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**Present:** Councillors: Mrs P. Crathorne **(Chairman)** Dr. S. Drew **(Vice Chairman)**

Mrs J. Grafton Mrs M. Walker Mrs M Poole Mr R. Poole Mr P. Mayhew

Mr T. Hall Mr P. Metcalfe Mrs. P. Drew

Mr R. Vaughan

*In attendance: Parish Clerk: Mr D. Snowball*

*County Councillor: Mrs E. Peeke*

**46\_****23/24** **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for this meeting.

*Members noted this.*

**47\_23/24** **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to make declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

Councillors Mrs P. Crathorne and Mrs P. Drew declared an interest in agenda item 19, Council Property 66 High Street, and would leave the meeting for the discussion of this item only.

**48\_23/24** **MEMBERS DISPENSATION**

The Clerk informed the meeting that there were no dispensations for this meeting.

It was noted that there were no dispensations.

**49\_23/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Two members of public were present.

There were no questions put to the council.

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| **SPEAKER** | **QUESTION** |
|  |  |

**50\_23/24** **MINUTES**

ORDINARY meeting held on; Monday 12th June 2023

It was proposed by Councillor Dr S. Drew seconded by Councillor Mr T. Hall and it was;

***RESOLVED:***

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 12th June 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at this meeting.

**51\_23/24 MOTIONS**

1. **Councillor Mr. Trevor Hall moved the following motion:**

*Parish Council bi-monthly or quarterly newsletter. I am happy to write on behalf and with the council.* *If agreed, topics and other parish news to be cleared at council meetings e.g., Cornforth Parish Post to be circulated 1 month in arrears of agreed topics, unless an urgent topic is requested. Considerations for bi-monthly or quarterly editions. Sanitised PACT content to be included as well as the correct contact numbers for street wardens, county offices to include environmental, dog wardens and others as the PC sees fit.*

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mr T. Hall and seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Crathorne and it was;

**RESOLVED:**

That;

1. A bi monthly edition of a newsletter for Cornforth Parish Council is produced
2. A template design is to be developed by councillor Mr T. Hall and agreed by council.
3. Costs for the printing of the newsletter are to be determined by Councillor Mr T. Hall.
4. The template and draft newsletter will be presented to the September meeting of council for consideration and agreement. All newsletters will be one month in arrears.
5. Members will provide information for future newsletters and the clerk will make the final decision of the details contained within the draft newsletter to be submitted to council for consideration.
6. The newsletter will be distributed on the council’s website, local shops, library, noticeboards and by volunteers.
7. **Councillor Mr. Trevor Hall moved the following motion:**

*Provision of a Parish Council Facebook capability. It was noted at the last PACT meeting (June 2023) that the Parish Council does not have a Facebook capability which would be useful for parishioner interaction and contact, and parish council reaction, proactive / reactive.*

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mr P. Mayhew and seconded by Councillor Mr P. Metcalfe and it was;

**RESOLVED:**

That the Clerk develops a Facebook page for the council with output capability only.

**52\_23/24** **EMERGENCY ITEM**

The Clerk had agreed with the chairman to include this emergency item due to the closeness of the August recess and deadline dates for other associated meetings held externally by CDALC and Durham County Council.

DETAILS

Durham County Council will be considering their medium-term financial plan 2024/25 – 2027/2028 at the meeting of CABINET on Wednesday 12th July 2023.

In the plan being considered the County Council is going to consider a **50% reduction in LCTRS money paid to parish and town councils, staggered over a two-year period**.

In the report being considered item 4 details DCC’s budgetary pressures and proposals for saving money including DCC’s Full Council will ultimately be the decision maker on its budget at a later date and

**the report is the beginning of the process and recommends that a consultation begins**

in relation to the proposed reductions in grant support to parish and town councils.

**RESOLVED:**

To receive the information and wait for the outcome from the discussions at the cabinet meeting of Durham County Council.

**53\_23/24** **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

County Councillor Mrs E. Peeke informed the meeting that she had received complaints about the parking and garages near Thrislington and St. Oswald areas and has met with the County Council and Livin to see what can be done to improve this. Some garages will be refurbished and some demolished, the project will be supported by £13,500 of her neighbourhood budget towards this approximate £40,000 costs. Residents in Verdun terrace have raised concerns with the small open space area and meetings have been held with Livin an DCC. £2,000 is being funded, again form Neighbourhood Budget to help support and improve this area. Meetings are also being held in connection with the empty properties in the high street. The overgrown pathway in Station Road on the opposite side to the walled area has been reported, and the benches at the top of station road/Laburnham Road. Funded the library with £1,500 for summer activities, , Banner Group £1,000, Village Show £300. The total spend for Cornforth this year is £18,300.

Old Scrapyard. A Planning Enforcement Notice has been served on the occupants and the owner of the site; this is the first stage of legal process used to remedy the breaches of planning control attributed to the site.

*Members noted this.*

**54\_23/24** **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had no updates for this meeting.

*Members noted this.*

**55\_23/24** **POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (pact)**

Councillor Dr S. Drew had not attended the meeting and Councillor Mr T Hall informed the meeting that the police had stopped a motorcycle rider who had no crash helmet and insurance, arson had been reported on two vehicles, one burglary with the offender possibly disturbed as nothing was taken, a vehicle stolen with tools on board and not recovered and several cannabis plants were found in a property raid.

The PCSO had visited the local primary school and the children had mentioned fire damage on the slide in the park.

Several questions had been made by members of the public in connection with the smell of cannabis just off the high street, parking outside the school, rat problem at rear of high street and e-scooters on public paths.

*Members received and noted the updates.*

**56\_23/24** **AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor Mrs P Crathorne informed the meeting that she had not attended the meeting and asked Councillor Mrs E Peeke if she could update the meeting as she had attended the meeting. Councillor Peeke informed the meeting of changes in the operation of the AAP are being taken to cabinet for consideration and there was not a lot of changes being made. A presentation was also received at the meeting in connection with the new housing strategy for Durham County Council and will be available for viewing on their website.

**57\_23/24** **CLERKS UPDATES**

The clerk provided the following updates: -

1. The Principle Electoral Officer from the Electoral Services Section at the County Council has notified that the Returning Officer did not receive the required number of signatories to call an election for the recently advertised councillor vacancy.

The Parish must now co-opt via their own co-option procedures.

2 Councillor Mrs Ann Wilson has submitted her resignation as a Cornforth Parish Councillor and notification has been sent to the electoral officer.

3 Correspondence has been received from the County Council informing of the approval of the Durham Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations – publication of Draft Plan.

4 Cornforth Library have asked if councillors will help to spread the word on the activities that they are providing over the school holidays and copies of the poster are available from the clerk.

5 A meeting has been held with an officer from Livin who attended the wasteland area in Station Road that is behind the stone wall. The garage renters have been issued with a leave notice and a fence will be placed across the entrance area to try and deter fly tipping, etc. The damaged wall will be monitored and the path cleared up next to the stone wall.

Me*mbers received and noted the updates.*

**58\_23/24** **CDALC - nominations for President, Vice President (x3), Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Auditor**

Members considered a report which was previously circulated and the clerk presented this report to the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Dr S. Drew and seconded by Councillor Mr R. Poole and it was;

**RESOLVED:**

There are no parish councillors who wish to be considered for the positions and that the council supports the re-election of the named post holders and the Clerk notifies CDALC of this.

**59\_23/24** **BILL WILSON MEMORIAL PARK - DOG POLICY**

Members considered a report which was previously circulated and the clerk presented this report to the meeting.

Councillor Mrs P. Crathorne informed the meeting that mobile cameras had been purchased from funding from the County Councillor.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs M. Poole and seconded by Councillor Mr P. Metcalfe and it was;

**RESOLVED:**

That;

1. members supported the awards of £30, £20, £10 for first, second and third for the poster designs from the school children competition and for the chairman to present the prizes.
2. The three members agreed to judge the posters are Councillors Mrs P Crathorne (Chairman), Mrs J. Grafton and Mr T Hall. The chairman will present the prizes at the school.
3. The various dog signs are to include that fines will be issued
4. The clerk contacts the County Councillor to discuss the mobile camera.
5. The draft policy attached to the report was agreed as a starting point and will be monitored and adapted as required.

**60\_23/24** **REVIEW OF THE CHRISTMAS MOTIFS**

Following a request at the June meeting of Council, Councillor Mrs P Drew had requested that the Christmas motifs and tree were reviewed at the July meeting of council.

Following discussion there were no changes to be made to the current provision.

It was proposed by councillor Mr P. Metcalfe and seconded by councillor Mrs P. Drew and it was;

***RESOLVED***

That there are no changes required to the current provision and will next be reviewed as part of the assessment process for the new contract period; following the ending of the current contract on December 2024.

The Clerk will commence the process well in advance of the ending of the current contract to ensure there is plenty of time for the assessment of this.

**61\_23/24** **PLANNING**

There were no planning applications for consideration at this meeting.

*It was noted that there were no planning applications to consider at this meeting.*

**62\_23/24 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS (May 2023)**

Council received the Income and Expenditure Analysis for May 2023 as prepared by the Parish Clerk

It was proposed by councillor Mr R. Poole and seconded by councillor Mrs J. Grafton and it was;

***RESOLVED***

To receive and approve the Income and Expenditure Analysis for May 2023 and for it to be signed by the Chairman Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne.

**63\_23/24** **BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT (May 2023)**

Council received the Bank Reconciliation Statement for May 2023 as prepared by the Parish Clerk.

It was proposed by Councillor Dr S. Drew and seconded by Councillor Mr T. Hall and it was;

***RESOLVED***

To receive and approve the Bank Reconciliation statement for May 2023 and for it to be signed by the Chairman Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne and Councillor Mrs M. Poole.

**64\_23/24** **GRANT FUNDING REQUEST – GREAT NORTH AIR AMBULANCE**

The grant funding request from the Great North Air Ambulance (GNAAS) was considered.

It was proposed by councillor Mr R. Poole and seconded by councillor Mrs M. Poole and it was;

**RESOLVED**

That a grant for £500 was agreed for the Great North Air Ambulance.

**65\_23/24** **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified

***RESOLVED:***

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the last item on the agenda.

**66\_22/23** **CO-OPTION OF TWO PARISH COUNCILLORS**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Janet Snowball and Mrs Victoria Parnaby who had applied for co-option to the council and were in attendance.

Both were asked to leave the room and called back in individually and made a presentation to members on why they wanted to become a councillor.

Following their presentations, a vote was held and it was agreed for both to be co-opted onto the council and they were informed of this. The Clerk explained that he would see them after the meeting to complete the relevant documentation and agree a date and time for an induction session.

***RESOLVED:***

That Mrs Janet Snowball and Mrs Victoria Parnaby are co-opted as Cornforth Parish Councillors and for the relevant documentation to be completed.

***Meeting closed at 8.30pm***

Signed (Chairman):

Date: