CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 29th November 2010.

Present: Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson and

Mrs H. P. Drew, Dr. S. C. Drew, Mr. M. J. Pennick, Mr. R. Poole, Mr. M. Simpson and Mrs. P.M. Walker.

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. K. Clasper, Mrs. R Clewes, Mr. T Cutmore, Mrs S. Neville, Mrs S. Traynor and Mr. W. R. Wilson.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest made with regard to any item to be transacted.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 1st November 2010 were greed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ON THE AGENDA

Members raised the issue of dog fouling on the footpath between the Green and the Cornfields, otherwise there were no matters arising that were not on this agenda.

4. POLICE LIAISON

The Beat Report was given by the Clerk and Members asked that the issue of firing air rifles near the allotments bridge be raised at the next PACT meeting.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

6. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced the following invitations:

i) A Valentine’s Evening Dance on behalf of the Mayor of Chilton.

No Member expressed an interest in attending the event.

The Chairman advised the meeting of a consultation paper issued on behalf of Durham County Council seeking expressions of interest on the delegation of services to Parish and Town Councils. To be placed on next agenda.

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

7. AAP ISSUES

The AAP scheduled for today has been cancelled. The application for a skateboard park in Chilton is still getting support up to £87,00 despite being turned down by 12 other funders.

8. PLANNING MATTERS ARISING FROM NOVEMBER’S WEEKLY LISTS

There were no planning applications falling within this Council’s area notified by the Spennymoor Office or the Durham County Office at the time of the despatch of this agenda.

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

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 approved.

10. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS NOVEMBER 2010.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** |
|  |  |  |
| Nil |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Local Clerks Association fee |  | 11.80 |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary | 620.49 |
| W.R.Wilson  Royal British Legion  Royal British Legion | Allowances and sundries  Member’s allowance  Wreaths  Donation | 91.13  36.20  90.00  60.00 |
| R.A.O.B. Sphere Lodge  Salvation Army  Co-operative Women’s Guild  Lumalite Ltd.  Durham County Council  International Rescue Corps  The Parish of Cornforth and Ferryhill  Coronation Press  JWS Powercleaning  Zurich Insurance  West Cornforth & District C.A. | Donation  Donation  Donation  Christmas lights  Inspection of Lamp Standards  Donation  Donation  Art work for seal  Bus shelter cleaning  Additional liability premium  Donation | 25.00  30.00  25.00  3,021.35  1,204.54  20.00  20.00  176.25  60.00  135.02  25.00 |
|  | TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE | 5,651.78 |

RECOMMENDATION: The schedule was approved.

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

11. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

i) The Scrap Yard – The Clerk advised the meeting that he had been unable to contact Mr. Farney on this matter.

ii) The Green – Members were advised that the work on the final phase is now ongoing. The mounds at the south end of the Green will be lowered when material is needed to repair work done elsewhere.

12. QUALITY PARISH STATUS

The Clerk updated the meeting on progress made on his CiLCA course, which will continue in the New Year.

13. NEW CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Clerk advised the meeting that a quote had been received through Durham County Council from Tomlinson Longstaff for the work to provide power from the school to the tree-wraps already installed by Lumalite. The cost will be £798.62 plus VAT. Members approved the quote.

Members were advised that Lumalite would install the tree in week commencing 22nd November and Durham County Council will put up the motifs in the same week. An inspection fee of £1200 was made to the County Council to cover the cost of the structural inspection, which lasts for three years.

Lumalite has confirmed it is safe to go ahead with Cornforth Partnership’s suggestion of the tree being a wishing/remembrance tree and having “gift-tags” hung upon it. In view of the above Members could make no firm date for a switch-on ceremony and left the arrangements to Cornforth Partnership and the Community Association.

14. LAND AT MIDDLEHAM ROAD

The above land is owned by the Parish Council. The Clerk and the Chairman reported that they had received two complaints in two months about land collapsing around the large man hole chamber on the above land. The first incident was reported to Durham County’s Action Line after the Water Authority had refuted its involvement. The County Council acted quickly and filled in the hole with soil. The problem recurred after recent heavy rain. On this occasion the County denied responsibility after examination with a camera. The chamber receives storm water from three sources. The first is from the highway and is clearly a County responsibility. The second is from an overflow from houses to the south and west: this is a Water Board drain. It was this drain that the camera showed was leaking and causing the problem. The Water Authority acted quickly and its contractor has filled in the hole. The third drain is from the field to the east and appears to be a Church Commissioner’s drain. However, the issue of who is responsible for the chamber should it need repair, is less clear cut.

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

14. LAND AT MIDDLEHAM ROAD (Continued)

Members were advised that the structure is on Parish Council land and we may be liable for its upkeep. The site was a source of nuisance and the Parish Council first took possession of it in May 1977. In the mid eighties it fenced off the land and eventually obtained title to it in January 1999. Except for a brief reference to Sedgefield Borough Council draining and tidying up the land the files held by the Parish Council are silent with regard to drains and manholes. The chamber has a lid to it marked Durham County Council, but that is no guarantee that this sizeable structure would be repaired by them. Members are advised that further investigations will be made on this issue, but no immediate action is necessary as the chamber is in good repair.

Members advised that it was likely built between 1975 and 1979. The Slake Inn used to flood at this time but this culvert wasn’t linked to the problem.

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

**of business to be included on the next agenda: there were none.**

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

Ray Sunman/Clerk: 20th December 2010.