



www.cornforthparishcouncil.org

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held Monday 20 January 2025 at 7pm in West Cornforth Community Centre, Station Road, Cornforth, DL17 9LA.

Present: Councillors J Snowball (in the Chair), J Beetham-Yelland, N Coombs, M Cunningham, P Drew, S Drew, S Metcalfe, J Ratcliff & R Vaughan.

In attendance: Mr R Ormerod (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public.

1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillor P Metcalfe.</p> <p><i>Resolved: To receive and accept the apologies.</i></p>
2	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to make declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.</p> <p><i>It was noted that Cllr P Drew declared a personal interest in items 13 and 14 as a member of the board of the Cornforth Partnership.</i></p>
3	<p>Members' dispensation</p> <p>The Clerk informed the meeting that there were no dispensations for this meeting. It was noted that there were no dispensations.</p>
4	<p>Public participation: None.</p>
5	<p>Minutes</p> <p>Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 9 December 2024</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr J Beetham-Yelland and seconded by Cllr S Drew, and it was</p> <p><i>Resolved: That the minutes of the meetings of the council held on 9 December 2024 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at this meeting, subject to the correction that it was Cllr Dr S Drew that proposed the first resolution on Item 15.</i></p>
6	<p>County Councillor's report</p> <p>None received.</p>
7	<p>Chairman's announcements</p> <p>The Vice-Chairman informed the meeting that she had applied for a grant from Durham County Council's Tree Week as previously agreed. This had resulted in £100 being offered to the parish council. Cllr Snowball thought that this would be best used to replace the cherry blossom tree in the park.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor S Metcalfe and seconded by Councillor R Vaughan and it was;</p> <p><i>Resolved: That the council use the grant funding to replace the cherry blossom tree</i></p>

Signed

Date

	<p><i>in the park, augmenting this with council funds if needed.</i></p> <p>Cllr Snowball explained that the Cornforth Partnership was launching a campaign to stop illegal use of off-road motorbikes in the parish using the slogan “Stop Your Bike & Take A Hike”. Tarmac has indicated that they will lend their support to this initiative.</p>
8	<p>Police And Communities Together (PACT)</p> <p>Councillor N Coombs reported on a recent meeting of PACT.</p> <p>Problems identified included an attempted burglary in East View, an arson incident in Station Road (for which there were no witnesses), off-road bike use by Station Road, criminal damage to a car in Salisbury Crescent and the throwing of stones from the bridge onto the A1.</p> <p>It was noted that there had been an order from Durham County Council to move caravans from the health centre.</p> <p>It was noted that the village’s PCSO was moving to another post.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr P Drew and seconded by Cllr J Ratcliff, and it was</p> <p><i>Resolved: That the council receive the report.</i></p>
9	<p>Area Action Partnership</p> <p>Cllr J Snowball informed the meeting that there had been no meeting since November 2024 and that the next one was to be held on 5 February 2025.</p>
10	<p>Clerk’s update</p> <p>The Clerk had circulated a written report. The Clerk also informed the meeting that there had been a request for a donation from the North-East Air Ambulance.</p> <p>It was noted that the tree survey previously agreed would take place during the week commencing 27 January 2025.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr S Drew and seconded by Cllr J Beetham-Yelland, and it was</p> <p><i>Resolved: That the council receive the report.</i></p> <p><i>Resolved: That the council donate £500 to the North East Air Ambulance as per the budget.</i></p>
11	<p>Planning</p> <p>It was noted that Ian Airton from Durham County Council was investigating whether there had been a breach of planning control on land to the east of 56 High Street.</p>
12	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>Members had received the Income and Expenditure Analysis for December 2024, the bank reconciliation at 31 December 2024, the expenditure against budget analysis from 1 April 2024 to 31 December 2024 and the list of pending payments. It was noted that the council had £108,837 in its current account and £185,992.41 in the reserve account.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor S Drew and seconded by Councillor R Vaughan and it was;</p> <p><i>Resolved: To receive and approve the Income and Expenditure Analysis for December 2024.</i></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor J Beetham-Yelland and seconded by Councillor S Drew and it was;</p> <p><i>Resolved: To receive and approve the bank reconciliation at 31 December 2024 and for it to be signed by Cllr P Drew.</i></p>

Signed

Date

	<p>It was proposed by Councillor J Beetham-Yelland and seconded by Councillor S Drew and it was;</p> <p>Resolved: To receive and approve the expenditure against budget analysis for the period 1 April to 31 December 2024.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor R Vaughan and seconded by Councillor S Metcalfe and it was;</p> <p>Resolved: To receive and approve the pending payments.</p>
13	<p>Renewal of lease for Cornforth House</p> <p>It was noted that Meikle’s Solicitors had, in the previous few days, supplied a draft lease. It was proposed by Councillor S Drew and seconded by Councillor J Snowball, and it was;</p> <p>Resolved: That the issue be deferred to the February meeting of the council in order to give councillors the chance to understand the document fully.</p>
14	<p>64 High Street, Cornforth</p> <p>It was noted that the Cornforth Partnership was meeting in February and would discuss the possibility of the council acquiring the property.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor J Snowball and seconded by Councillor S Drew, and it was;</p> <p>Resolved: That the council continue to liaise with the Cornforth Partnership on the matter.</p>
15	<p>Dog fouling</p> <p>A discussion took place. Cllr N Coombs was of the view that an additional bin was needed by the rail path. Cllr R Vaughan said that the problem was worse at this time of year due to dogs being walked during dark evenings and mornings. Cllr J Snowball said that a bin on the bypass was needed and believed that the distance between bins was too great in some parts of the parish.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor J Beetham-Yelland and seconded by Councillor R Vaughan, and it was;</p> <p>Resolved: That the Clerk contact Network Rail to request an additional bin by the rail path.</p> <p>Resolved: That an article be published in the next parish council newsletter in March 2025 asking residents to report any dog owners not picking up after their dogs.</p>
16	<p>Financial Regulations</p> <p>Members had been provided with the council’s current Financial Regulations and the most recent model financial regulations issued by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). A discussion took place.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor S Metcalfe and seconded by Councillor M Cunningham, and it was;</p> <p>Resolved: That the Clerk draw up a draft Financial Regulations document based on the NALC document for members (provided in paper form as well as digital) in time to be looked at for the March 2025 meeting of the council.</p>
17	<p>Motions on notice</p> <p>None received.</p>

Signed

Date