**MINUTES OF CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

**MARCH 2018**

Minutes of the Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 12th March 2018.

Present: Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson and

Councillors: Mr. C. Baker, Mrs. P. Crathorne, Mrs. J. Grafton, Mr. J. Grafton, Mr. C. Hodgson, Mrs. S. Traynor and Mr. R. Vaughan.

Apologies: Councillors: Mrs. H.P. Drew, Dr. S. C. Drew, Mrs. M. Poole, Mr. R. Poole, Mr. M. Simpson and Mrs. M. Walker.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The above apologies were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made with regard to any items on the agenda.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2018, as amended, and the Minutes of 12th February, which had been circulated with the agenda, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no matters arising from the above Minutes that were not included on the agenda.

5. POLICE LIAISON

The Chairman reported on the latest PACT meeting. There had been 11 reports of anti-social behaviour: in Chester Crescent a male had been spoken to with regard to banging on windows and in Lichfield Road police have their suspicions about the driving of a mini-moto. A burglary had taken place in the High Street and police think that someone knows the person who did it. A violent assault took place in Poplar Terrace. Two thefts took place: a male and a female fled a taxi to avoid paying a fare and Stonham Housing had suffered a theft in Laburnum Road. There had been 3 reports of criminal damage: a door panel had been kicked in at Stobbs Cross and windows broken in Poplar Terrace and the High Street. In Birch Road a tip-off about heroin had resulted in the execution of a warrant and a male had been arrested.

An update was given on an earlier incident: a man had been arrested and pleaded guilty to the till robbery in the High Street.

The PACT priority would be Chester Crescent with high-visibility patrols following the return of a previously evicted female.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter from The Mayor of Ferryhill Town Council inviting the Chairman to his charity dinner on Friday 27th April 2018.

8. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman reported that the new Task and Finish Groups would start work at the end of March. Only one £100K amount would be made available for all bids, in order to give a fairer distribution of schemes across all communities.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

Our County Council representative, Mrs. P. Crathorne, reported that the County Council had raised the Council Tax by 2.99%, with a 2% increase on adult care. The County Council would have to save £23M this year.

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 5th March 2018, the following application had been received by Durham County Council which was of interest to Cornforth Parish Council:

1. DM/18/00524/FPA – Mrs. B. Andrews – 22 The Green – Replacement of upvc bow windows at the front with upvc sash windows.

Members resolved not to make any representations about this application.

No decisions been made affecting development within the Parish boundaries.

11. SUGGESTION OF A COUNCILLORS’ SURGERY.

A suggestion has been received from County Councillor Crathorne for a joint Members’ surgery to be held in the village. Following recent advice from Durham County Council, County Councillors are unable to offer a surgery where they would be alone and therefore at risk. Councillor Mrs. J. Grafton offered to attend such a surgery from 2-4pm on Thursdays, with the Clerk in attendance if necessary. It was also agreed that a later surgery, after 5pm, could be held if requested. The venue would be in No. 66 High Street.

12. RECORDING OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

Cornforth Parish Council meetings are recorded, on occasion, by members of the public and the results published on social media. The Council considered recording the meetings itself and it was agreed that a simple recording device be acquired as an aid to minute taking and to protect both the Council and the Clerk.

13. RESIGNATION FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL.

The Clerk reported that the Electoral Services Division of the County Council had advised that no request had been received for an election to fill the vacancy left by Mrs. Wilson’s resignation. The vacancy could now be filled by co-option. Members’ agreed to ask if Paul Metcalfe, who had previously served on the Council, would agree to become a co-opted Member.

14. TURSDALE WAR MEMORIAL REDEDICATION CEREMONY.

The Clerk reported that rededication ceremony is to be held on 24th March 2018. The unveiling will be carried out by Major Lawton MBE DL and the service led by the Reverend Norman. Invited guests have been asked to be in place by 10.45am. Road closures have been applied for and the Safety Advisory Group informed. The Clerk has tried to make arrangements with Allinson’s of Bishop Auckland to clean the statue and repair the letters. The company could not assist and the work is to be done by our second tenderer Auckland Memorials. Invitations have been printed and sent out. Because of restricted parking arrangements have been made for a shuttle bus to and from the Community Centre from 10.15am. Arrangements have been made for refreshments in the Community Centre. Members agreed to the above arrangements and asked if it would be possible to make a video of the ceremony.

15. ALLOTMENTS.

The Clerk advised members that the asbestos problem had put on hold any other work and further lettings. The asbestos and all the old sheds had been removed. Mr. Parkins has asked to retain two of his plots and that of his mother, having previously expressed his desire to give them up. Provided the fence is replaced, Mrs. Parkins uses her plot for horticulture only and no sub-letting takes place, this seems acceptable. This arrangement releases plot 36, a narrow awkward plot, which immediately abuts the NWA access road. It was suggested that this plot be subdivided across the three adjoining plots and that a path be created joining the access road to the allotment path further south. A plan was circulated at the meeting. Members agreed to this arrangement and instructed the Clerk to carry out the work through our ground maintenance contractor.

It was noted that no water had been used since November. Members asked that a Sub Committee meeting be held in April.

16. REPLACEMENT GATE AT THE MEMORIAL PARK.

The Clerk reported that he had received a quote for the replacement of the access gate. Members resolved not to carry out any work on the access gate until plans for the revitalisation of the Memorial Park are approved.

17. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

1. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – POSITION AT 28th FEBRUARY 2018.

The bank reconciliation statement circulated with the agenda was approved.

17. FINANCIAL MATTERS (CONT’D).

1. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS TO 28th FEBRUARY 2018.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** | **Cheque**  **No.** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Cornforth Partnership |  | 1,234.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Durham County Council | Election costs | 1,954.44 | 882 |
| R. A. Sunman | Allowances | 165.55 | 883 |
| NWG Business | Allotment water | 183.71 | 884 |
| Altogether Greener | Period 10 | 2,648.60 | 885 |
| Altogether Greener | Asbestos removal | 2,940.00 | 886 |
| The Panto Company | Deposit for 2018 | 120.00 | 887 |
| S. L. C. C. | Annual subscription | 125.00 | 888 |
| The Cornforth Partnership | Poop –scoop bags | 434.50 | 889 |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary | 666.10 | S/O |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total Expenditure** | **9,237.90** |  |
|  | **Net Expenditure** | **8,003.90** |  |
|  |  |  |  |

The schedule was approved.

**NOTE: At the close of the meeting Members were asked if they had any items for future meetings. The following items were agreed:**

1. To review the policies of the Parish Council at the Annual General Meeting.
2. To look at any further need to replace block paving with tarmac on The Green and repair the step at No.17 The Green.
3. To look into cleaning the wall adjoining the bus stop opposite Cornforth House.
4. To alter the signage about dog fouling in the Memorial Park.

To all Members of Cornforth Parish Council.

R. A. Sunman Parish Clerk.

15th March 2018.

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