**MINUTES OF CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

 **FEBRUARY 2013**

Minutes of the meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 4th February 2013.

Present: Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson and

Councillors: Mr. T. Cutmore, Dr. S. C. Drew, Mr. P. Metcalfe, Mrs. S. Neville, Mrs. M. Poole, Mr. R. Poole, Mr. M. Simpson, Mrs. S. Traynor, Mr. R. Vaughan, and Mrs. P. M. Walker and Mr. A. Wilson.

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. K. Clasper, Mr. S. Hodgson and Mrs. H. P. Drew.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman declared an interest in respect of item 13 on the agenda.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 7th and 14th January 2013 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ON THE AGENDA

There were no matters arising that did not appear on the agenda.

5. POLICE LIAISON

The Vice Chairman reported that the village had been quiet, but that the priority remained in Barrett Road because of the harassment by youths of an individual resident..

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

There were no items to report.

8. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman advised the meeting that the AAP was about to start its 2013 programme.

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

9. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – POSITION AT 31st JANUARY 2013.

The Clerk circulated the current bank reconciliation statement and a comparison of this year’s budget to actual expenditure for this period at the meeting. The statements reconciled and were approved.

10. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS JANUARY 2013.

The following schedule of receipts and payments for January 2013 was approved.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  |  **£** |
|  |  |  |
| Nil |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary  | 666.10 |
| R. A. Sunman | Allowances and mileage | 59.93 |
| Cornforth Partnership  | Room hire and printing | 581.22 |
| AllAboutTrees | Tree survey and report | 264.00 |
| Scarlet Band Buses | Trip to Pantomime | 60.00 |
| Doggie Ducklings | Trip to Gala Theatre | 100.00 |
| Royal British Legion | Donation to Wreaths | 170.00 |
| Royal British Legions Men’s Section | Donation | 30.00 |
| Royal British Legions Women’s Section | Donation | 30.00 |
| R. A. O. B. Sphere Lodge | Donation | 30.00 |
| Salvation Army | Donation | 30.00 |
| Sedgefield and District C. A. B. | Donation | 400.00 |
| Rossendales Collect (H. M. R. & C.) | Tax and N.I.C. | 195.96 |
| H. M. R. & C. | Tax and N.I.C. | 586.53 |
| Northumbrian Water | Allotments Water | 200.98 |
| W. C. & D. C. Assoc. | Pantomime | 431.00 |
| W. C. & D. C. Assoc. | Room hire | 224.00 |
| Cornforth Partnership | Awards for All | 698.25 |
|  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 4,757.97 |
|  |  |  |
|  | NET EXPENDITURE | 4,757.97 |
|  |  |  |

11. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS FROM DECEMBER’S WEEKLY LISTS.

The Clerk reported that at the time of the despatch of this agenda, there were no planning applications received by the Strategic Office or the South West Office of Durham County Council which were of note to this Council.

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

11. PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS FROM DECEMBER’S WEEKLY LISTS (CONT’D)

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting, the Parish Council’s objection to the application referenced, 7/2012/0418/DM by Mr. Ernest Oliver for the erection of a detached dwelling house on land East of “Barcroft”, The Green, Cornforth had been relayed to Durham County Council. Despite our serious concerns about the access arrangements, the application was granted as the County Highway Engineers did not support our view.

Members were angered by this decision as the objection had not been made in a frivolous manner, but unanimously, with local knowledge and genuine concerns about highway safety and footpath construction. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the County Council as it was felt that local concerns were being ignored.

Other than the above, the Clerk had not been notified of any other decisions made by the staff of the County Council at the time of the despatch of this agenda.

12. ALLOTMENT SURVEY.

Following the reports made by Members on the above survey at the last meeting, a report had been circulated setting out the main findings, issues and priorities for consideration. Members agreed to serve notice on the tenants of plots 2, 8, 12 and 18. The tenant of plot 31 was to be asked to put forward proposals to clear and improve the site inside a month and if approved by the Parish Council to implement the proposals by the end of April 2013. Tenants keeping horses were to be instructed to make proper composting arrangements for the treatment of manure and the Clerk was to pursue the issue through amendments to the lease arrangements. Further work on parking and drainage was to be discussed at the April meeting once the above actions had been progressed.

13. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

The Clerk reported that a media day was planned for Cornforth Primary School in which Star Radio would teach pupils about advertising and the media and work with them to create a Podcast celebrating the individuality of West Cornforth and the school. The media day is part of Star Radio’s “Star in School” programme and would be partly funded by “livin”. The school was seeking the support of the Parish Council towards the cost of the work which in total is £1,290. “livin” is willing to meet half the costs of the day which will take place over the summer and the Parish Council is asked to provide the remaining £645.

The Chairman left the meeting whilst a decision was made. Members resolved to defer a decision and to seek more information from the school about the proposals.

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

14. COUNTY COUNCIL LAND IN THE HIGH STREET.

Members were reminded that Durham County Council is disposing of land which is surplus to its operational requirements. A piece of land at the western end of Cornforth High Street, between Thrislington Villa and the former Chapel, has become available under this disposal. The land, which is currently used for grazing, forms the “stop” at the end of the street and is visually important. In addition, the land extends behind Thrislington Villa. At an earlier meeting , the Parish Council had expressed an interest in acquiring the land for a formal planted area or garden, with Cornforth Partnership expressing an interest in the remainder as a Community Garden/Allotment. The County Council is willing to discuss selling the land to the Parish Council rather than going to auction.

Given the constraints on Parish Council expenditure in 2013/14 and doubts about the sustainability of the Community Garden, Members agreed to defer a decision to allow the County Council time to finalise boundaries and for a meeting to be held with Cornforth Partnership.

15. PATH TO THE REAR OF SCARLET BAND.

The Clerk advised the meeting that the water logged condition of this footpath has been reported to officers of the County Council who deal with designated rights of way.

16. FLOODING FROM FIELDS TO THE EAST OF MIDDLEHAM ROAD.

Members were advised that prolonged rain and recent snow melt had caused considerable flooding across Parish Council land on Middleham Road and down Slake Terrace. A house has suffered water damage and part of the road has collapsed. The Chairman and the Clerk have made contact with the farmer, Smiths Gore on behalf of the landowners (The Church Commissioners), Durham County Council, The Fire Brigade and The Environment Agency. Following a joint meeting some remedial and emergency work had taken place, but further work, including a bigger drain across the Parish Council’s land, may be required and Members will be advised on the situation.

17.REMEDIAL WORKS ON THE GREEN.

The Clerk reported that he had advised the County Council of the Parish Council’s concern about the use of boulders on the Green as a solution to prevent vehicular encroachment. A meeting is being sought with Mr. Peter Dunn to address issues of lifting paving and this will discussed at the same time.

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

18. GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT.

At the meeting which considered and set the precept in January, there was discussion about the likely effects of the LCTSS on the future expenditure of this Parish Council. As a result, Members felt that it should reconsider the impact of seeking a new ground maintenance contract for 2013/14 and instead seek to extend the period of the present contract with Durham County Council for a further year. Two of the implications of such a decision would be certainty of expenditure in 2013/14 and that the new Parish Council to be elected in May would be able to consider the matter which would form a considerable part of its budget in coming years.

Members resolved to seek an extension to the contract for 2013/14 and to form a small committee after the May elections and to revise the contents of the contract thereafter.

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

**to be included on the next agenda and the following item was requested.**

i) The County Council to be asked why there was no snow clearance carried out of the approach roads to and surfaces of the car park at the surgery.

Yours Sincerely

Ray Sunman/Clerk: 28th January 2013.

To all Members of the Parish Council.

Signed: ......................................................... Date: ................................................