CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 4th October 2010.

Present: Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson and

Mr. K. Clasper, Mrs. Rosemary Clewes, Mrs. H. P. Drew, Dr. S. C. Drew, Mr. M. J. Pennick, Mr. R. Poole, Mrs. S. Traynor, and Mrs. P.M. Walker.

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. T. Cutmore, Mrs. S. Neville, Mr. S. M. Pennick, Mr. M. Simpson, Mr. W. R. Wilson and Mr. W. H. Woodhall.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mr. Hodgson, Mr. M. J. Pennick, Mrs. H. P. Drew and Mrs. S Traynor declared a financial interest with regard to item 13 of the agenda.

2. MINUTES

Members confirmed as a true record the Minutes of the two meetings held on 6th September and they were signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

With regard to the presentation to be made to Councillor W.R. Wilson as an Honorary Freeman of the Parish of Cornforth, Members agreed that the Clerk should organise the making of a formal address and discuss a date for its presentation with the Chairman and Councillor Wilson, otherwise there were no items arising that did not appear on the agenda.

4. POLICE LIAISON

The Beat Report was given by the Clerk. The report was in new format and again made reference to the use of speed cameras on Garmondsway Road. The Vice Chairman reported on the PACT meeting. The Speed-watch Community Volunteer was from Bishop Middleham. There was a growing glue sniffing problem involving 14-16 year-olds. There was an increased problem of travellers’ caravans in the Oak Terrace area, difficulty in contacting the Travellers’ Liaison Service and Sedgefield Borough Homes seemed to be taking little interest despite their tenants causing the problem. Horses were being grazed on the Stobbs Cross field. Members resolved to approach the police and complain that the Parish Council had not been consulted with regard to the use of speed cameras and had not been notified of speeding problems in the Garmondsway Road area.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

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

6. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised Members of a Civic Dinner at Chilton, a quiz organised by Sedgefield Town Council, Durham County Council’s Civic Reception, a Wurlitzer recital, the AGM of Durham Rural Community Council and a Karaoke Night at Ferryhill. No Members expressed an interest in attending.

Members were also advised of a thanksgiving service to be held at The Holy Trinity Church on 16th October. Members resolved to donate £20 towards the cost of bulb planting and to ask the Rev. Lumsden to include the local school in planting them.

7. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman advised the meeting that new declaration of Interest forms had been approved at the last AAP meeting and that they would need to be used in making applications for funding to the AAP.

8. PLANNING MATTERS ARISING FROM AUGUST’S WEEKLY LISTS

Members were advised that no planning applications falling within this Council’s area had been notified by either the Spennymoor or the Durham County Council offices.

9. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2010.

The Clerk had not been able to circulate the current bank reconciliation statement and a comparison of this year’s budget to actual expenditure for this period at the meeting. The bank statement for this period had not been received.

10. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SEPTEMBER 2010.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** |
|  |  |  |
| Precept and double taxation |  | 45,121.50 |
|  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Local Clerks Association fee |  | 11.80 |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary | 620.49 |
|  | Allowances and sundries | 103.30 |
|  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE | (44,385.91) |
|  |  |  |

The schedule was approved.

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

11. ANNUAL RETURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010

The Clerk presented the audited Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2010. BDO, the external examiners, had issued a qualified audit in that the Parish Council made a payment of £50 to an individual under its S137 powers and exceeded its S137 limit by £1,617. The auditors’ report on the issues arising and actions to be taken were presented to the meeting and it was agreed that action would be taken.

12. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSITANCE

A request has been received from West Cornforth and District Community Association for financial support from the Parish Council towards the cost of meeting the annual pantomime to be held in November 2010. Over 90 people had attended the show last year. Councillors Mr. A. Hodgson and Mr. M. J. Pennick and Mrs. H. P. Drew and S. Traynor left the meeting. The Chair was taken by Dr. S. C. Drew. Members resolved to underwrite the loss in staging the pantomime.

13. ALLOTMENTS

Members were advised that following a site meeting with the Chairman and the Chairman of the Allotments Sub Committee, the Clerk had sought a quote to cut back the hedges at the allotments and clear plot 18, formerly designated as a car park. The work has been carried out at a cost of £440. Members are asked to approve the action taken and agreed to add plot 18 to the allotment schedule and let it after advising Mr. Grafton of the decision.

14. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

 i) The Scrap Yard – The Clerk advised the meeting that a notice to clear the site was to be posted by the County Council. Once the notice period has expired he will find out the result and report to Members.

ii) Miscellaneous items – The Clerk advised the meeting that he had approached the County Council on the ongoing problem of encroachment of the footpath near Moneys’ Building and the Council’s request for a dog litter bin. Members reported difficulty in dealing with such matters even through the AAP.

iii) 35 Elm Road – The Clerk advised Members that action had been taken to remove the rubbish from the garden at the above address.

iv) Taxi Licensing and Licensed Property policies – Members who had undertaken to look at the above policies advised that no response be made.

15. QUALITY PARISH STATUS

The Clerk had enrolled on the CiLCA course but his first mentoring meeting had been postponed.

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

16. HOLY TRINITY CHURCHYARD

The Clerk had attended the meeting with Rev. Lumsden and Members of the Church Council on 15th September 2010 and obtained agreement to removing the rubbish and surplus soil piled against boundary walls and to the rebuilding the flower bin. The Clerk had received a quote from BR Landscaping for the work at a cost of £1280. Members approved the quote as value for money and in order to proceed with the work quickly in view of the advancing seasons. Councillor Mrs. Walker asked that it be recorded that she had requested that three quotes be sought.

17. NEW CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Clerk reported on the meeting organised with Lumalite to finalise the work needed to supply the new Christmas lights on 4th October 2010. The provision of a Christmas tree at the Community Centre will require a supply from the building. The Management Committee had agreed to the work and Members agreed to meet the costs. The tree wrap opposite the Centre will require the provision of an underground supply from NEDL and a kiosk. At an estimated cost of over £1000 including VAT, Members declined to approve this work and Lumalite will be so advised. The meeting with Lumalite had dealt with the specification of the supply at the school. A meeting would be held with County Council staff to agree how the work would be implemented.

18. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Clerk advised the meeting that the above ceremony would be held on 14th November 2010. The Clerk had sought an application pack for an event from the County Council’s Safety Advisory Group and completed it as road closures take time to be approved. Members agreed to hold the event and to meet the costs associated with road closure, wreaths and policing.

19. REQUEST TO CHANGE THE DATE OF A MEETING

The December meeting is scheduled to fall on 6th December 2010. The Clerk requested an alteration to this date to accommodate his annual leave. Members agreed to hold two meetings in November the first on Monday 1st and the second on 29th.

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

**of business to be included on the next agenda. The following item is to be included.**

i) The Green – to seek a timetable from Durham County Council for the remaining road works on the Green, the Parish Council’s road at the north end and remedial work to flag stones at 17 the Green.

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

Ray Sunman/Clerk: 25th October 2010.