**MINUTES OF CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

**MARCH 2012**

Minutes of the meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 5th March 2012.

Present: Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson and

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

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. M. J. Pennick and Mr. A. Wilson.

1.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dr. S.C. Drew declared a financial interest with regard to item 12 on the agenda.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2012 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ON THE AGENDA

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

4. POLICE LIAISON

At an emergency meeting held in February it had been agreed that future meetings would be held on the last Wednesday in every month. The Cornforth priority for the month was to be the disturbance caused by motor cycles in Barrett Way.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

6. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Clerk had received the following invitation addressed to the Chairman:

a) Ferryhill Town Council Charity Dinner – 7.00 pm. Friday 13th April 2012 at the Masonic Hall, Ferryhill – tickets £24.00. No Member expressed an interest

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

6. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE. (CON’T)

The Chairman had received the following invitation:

a) Chilton Town Council Civic Dinner – 7.00 pm Thursday 5th April 2012 – The Vice Chairman and Councillor Mrs. H.P. Drew would represent the Parish Council.

The Chairman made the following announcement:

a) The “Durham Talk” system through which complaints could be lodged with Durham County council had been installed in Cornforth House.

b) The Golden Wedding celebrations of Mr. and Mrs. Cowans were to be held on 10th March 2012. It was agreed that flowers would be presented to the happy couple by the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council.

7. AAP ISSUES

The next meeting of the AAP would be held in week commencing 12th March 2012.

8. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – POSITION AT 29th February 2012.

The Clerk had circulated the current bank reconciliation statements for January and February 2012. The statements were approved.

9. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FEBRUARY 2011.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** |
|  |  |  |
| CCTV Monitoring and running costs refund | Durham County Council | 5,038.80 |
|  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary | 640.75 |
| R. A. Sunman  Society of Local Council Clerks | Allowances and sundries  Fees | 80.23  10.60 |
|  | TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE | 731.58 |
|  |  |  |

The schedule was approved.

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

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

The Clerk reported that the following application had been notified by the Spennymoor Office of Durham County Council.

a) 7/2012/0015/DM - the conversion of a double garage to a residential annex at Lyneholme, Cornforth Lane (Mrs Wendel) – a holding objection lodged on the grounds that the proposal lay outside of the village development boundaries and created both road safety and privacy problems was withdrawn.

11. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CORNFORTH VILLAGE SHOW.

a) The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from the Secretary of the Village Show seeking financial support for the show which is to be held on Saturday and Sunday 1st and 2nd September 2012. The Parish Council had included a sum of £1,000 for this item in its 2012/13 budget. It was agreed that the show would be supported at the sum included in the budget.

b) The Clerk reported that a letter has been received from the Durham Miners, Gala Association seeking the Council’s support to run an advertisement in the 2012 Souvenir Brochure. It was agreed that the usual eighth page advertisement be included at the cost of £75.

12. MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS SUB COMMITTEE AND TENANTS.

The Allotment Sub Committee met with 12 of the 16 allotment tenants on Wednesday 22nd February. A copy of the Minutes was enclosed with the agenda. Members approved the Minutes, in particular the increase to rentals (£5 per annum), and amendments to the work to be carried out in the spring for which tenders would be sought.

In addition, Members were asked to agree the appointment of a Chairman and Vice Chairman following the death of Councillor Woodall. Councillor P. Metcalfe was proposed and seconded as Chairman and duly appointed. Councillor Mrs. P.M. Walker was proposed and seconded as Vice Chairman and duly appointed.

13. GROUND MAINTENACE CONTRACT.

Members were requested to extend the above contract by one more year and to seek tenders for the work during 2012 for March 2013 and beyond. After discussion around some Members wishes not to bind the incoming Parish Council to a contract entered into before the elections in 2013, it was agreed to approve the above resolution by a majority vote of 8 Members for and 4 against the motion.

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

14. UPDATE ON ITEMS DISCUSSED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

a) Closure of Thurston Grange – The Clerk reported that t meeting he had requested with “Livin” would take place after that organisation had consulted with residents. It was agreed that a note to this effect would be posted in Cornforth House.

b) Cornforth in Bloom – Members agreed to meet on Thursday 15th March 2012 to discuss action and noted that approaches had been made to the owners’ solicitors about painting May’s shop.

c) Travellers policy – The Clerk had written to Durham County Council following the last meeting.

d) Dog fouling - The Clerk had written to Durham County Council following the last meeting, requesting action and new bins in the Money’s Building area.

e) Bus Service 113 – The Clerk had sent a letter of support to Scarlet Band Motor Services to be forwarded to the Traffic Commissioners. In the meantime, initial publicity on the availability of the service had been posted on the Parish Council’s notice board and an article had appeared in the Northern Echo.

f) Footpaths 10 and 15 – A meeting had been held with Mr. Shaw, a Rights of Way officer from Durham County Council following Members’ concern about tree clearance alongside the above footpaths. Whilst the paths had not been damaged at the time of that meeting a trench had since been dug across them and mounds were preventing access. The Clerk was asked to advise the County Council.

g) Footpaths at Moneys Buildings - The Clerk had written to Durham County Council following the last meeting. It was noted that Network Rail was working on the bridge in this area.

h) Community Park – Groundwork had been commissioned to provide a design to replace the three entrance ways to the Community Park, renaming it “The Bill Wilson Memorial Park”. The wording for a plaque rededicating the park had been sent to Mr. Wilson’s family for agreement.

i) Trees in the Church-yard - The Clerk had made application to Durham County Council for consent to fell 12 trees and cut back others. The Rev. Lumsden had been sent a copy. The grill to the lower bin was still considered too heavy and the Clerk was asked to see if anything could be done to lighten it.

j) Healthy Cornforth Project – Continuing our support for the community, the Clerk had acted with Cornforth Partnership, submitting an application to “Awards for All” for a grant of over £9,000 for this project. Members noted with satisfaction that the scheme had received approval and asked for a progress report at a later meeting..

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

**of business to be included on the next agenda. None were requested.**

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

Ray Sunman/Clerk: 7th March 2012.