 Stobbs Cross Road – Erection of a single storey side extension to form a garage, vehicular access, wall with 1.5m high pillars and a block paving drive.
2. DM/17/00104/FPA – Mr. A. Blankley – 10 Garmondsway Road – Replacement dwelling.
3. DM/17/00158/FPA – Mr. and Mrs. Bikhu – The Grange Thinford Road – Erection of single storey side and rear extensions.
4. DM/17/00045/FPA – Marcus Design and Build – 64 Garmondsway Road – Erection of a two storey side extension.

Plans showing the above proposals were circulated at the meeting. Members resolved not to make any comment on the proposals.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had not been notified of any decisions taken by the County Council affecting development within its boundaries.

11. REPLACEMENT OF PAVING ON THE GREEN.

The Clerk reported that following the previous meeting M. Spence Surfacing had carried out the work to replace three sections of defective paving in the week commencing 30th January 2017. A meeting had been held with staff of the County Council, who advised that a small area adjoining the Square and Compass be added to the contract, as well as taking back the Parish Council’s request for financial help. The additional work was approved. It was noted that the paving outside No 16 The Green had been replaced by the owner.

12. DEVELOPMENTS IN BISHOP AUCKLAND.

The Clerk reported that Lee Brownson, the Senior Visitor Services Officer for the developments at Auckland Castle, had offered to make a presentation on the £70M programme to Members. It was agreed that he be invited to speak following the election of the new Council after May 2017.

13. PROPOSAL TO REMOVE STREET LIGHTING.

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that it had previously been consulted on the removal of street lighting on the A688/A177 road and Council objected to the proposals, because of the development being proposed near Bowburn. The County Council had to consult more widely, but has now resolved to remove 14 lighting columns. Weight limit restriction signs will be replaced, along with speed limit repeater signs, new traffic warning signs and cats’ eyes. The Members noted the position.

14. CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE.

A Member had asked that this be included on the agenda on behalf of a member of the public, who could not attend this meeting. It was agreed that the matter be deferred to the next meeting.

15. MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS SUB COMMITTEE.

The Clerk reported the issues discussed at the last meeting of the above Sub Committee on 6th February 2017. The following matters were agreed and referred to the Parish Council:

1. That the rents for 2017/18 remain at the current level and be collected in the last week of February.
2. That the contract with Durham County Council be terminated and that following advice from Health and Safety officers, traps be acquired for use by tenants.
3. That our ground maintenance contractors be asked to quote for the cleaning of the beck and NWA asked to clean the storm water culvert at the same time.
4. That when the Clerk advises the tenants on rent collection he lets them know that there is still a ground swell of interest in forming an Allotment Association.
5. That the tenancies of the three plots held by the Patterson family be terminated because of non-cultivation, but that they be allowed to appear before the Parish Council in March should they wish, before a final decision is taken.

Members approved the above issues.

16. FORTHCOMING ELECTION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS.

The Clerk advised Members that the County Council and Parish elections will be held on 4th May 2017, but the counting of votes for Parish and Town Councils will not be held until Saturday 6th May 2017. The Parish Council’s Annual General Meeting is currently scheduled to take place on 8th May 2017. It is agreed that it be held on Monday 15th May 2017, instead, and that the Parish Meeting take place in the week commencing 22nd May 2017.

17. FINANCIAL REPORTS.

1. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS TO 31st JANUARY 2017.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** | **Cheque**  **No.** |
| NIL |  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |  |
| Northumbrian Water | Allotment water | 72.65 | 793 |
| Cornforth Partnership | General administration | 938.16 | 794 |
| Two Red Rubber Things | Tursdale statue (deposit) | 6,000.00 | 795 |
| Two Red Rubber Things | Tursdale statue (to erection) | 12,000.00 | 796 |
| R. A. Sunman | Allowances | 80.93 | 797 |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary | 666.10 | S/O |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total Expenditure** | **19,757.84** |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **Net Expenditure** | **19,757.84** |  |

Recommendation: That the schedule be approved.

In approving the above schedule, the suggestion by Councillor Mrs. Walker, that in future the “general administration” heading be shown split across its individual items, was agreed.

1. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENTS – POSITION AT 31st JANUARY 2017.

The bank reconciliation statement was circulated at the meeting.

1. BUDGET 2017/18 FINANCIAL YEAR.

Members are advised that the precept request for the 2017/18 Financial Year has been forwarded to the County Council. In the view of County Council officers, the precept increase is only 1.7%.

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

**for inclusion on a future agenda. No additional items were requested.**

To all Members of the Parish Council.

Yours Sincerely, Ray Sunman, Parish Clerk: 16th February 2017.

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