CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Cornforth Parish Council will be held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on **Monday 12th April 2010**, when your attendance is requested.

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To consider declarations of personal or prejudicial interest with regard to any item to be transacted.

3. MINUTES

To confirm as a true record the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th March February 2010. (Copy herewith)

4. MATTERS ARISING

5. POLICE LIAISON

The Beat Report will be delivered by the Clerk.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman will adjourn the meeting to facilitate public participation and resume the meeting following public participation.

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

8. PLANNING MATTERS ARISING FROM MARCH’S WEEKLY LISTS

There were no planning applications relevant to this Council notified by the Spennymoor Office at the time of the despatch of this agenda.

There was one planning application relevant to this Council notified by Durham County Council:

i) 928/7/182(6) – Cornforth Primary School - The erection of a hexagonal timber parents waiting shelter.

9. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – POSITION AT 31st MARCH 2010.

The Clerk will circulate the current bank reconciliation statement and a comparison of this year’s budget to actual expenditure for this period at the meeting.

10. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS MARCH 2010.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** |
|  |  |  |
| Nil |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| HMRC | Tax and NIC to year end | 2144.92 |
| Durham County council | CCTV | 14,481.95 |
| Cornforth Enterprise | Donation to Meals franchise | 5,000.00 |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary | 594.62 |
|  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE | 22,221.49 |
|  |  |  |

RECOMMENDATION: That the schedule be approved.

 11. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

 i) Christmas lights – The Clerk has received the agreement of the Governors of the school to put Christmas lights on the trees in the High Street. He has contacted our suppliers and sought their assistance to fill in the County Council’s forms to ensure a display this year. A meeting is to be held with John Lyttle about this and other sites.

ii) The Green – The seat in the Garden of Remembrance has been installed as has the new paving around the Church. The commemorative tree has been planted and the plaque is in place. Mr. Kataky’s offer to contribute to the pointing of the graveyard wall has been passed to Rev. Keith Lumsden and thence to the architects for the diocese. Following a site meeting it has been suggested that no further action be taken to alter the surfacing outside No’s 1-5 The Green.

iii) The Scrap Yard – following the digging of the trench at the entrance no further material has been deposited but the site is still an eyesore and action is needed.

12. AAP ISSUES

To receive any update on this matter from Members.

13. PARISH PATHS

An invitation has been received to bid for grants under this programme. Members’ views are sought.

14. QUALITY PARISH STATUS

i) The revised policy on freedom of information will be circulated at the meeting.

ii) Durham County Council’s offer to set up Local Council websites free of charge is being progressed. Members’ views will be sought on the draft of a Cornforth Parish Council Digest to be produced on the website.

15. RESIGNATIONS OF COUNCILLORS

i) Following the resignations of Councillors Mrs. Pat Pennick and Miss Janet Snowball, the Returning Officer has advised the Parish Council that no request had been received for an election. The Council is now free to co-opt additional Members if it sees fit.

ii) Pursuant to Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, Parish Councils have the power to create honorary freeman/freewomen. In order to do so, it must pass a resolution at a special meeting where notice of the object has been given by no less than two-thirds of the members. Thereafter, the Council is allowed to spend such reasonable amount as it sees fit to present an address to the person on whom the Council has conferred the title. The title does not confer any rights or privileges, and is purely honorary.

16. THE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE

The Parish Council has written to the Boundary Committee in support of Option 2 and local groups were also asked to support this option. Durham County Council was reported in the local press as supporting this arrangement.

17. FINANCIAL ISSUES.

 i) Sedgefield and District CAB – The Clerk will update the meeting on his findings before members consider the request received for financial assistance towards running costs.

ii) Cornforth Awards for All application – The Clerk and the Chief Executive of Cornforth Partnership had drafted an application for a Healthy Cornforth project. Following success in the youth and employment fields, the Partnership no longer has the capacity to deliver additional schemes and asks that this project be held in abeyance.

iii) Cornforth Primary School – A request has been received from the Governors for a donation towards materials to create planting boxes at the front of the school.

iv) Cornforth Village Show – A request has been received for a contribution to the Village Show. The Council has budgeted to donate £1,000.

18. HOLY TRINITY CHURCHYARD

The letter of complaint about the funeral service and the condition of the churchyard which was reported to the last Council meeting has been sent to The Rev. Keith Lumsden. He has discussed the matter with Clerk and as the funeral was conducted by the Salvation Army, he will ask that body to deal with the matter of the funeral arrangements.

On the issue of the condition of the churchyard and following site visits by the Clerk and Members the Council has sought the Rev. Lumsden’s co-operation to remove spoil from the site, repair/replace the flower “bin” at the west end, re-point the southern boundary wall and address the issue of gravel and headstone usage contrary to the regulations which govern the maintenance of graves. A site meeting has been requested. At this time the Clerk to the Church Council is on holiday, but the Rev. Keith Lumsden will be in touch to arrange a meeting when she has returned.

19. CORNFORTH COMMUNITY PARK

Following routine inspections, the Clerk had been advised that the slide in the junior area had been damaged and that the safety surfacing on the large slide adjoining the toddlers play area was in need of a small amount of patching. The Clerk has advised the Chairman and Durham County Council has carried out the work in the interests of safety and liability. ROSPA carried out its annual inspection in week ending 27th March. The report is awaited, but work will be required at least with regard to the burnt out litter bins and missing hand-holds from the climbing wall. Unless there is an urgent need for action, the Clerk will advise the meeting of likely costs prior to the work being carried out.

20. REQUEST FOR A BUS STOP

A letter has been received on behalf of the Senior Citizens’ Group of Cornforth for a bus stop to be created on Station Road, immediately south of Hawthorn Terrace on the east side of the street. The stop would better serve the elderly living in the single storey accommodation behind Hawthorn Terrace and who currently have to travel to the top of the street and walk back some considerable distance. Members’ views are sought.

21. ANY FURTHER BUSINESS

Ray Sunman/Clerk: 6th April 2010.