CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at the Community Centre, West Cornforth at 7.00 pm on Monday 5th July 2010.

Present: Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson and

Mr. K. Clasper, Mrs. Rosemary Clewes, Mrs. S. Neville, Mr. R. Poole, Mr. M. Simpson, Mrs. S. Traynor, Mrs. P.M. Walker, Mr. W.R.Wilson and Mr. W. H. Woodhall.

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. T. Cutmore, Mrs. H.P.Drew, Dr. S. C. Drew, Mr. M. J. Pennick, and Mr. S. M. Pennick.

1. ALTERATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chairman proposed that item 13 on the agenda as circulated be deferred until the end of the meeting to allow more time for discussion.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES

Members confirmed as a true record the Minutes of the meetings held on 7th and 21st June 2010 and they signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising that did not appear on this agenda.

5. POLICE LIAISON

The Beat Report was given by the Clerk and Members noted the date of the next PACT meeting.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman’s announcements.

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

8. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman advised the Members that a presentation of The County Durham plan had been made to the last AAP meeting. This formed a separates item on this agenda.

9. PLANNING MATTERS ARISING FROM MAY’S WEEKLY LISTS

The Clerk advised Members that no planning applications falling within this Council’s area had been notified by the Spennymoor Office or Durham County Office at the time of this meeting.

10. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – POSITION AT 30th JUNE 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 received.

11. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS MAY 2010.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** |
|  |  |  |
| Nil |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Northumbrian Water | Allotment Water rates | 178.65 |
| Art Decor | Framing of scroll | 51.92 |
| Coronation Press | Art work and printing of scroll | 41.13 |
| Julie’s Florist | Flowers for diamond wedding  | 30.00 |
|  | Flowers for Freewoman  | 30.00 |
| J.A.Armatage | Internal audit | 150.00 |
|  | Internal audit | 60.00 |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary | 620.49 |
|  | Allowances and sundries | 78.03 |
| W.R.Wilson | Members’ Allowance | 18.10 |
|  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE | 1258.32 |
|  |  |  |

RECOMMENDATION: The schedule was approved.

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

12. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

 i) Parish Paths – The Clerk advised the meeting that he had met with Mrs. Elaine Field to discuss the draft submission for grant under this scheme, which comprised four proposals. It had been agreed that the County Council would repair the bridge and we have been given the background information to pursue the repair to styles with Network Rail and English Nature. Of the two proposals remaining, quotes have been sought to cut back footpaths No’s 20 and 22 twice in this year. Members agreed that once received, this work would form the Council’s application for Parish Paths grant for 2010/11 and that when the ground maintenance contract was renewed they be included within that work.

ii) Cornforth High Street - A complaint about push-chairs for sale obstructing the highway had been received by the Clerk and several Members. Members were advised that it had been passed to Mr. Colin Hodgson of Durham County Council. Members noted that this is not the only technical breach of highway law in the street and that should the County Council resolve to take any action, then all breaches would be investigated.

iii) The Scrap Yard – The Clerk advised members that he had been in touch with Mr. Mark Farren on this issue on several occasions, but has not received any reply. The Clerk will pursue the matter.

iv) Miscellaneous items – The Clerk had advised Durham County Council of the need for action to remove the frost damaged palm tree in the High Street and glass and graffiti in the park, about the loss of trees in the wood west of the Community Centre and the ongoing problem of encroachment of the footpath near Moneys’ Building.

13. QUALITY PARISH STATUS

Members noted that the Clerk had completed his first full year in office and can now prepare a portfolio for submission for the CiLCA course in September 2010. It was agreed that the Parish Council would meet the course fee of £150.

14. HOLY TRINITY CHURCHYARD

Members were disappointed to note that no reply had been received from The Rev Lumsden about a firm site meeting date. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the secretary of the Bishop of Durham and seek advice on how to move this issue forward.

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

15. CREATION OF FREEMEN AND WOMEN OF THE PARISH OF CORNFORTH AND INVOLVEMENT IN CELEBRATIONS.

The report on this subject was approved with the exception of how the Parish Council might treat approaches for the creation of freemen and freewomen from non-Council members within the community. The Clerk was asked to pursue the issue of publicity through “The Partner” on celebrations and devising a seal for the Parish Council. The report on the creation of freemen and freewomen was to be amended and brought back to the Council with the amendment that non-Council Members working in the community in a voluntary capacity could be nominated by external groups and considered by the Parish Council for the honour.

16. THE COUNTY DURHAM PLAN.

Members considered the summary of the above document attached to the agenda. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his work in drawing out from the County’s draft report those issues that most affected the village and he outlined some of the issues raised at the presentation made to the AAP earlier in the month.

Members agreed that the Council would support Option A as set out in the draft report: it was clearly of greater advantage to the village which, under this option, would lie close to the proposed central economic development heart of the County. Members agreed broadly with the suggestions in its own report on housing, education, waste disposal and mineral production and agreed that they would form the outline of views to be forwarded to the County Council.

To add to Members’ understanding of the issues, it was agreed that as many as possible would attend the “drop-in road shows”, and particularly the one to be held in Ferryhill Library from 2pm to 7pm. on 26th July. They were asked to pass on any views they wished to add to the Parish Council’s response to the Clerk so that he could forward a formal reply by the deadline on 6th August and report it to the 9th August meeting.

**The meeting was closed and Members were asked if they had any items**

**of business to be included on the next agenda.**

**The following matter was raised:**

a) The Clerk was asked to agenda an item to call a special meeting under the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, in order to bestow upon Councillor Wilson the title of “Honorary Freemen of the Parish of Cornforth”.

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

Ray Sunman/Clerk: 8th July 2010.