CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at the Community Centre, West Cornforth at 7.00 pm on Monday 9th August 2010.

Present: Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson and

Mrs. Rosemary Clewes, Mrs. H. P. Drew, Dr. S. C. Drew, Mrs. S. Neville, Mr. M. J. Pennick, Mr. S. M. Pennick, Mr. M. Simpson, Mrs. P.M. Walker and Mr. W.R.Wilson.

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. K. Clasper, Mr. T. Cutmore, Mr. R Poole, Mrs. S Traynor and Mr. W. H. Woodhall.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were declarations of personal or prejudicial interest with regard to items to be transacted:

i) Councillors Mr. A. Hodgson, Mr. S. M. Pennick and Mrs. H. P. Drew with regard to item 16 on the agenda, and

ii) Councillor Mrs. P. M. Walker with regard to item 9.

2. MINUTES

Members confirmed as a true record the Minutes of the meetings held on 5th July 2010 and they were signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

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

4. POLICE LIAISON

The Beat Report could not be given by the Clerk as it had not been received. Members asked that as this was the second time this had happened this year a letter be sent to the Inspector in charge.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

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

6. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

i) Bishop Auckland Town Council was to hold a Valentine’s Ball.

ii) A Civic Reception was to be held by Durham County Council on 8th October 2010.

iii) A petition to back the High Speed Train bid was being circulated at the meeting and throughout the village with further copies available though Councillor Mr. M. Simpson.

The Chairman did not intend to go to any of the functions, but opened the invitation to other Members.

7. AAP ISSUES

The Chairman advised the Members that a presentation of The County Durham Plan on the Settlement Strategy had been made to the last AAP meeting. The AAP had invited Members to join its Task and Finish Groups. If Members were interested the Chairman would take expressions of interest and pass them on to the AAP.

8. PLANNING MATTERS ARISING FROM JULY’S WEEKLY LISTS

Members noted that there was one planning application falling within this Council’s area notified by the Spennymoor Office and no applications from the Durham County Office.

Members considered the application for the erection of three detached houses with garages at Stokes Yard, to the rear of The Green, Cornforth. Councillor Mrs. Walker spoke to the item before withdrawing from the meeting. She pointed out the narrowness of the private access to the site, the existing parking problem on the Green and felt the site was unsuitable for the size of house shown.

Members agreed to make representations against the proposal on the grounds of over development, poor access and parking, the narrowness of the plot and overlooking problems to the garden of No. 42 The Green. Members also wished for any grant of planning permission to include a condition to reinstate any damage done to the Parish Council’s road, across which access would be taken.

9. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – POSITION AT 31st JULY 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.

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

10. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS JULY 2010.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Receipts** |  | **£** |
|  |  |  |
| HMR&C VAT |  | 3037.14 |
|  |  |  |
| **Payments** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| D.C.C. Assoc of Local Councils |  | 332.76 |
| J. W. Smith Power cleaning |  | 240.00 |
| D.C.C. Library |  | 400.00 |
| Local Clerks Association fee |  | 11.80 |
| R. A. Sunman | Salary | 620.49 |
|  | Allowances and sundries | 116.08 |
| W.R.Wilson | Members’ Allowance | 18.10 |
|  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE | (1297.91) |
|  |  |  |

RECOMMENDATION: The schedule was approved.

11. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

Members noted the following progress with regard to issues raised with the County Council.

i) Parish Paths – A grant of £1190 has been approved for the strimming of two footpaths (No’s 20 and 22). The first cut was carried out at the end of July and the second will be carried out in November. The grant will now be claimed.

ii) The Scrap Yard – The Clerk advised the meeting that he had been unable to make progress with Mr. Farren on this matter.

iii) Miscellaneous items – Durham County Council has addressed the need to remove the frost damaged palm tree in the High Street and the glass and graffiti in the park. Members asked the Clerk with regard to the ongoing problem of encroachment of the footpath near Moneys’ Building, a dog litter bin be requested.

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

12. THE COUNTY DURHAM PLAN.

Members were advised that The Clerk and the Chairman had attended presentations on both the County Plan and the Settlement Strategy, which are inter-related. As no other responses were received from Members, this Council’s reply was sent by the 6th August deadline in accordance with the report made at the July meeting. The Council’s view that the Plan needed to address education issues more robustly have been borne out by recent developments on Building Future Schools. Members noted that The Settlement Strategy includes West Cornforth as a village with facilities where *“ a limited level of infill development ...will be supported subject to local considerations, as will the focusing of new or maintenance of existing levels of services, in partnership with other service providers.”*

13. QUALITY PARISH STATUS

Members noted that The Clerk has applied for a place on the CiLCA course to begin in September 2010.

14. HOLY TRINITY CHURCHYARD

The Clerk reported that he had been in touch with the Bishop of Durham’s Office and explained the problem to Mr. Bell, the Pastor. He was advised that Rev. Lumsden has been made aware of our need for progress, but church celebrations and external commitments seem to have delayed any further response. Members noted that there was an outstanding insurance claim against the church with regard to a tripping accident last October.

15. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

Councillors Mr. A. Hodgson, Mr. S. M. Pennick and Mrs. H. P. Drew withdrew from the meeting whilst this item was discussed. Councillor Dr. S. C. Drew took the Chair.

i) Members were agreed that the request from Cornforth Partnership for the sum of £6,000 towards its core costs be approved. The Chief Executive had provided a full report on the partnership’s activities during the year which had been made available at the meeting.

ii) Members agreed to the request for financial assistance towards the cost of a community trip to Flamingo Land on 10th August up to the sum of £340. Members noted that applications had also been made for help from our two County Councillors.

16. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Members noted that Durham County Council had been sent all the necessary detail and forms relevant to the erection of the Parish Council’s existing Christmas lights. The Clerk had met with Lumalite to discuss Members’ suggestions for new displays and advised the meeting of the options and their estimated cost.

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

16. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CONT’D

Members agreed to the hire of an artificial 20ft Christmas tree for the Christmas period. It was to be erected outside the Community Centre. In addition, they agreed to proposals to branch wrap the tree opposite the Community Centre and two trees outside West Cornforth Primary School. The overall cost, in accordance with the quote from Lumalite, will be £5,874, within the Council’s budget for this item in 2010/11.

17. INSURANCE COVER AND CLAIMS

Members noted that Zurich Insurance Company had provided its schedule of cover and costs (£5504.77) for 2010/11. In accordance with Members’ requests, the Clerk had ensured that the current cover is sufficient for all of the Council’s assets as specified by our internal auditor. In accordance with the resolution made in July he had asked for advice and estimates for the provision of additional public liability cover. In order to increase the Parish Council’s public liability cover to £10M the premium would rise by £200.62. Members agreed to the increase, but noted that the current premium had been paid to ensure cover continued at the current rate.

Members noted that on 27th July 2010 a claim for damages was received by the Clerk for a tripping accident sustained by a child on 4th May 2010. The Parish Council’s insurers had been advised and the letter from Hewitts Solicitors acknowledged as received.

18. CREATION OF A FREEMEN OF THE PARISH OF CORNFORTH

In accordance with Member’s instructions received at the July meeting, this item has been placed on the agenda. It is agreed that the special meeting needed to bestow upon Councillor Wilson the title of “Honorary Freeman of the Parish of Cornforth” be held immediately prior to the September meeting of the Council.

**NOTE: At the close of business Members agreed that the following items**

**of business be included on a future agenda:**

1. Licensing policy

Members agreed to examine the County Council’s Licensing Policy and discuss its response at the October meeting.

2. Taxi Licensing

Members agreed to examine the County Council’s Taxi Licensing Policy and discuss its response in October.

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

Ray Sunman/Clerk: 20th August 2010.