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**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held Monday 9 September 2024 at 7pm in West Cornforth Community Centre, Station Road, Cornforth, DL17 9LA.**

**Present: Councillors Mr P Metcalfe (Chair), Mrs J Beetham-Yelland, Mr N Coombs, Dr S Drew, Mrs P Drew, Mrs V Parnaby, Mr J Ratcliff, Ms J Snowball, Mr R Vaughan & Mrs M Walker.**

**In attendance: Mr R Ormerod (Parish Clerk)**

1	<b>Apologies</b> No apologies were received.
2	<b>Declarations of interest</b> The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to make declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting. <b><i>It was noted that Cllr Mr P Metcalfe declared a personal interest in item 19 (co-option of councillors to the parish council).</i></b>
3	<b>Members' dispensation</b> The Clerk informed the meeting that there were no dispensations for this meeting. It was noted that there were no dispensations.
4	<b>Public participation</b> Two members of the public were present. No issues were raised.
5	<b>Minutes</b> <b>Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 8 July 2024</b> It was proposed by Cllr Ms J Snowball and seconded by Cllr J Ratcliff and it was <b><i>Resolved: That the minutes of the meetings of the council held on 8 July 2024 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at this meeting.</i></b>
6	<b>County Councillor's report</b> County Councillor Elaine Peake gave a report. Topics included garages scheduled for demolition and funding for library projects. <b><i>Resolved: To receive the report.</i></b>
7	<b>Chairman's announcements</b> The Chairman informed the meeting that there had been issues with misuse of play equipment. Durham County Council had carried out cleaning at the parish council's request. The Chairman advised members that there had been negative comments on social media

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	about the parish council but that these were based on misinformation.
8	<p><b>Police And Communities Together (PACT)</b></p> <p>Councillor Mr N Coombs reported on a recent meeting in July. The scheduled meeting in August had been cancelled as police officers had been re-tasked due to riots in other parts of the region. Topics covered included seizure of quad bikes following incidents and use of park equipment as a toilet. It was noted that the notices which the police are putting on display warn that bikes/quads being used for disruptive purposes are liable to be seized.</p> <p>A discussion took place on parking on Windsor Terrace.</p> <p>A discussion took place on the recruitment programme of PCSOs. It was noted that posters were available.</p> <p><b>Resolved: That the council receive the report.</b></p> <p><b>Resolved: That the Clerk put posters in the noticeboards.</b></p>
9	<p><b>Area Action Partnership</b></p> <p>Cllr Ms J Snowball informed the meeting that the most recent meeting was mainly taken up with a discussion on Local Network boundaries.</p> <p><b>Resolved: That the council receive the report.</b></p>
10	<p><b>Clerk's update</b></p> <p>The Clerk had circulated a written report. There was general agreement with the Clerk's suggestion that the council purchase a large "presentation cheque" for publicity purposes.</p> <p><b>Resolved: That the council receive the report.</b></p>
11	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>A discussion took place on the application for extraction of approximately 1.4 million tonnes of limestone and approximately 6.7 million tonnes of Basal Permian sand until 2050 at Thrislington Quarry West.</p> <p><b>Resolved: That the parish council find out what percentage of the revenue generated will go to the village.</b></p> <p>A discussion took place on the response from the Traffic Commissioner to the parish council's objection to the application to use a location on Station Road, West Cornforth, as an operating centre for goods vehicles.</p> <p><b>Resolved: That the Clerk contact Durham County Council about getting weight limit signage for vehicles approaching the village from Metal Bridge.</b></p> <p><b>Resolved: That the Clerk draft a proforma letter which residents can send to the Traffic Commissioner to object to the application if desired.</b></p>
12	<p><b>Financial matters</b></p> <p>Members had received the Income and Expenditure Analysis for June and July 2024, the bank reconciliation at 31 July 2024 and the list of pending payments. It was noted that the council had £ 233,163.16 in its current account and £107,967.93 in the reserve account.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Dr S Drew and seconded by Councillor Mrs P Drew and it was;</p> <p><b>Resolved: To receive and approve the Income and Expenditure Analysis for June and July 2024.</b></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Dr S Drew and seconded by Councillor Mrs P Drew and it</p>

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	<p>was;</p> <p><b>Resolved: To receive and approve the bank reconciliations at 30 June and 31 July 2024 and for it to be signed by the Chairman.</b></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Dr S Drew and seconded by Councillor Mrs P Drew and it was;</p> <p><b>Resolved: To pay the outstanding invoices, which were signed by the Chairman.</b></p> <p>A discussion took place on the rate of interest received from the parish council's CCLA account and whether more funds should be invested there.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Dr S Drew and seconded by Councillor Mrs P Drew and it was;</p> <p><b>Resolved: That the council invest a further £75,000 in the CCLA account.</b></p>
13	<p><b>Application for funding from Cornforth Library</b></p> <p>Members had received a copy of the application form from the library for the funding of six workshops (three for adults and three for children) featuring personal appearances by authors.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor P Metcalfe and seconded by Councillor Ms J Snowball, and it was;</p> <p><b>Resolved: To donate £720 to Cornforth Library to fund the workshops.</b></p>
14	<p><b>Durham County Council consultation on Local Network boundaries</b></p> <p>The Clerk had circulated a report on the proposed new boundaries to take effect in May 2025. A discussion took place.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Dr S Drew and seconded by Councillor Mr P Metcalfe, and it was;</p> <p><b>Resolved: That the council make representations to the consultation expressing concerns about the likelihood of the Local Network becoming dominated by issues and organisations in Spennymoor.</b></p>
15	<p><b>Parish survey</b></p> <p>A draft version of the survey form produced by the Clerk and the task and finish group had been circulated to members.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Mr R Vaughan and seconded by Councillor Mr N Coombs, and it was;</p> <p><b>Resolved: That the content be agreed.</b></p> <p><b>Resolved: That the printing of the forms be done using the lowest cost option on 100gsm paper.</b></p> <p><b>Resolved: That the survey be distributed by 4 October with 18 October as the deadline date for forms to be returned.</b></p> <p><b>Resolved: That a report on the results of the survey be provided at the meeting of the council on 11 November 2024.</b></p>
16	<p><b>Council newsletters</b></p> <p>A discussion took place on the format and timing of the council newsletter.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Dr S Drew and seconded by Councillor Mrs J Beetham-Yelland, and it was;</p>

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	<p><b><i>Resolved: That the newsletter be issued quarterly in December, March, June and September each year, with the next edition in December 2024.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Resolved: That the format remain largely as it has been in the past.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Resolved: That Councillor Mrs J Beetham-Yelland take responsibility for the desktop-publishing of the newsletter, assisted by the Clerk.</i></b></p>
17	<p><b>Motions on notice</b></p> <p>There were none.</p>
18	<p><b>Exclusion of press and public</b></p> <p><b><i>Resolved: That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.</i></b></p>
19	<p><b>Co-option of Cornforth Parish Councillors</b></p> <p>Two applicants, Mr Mark Cunningham and Mrs Susan Metcalfe, were present at the meeting and each gave a short presentation about themselves to the council.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Mr J Ratcliff and seconded by Councillor Ms J Snowball, and it was;</p> <p><b><i>Resolved: That Mr Mark Cunningham be co-opted to Cornforth Parish Council.</i></b></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Dr S Drew and seconded by Councillor Ms V Parnaby, and it was;</p> <p><b><i>Resolved: That Mrs Susan Metcalfe be co-opted to Cornforth Parish Council.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Both new councillors signed the declaration of acceptance of office and were welcomed as members by the Chairman.</i></b></p>

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Date