**MINUTES OF CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

**MARCH 2013**

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

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. P. M. Walker and Mr. A. Wilson.

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. S. Hodgson.

PRESENTATION RELATING TO ITEM 13 ON THE AGENDA.

Prior to the start of the meeting a presentation was given by Mrs. Sarsfield, the Head Teacher at Cornforth School, with regard to Item 13 on the agenda. The Members thanked for her attendance.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman declared an interest with regard to Item 13 of the agenda.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2013 were agreed as a true record.

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 police priority areas were to be extended from Barrett Road to include deterring dog fouling on the grassed area near Garmondsway Road and dealing with anti social behaviour in the Bridge Road area. The incident in the Flintlock Public House was regarded as an isolated issue between travellers. The inn had been the subject of complaint about disturbances and breaches to the licensing laws and the licence had been withdrawn. The Parish Council had been separately advised through the local police sergeant.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

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

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

There were no items to report.

AAP ISSUES

The Chairman advised the meeting that the next meeting of the AAP Task and Finish Group was to be held on 11th March and the AAP full meeting on 18th. The Chairman will report the outcome.

9. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – POSITION AT 28th FEBRUARY 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 statement was in balance and was approved.

10. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FEBRUARY 2013.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** |
|  |  |  |
| Nil |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary | 666.10 |
| R. A. Sunman | Allowances and mileage | 82.13 |
| R.T.S. Tree Services | Churchyard tree work | 2,520.00 |
| Ferryhill Town Council | Civic Dinner ticket | 24.00 |
| Chilton Town Council | Civic Dinner tickets | 42.00 |
| C. D. A. L. C | Membership fee | 389.89 |
| Zurich Insurance | Management service fee | 114.00 |
| J. W. Smith | Bus shelter cleaning | 120.00 |
| Premier Traffic Management | Road Closure costs | 288.00 |
| West Cornforth & District Comm. Assoc. | Wreaths | 36.00 |
| Cornforth Partnership Awards for All | Payment for work | 191.00 |
| W. C. & D. C. Assoc. | Affiliation Fee | 18.00 |
|  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 4,491.12 |
|  |  |  |
|  | NET EXPENDITURE | 4,491.12 |
|  |  |  |

The schedule was approved.

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

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

The Clerk reported that up to this date 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 or notification of any planning decision made in the Parish.

The Clerk advised that following the last meeting, he had written to the Planning Department in respect of the Parish Council 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, relaying its anger and disappointment that despite our serious concerns about the access arrangements, the application had been granted on delegated authority. The Clerk had been advised that unless our objections were supported by the Highways Engineers (they were not) the process allowed officers to grant the development. The Clerk then discussed the application further with Mr. Glenright, the DCC engineer who dealt with the proposal. He was advised that Mr. Glenright had visited the site in September 2011 and had insisted on the boundary wall being set back to accommodate a section of new footpath, the design modified to ensure adequate sight lines and a turning head in the site. Such amendments had been incorporated, although this may not have been apparent from the submitted plans. The new access arrangements were considered satisfactory.

After discussion, Members agreed to take no further action with regard to this application but to modify their process in dealing with objections to planning applications in the future. The Clerk would advise the Members of the Parish’s Planning Committee every Monday afternoon if there were any applications to which the Parish might object. Members would meet where necessary in the same week and lodge an objection in writing (not email) immediately to ensure the 21 day deadline is met. In line with the County Council’s delegated powers guidelines the objection would be phrased as follows:

“Should an officer be minded to grant this application, the Parish Council objects to it on the following grounds.....and respectfully requests that it be determined by Members of the appropriate Planning Committee.”

12. ALLOTMENTS.

Following the report made at the last meeting, notice has been served on four tenants ending their leases and on one to obtain proposals to tidy up an allotment. Members. The Clerk and Members reported that whilst no letter had been received from the tenant of Plot 31, work had been carried out. Despite the wet conditions water usage remained high and it was suggested that animal keepers should pay a higher rent to cover the cost or that water be cut off in the winter. The need to improve north-south drainage was discussed. The Parish Council had entered into a contract for rat control with DCC. Some rents remained unpaid for 2013/14. It was agreed that the issue would be placed on the agenda in April for further consideration.

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

13. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

The following requests for financial assistance were discussed:

i) £645 towards a media day for Cornforth Primary School – this request was discussed at the last meeting and further discussion was held following Mrs. Sarsfield’s presentation. The Chairman, having declared an interest left the meeting and the Vice Chairman took the Chair. It was agreed by the majority of Members that the £645 be paid and that the contribution of the Parish Council be recognised.

ii) £1,000 towards the costs of the Village Show Committee – the Clerk reminded the Members that the Paris Council budgets for £1,000 towards this event. After discussion it was agreed.

iii) contribution to The Durham Miners’ Gala - the Parish Council normally takes an eighth of a page spread (£80) in the souvenir brochure. Members agreed to taking space for a message of support at a cost of £45 for 25 words.

14. INCIDENT IN THE MEMORIAL PARK.

Members were reminded that a claim had been made for an injury sustained to a boy whilst using the “swing-frame”. Zurich Insurance was supplied with our information relating to inspections carried out over the year prior to the incident. As a result it has repudiated the claim as the Parish Council has not acted negligently or in breach of its statutory duty.

15. MAY 2013 ELECTION PROCESS.

The Clerk reported that he had attended the County Council training session held on 25th February 2013 and was now holding the nomination packs. He advised existing Members that nominations need to be sent to the Returning Officer from 18th March until noon on 5th April 2013. The statement of persons nominated will be published by noon on Tuesday 9th April and the details of uncontested elections about 11th April. The elections will be held on 2nd May 2013 and the Parish count will be held on 4th May. The old Councils retire on 7th May 2013. Declarations of acceptance of office must be signed before the first meeting of the new Council and an AGM held by 21st May 2013. Registers of Interests for re-elected Councillors will need updating if necessary, with registers of new Councillors completed in 28 days. Where the Council still needs to co-opt Members, this must be done inside 35 days. It was agreed that having considered the above factors, the May meeting of the Parish Council be held on Monday 13th May 2013.

16. CiLCA EXAMINATION AND THE POWER OF COMPETENCE.

The Clerk was congratulated for his work in obtaining the above qualification, which is necessary for the newly elected Council to adopt the General Powers of Competence. It is proposed that the June meeting of the new Council formally adopts the new powers and discusses its need to seek Quality Parish Status.

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

17. SNOW CLEARANCE AT THE SURGERY.

This item was requested by a Member at the last meeting. Enquiries have been made about the priority given to snow clearance at surgeries by the County Council. Members were advised that clearance is decided by category and surgeries are in Category 2, behind bus routes and schools. Snow clearing equipment is limited and Members were advised to press early and repeatedly, along with surgery staff, for clearance.

18. CHOICE OF LITTER BINS IN THE HIGH STREET.

The Clerk reported that the County Council has offered the Parish Council the choice of two suppliers for new litter bins. Details were available at the meeting and Members’ views are sought. Members resolved to choose the Glasdon bins as they were the best match for other furniture in the High Street.

19. UPDATE ON ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

i) County Council land disposal - The Clerk advised that this matter was still ongoing as the County needed to confirm boundaries.

ii) Flooding along Middleham Road – Members were advised that the farmer had cleared the drain and the problem has been resolved for now, but needs to be monitored and a permanent solution found.

iii) Remedial works on the Green – Mr. Dunn has advised the Clerk that Durham County Council is considering meeting the cost of this work. Formal Confirmation is awaited.

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

**to be included on the next agenda. The following issues are to be included.**

i) repair of hole in the “cut” at Poplar Terrace.

ii) dog fouling following police action on Garmondsway Road.

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

R. A. Sunman/Clerk: 13th March 2013.