CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at 7.00pm, in the Community Centre, Cornforth, on Monday 7th February 2011.

Present: Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson and

Mr. T. Cutmore, Mrs. H. P. Drew, Dr. S. C. Drew, Mrs. S. Neville, Mr. M. Simpson, Mrs S. Traynor and Mrs. P.M. Walker.

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. K. Clasper, Mrs. R. Clewes, Mr. M. J. Pennick, Mr. R. Poole and Mr. W. R. Wilson.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of personal or prejudicial interest were made with regard to item 16 (iv) on the agenda (15 (v) in the Minutes) by Councillors Mrs. H.P. Drew, Mrs. S. Traynor and Mr. A. Hodgson.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 10th and 17th January 2011 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ON THE AGENDA

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes that were not included on this agenda.

4. POLICE LIAISON

The Beat Report was given by the Clerk. The next PACT meeting is to be held on 17th February at 5.30pm in the Sure Start centre in Cornforth.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

6. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Clerk had received no invitations or correspondence addressed to the Chairman.

7. AAP ISSUES

Councillor Cutmore gave a report on the well attended AAP meeting held on 24th January 2011. The priorities for next year were to be jobs, children and young people and High Street improvements.

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

8. PLANNING MATTERS ARISING FROM JANUARY’S WEEKLY LISTS

Members were advised that the following planning application falling within this Council’s area had been notified by the Spennymoor Office of Durham County Council:

i) 7/2010/0396 – 13 The Green – Erection of gates and heightening of boundary wall. The Clerk displayed details at the meeting.

The closing date for representations is 21st February 2011. Members resolved not to make any representations.

9. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – POSITION AT 31st JANUARY 2011.

The Clerk circulated the current bank reconciliation statement and a comparison of this year’s budget to actual expenditure for this period. Members resolved to with-hold any payment on the CCTV service until the anomalies of payment across the County had been resolved.

10. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS JANUARY 2011.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** |
|  |  |  |
| Insurance repayments, rent and way-leaves. |  | 1,677.55 |
|  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Local Clerks Association fee |  | 11.80 |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary | 620.49 |
|  | Allowances and postage | 84.97 |
| Cornforth Partnership  Mrs Walton – Co-operative Guild  HMR&C | Room hire  Donation  Tax and NIC | 389.79  25.00  678.93 |
|  | TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE | 133.43 |
|  |  |  |

The schedule was approved.

11. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

i) The Scrap Yard – The Clerk advised the meeting that the legal issues freeing the way for Durham County Council to clear up the scrap yard had been complete, but no action had yet been taken. Members resolved that unless progress was made before the next agenda was prepared, an invitation be made to Mr. Farren of the County Council to attend.

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

12. DELEGATED SERVICES DRAFT REPORT

The Clerk had circulated a paper on this matter at the January meeting. Members had most concerns about the future of the library service. A Member advised the meeting that the County Council had advised that the Branch Library was safe for the next financial year. Members therefore resolved to take no action at present with regard to the draft report, but to meet with the School and Cornforth Partnership to agree how to boost membership and usage: this might involve an article in ”The Partner”.

13. QUALITY PARISH STATUS

The Clerk advised that he was making good progress on his CiLCA course and should be in a position to submit his portfolio in August this year.

14. NEW CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Clerk advised the meeting that he had held a meeting with the Lumalite and ascertained that the transformer on one of the tree-wraps was faulty. It had since been replaced by Lumalite. The electrical contractor had been advised that the second tree cannot be lit because of a faulty trip switch and has been asked to replace it. Payments had been with-held until these issues are resolved.

Members resolved to form a Sub Committee to prepare recommendations on the purchase of new motifs. Councillors Mrs. S. Neville, S. Traynor and P. M. Walker agreed to serve upon it. Councillor Cutmore would involve the young people in the issue.

15. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

i) It was agreed that the Learning Library provided a unique service and that a donation of £100 would be made towards their work in Cornforth.

ii) Members considered a request for financial assistance received from Cornforth Library for a donation of £400 towards its work. The Parish Council had included this item in its 2011/2012 budget and agreed to make a donation of £200 early in the financial year and release the remainder once the future of the library was clarified later in the year.

iii) A request for financial assistance received from Butterwick House Children’s Hospice was declined.

iv) The request for financial assistance received from Sedgefield and District Citizens Advice Bureau to support their work in 2011/12 was agreed. The Parish Council had included £400 for such support in its budget for 2011/12.

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

15. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (Continued)

v) The Clerk advised Members that he had submitted a revised application for improvements to the Community Centre to the Neighbourhood Fund. The need for a revised submission has arisen through delay in consideration by the County Council and the rise in VAT. The total estimated cost for the projects is £20,340. Our County Councillors have agreed to meet all but £340 from the Fund. Councillors Mrs. H.P. Drew, Mrs. S. Traynor and Mr. A. Hodgson left the meeting whilst the Council discussed funding the remainder. Members resolved to meet the additional £340.

vi) The request for financial assistance received from Sedgefield and District Citizens Advice Bureau to support their work was approved. The Parish Council had included £250 for such support in its budget for 2011/12.

16. SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH HOMES TENANT LED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Members were advised that Sedgefield Borough Homes was inviting applications from tenants and community groups for environmental improvement schemes in their communities. Members asked the Clerk to attend the round of meetings being organised in the village, to submit ideas for funding, including parking for residents in Palm Road and advise the organisation of problems of fly-tipping by residents particularly in the Barrett Road area.

17. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION REPORT ON SETTLEMENT STUDY.

The Clerk has circulated a brief paper on the above document and Members accepted its findings. Leaflets were available in the village for Members to submit individual returns before 11th March 2011.

18. PARKING OVER A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY – THE CORNFIELDS

Members had asked that this matter be investigated and discussed at this meeting. The Clerk and the Chairman had visited the site and agreed with the Site Manger that he would remind residents of the need to keep the walkway open.

19. CO-OPTED MEMBERSHIP

The Clerk had advised the Returning Officer of the death of Councillor Woodhall and the resignation of Councillor S. Pennick and posted the requisite notices. The period of notice having expired Members were free to co-opt additional Members. Council Simpson proposed that Alan Wilson be co-opted and Councillor Drew seconded the motion. The Clerk would invite Mr. Wilson to serve and invite him to the next meeting.

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

20. FLY-TIPPING IN THE VILLAGE

Members had requested that this item be placed on the agenda to facilitate an understanding of the current position and to determine future action. The issue was complex and responsibility lay with landowners. The actions of the County Council seemed very much reduced since reorganisation of Local Government. It was agreed that the Parish Council would approach Network Rail about the problem on its land as a priority.

21. MAY’S SHOP IN THE HIGH STREET, CORNFORTH

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Wendy Benson of the County Council. She had advised him that the £120,000 allocated from the former Sedgefield Borough’s LIP scheme had been lost, despite the money being ring-fenced until 31st March 2011. She had advised solicitors not to take further action. He and Karen Lynn were to meet with Regeneration officers of the County Council on 8th February and update this meeting in March. The building was still dangerous and the County Council had a responsibility to deal with the matter. Members agreed to await the results of the meeting.

22. CONSULTATION ON THE COUNTY DURHAM PLAN

The County Council had advised the Clerk that the deadline for comments on five key studies affecting Cornforth had been extended to 11th February 2011. The first of these has been dealt with on this agenda. (Settlement Study)

Hard copies of the four other reports were received at the same time. They affect mineral delivery, energy minerals, safeguarding mineral resources and new mineral sites in the County. The reports are lengthy and would require considerable work and discussion by Members before a response can be made. Members agreed to seek a further extension of the deadline and Councillor Drew took away the reports. He and Councillor Mrs. Walker would agree a response.

**At the close of business Members were asked if they had any items of business to be included on the next agenda. The following items are to be included:**

i) Damage to the Three Bridges – Network Rail to be asked to provide the results of their 3 monthly check.

ii) Paving on the Green – progress and completion.

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

Ray Sunman/Clerk: 28th February 2011.