

Chair of the Council:
Cllr Janet Snowball



Clerk:
Mr Richard Ormerod
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Local Government Act 1972

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of the Cornforth Parish Council will be held on Monday 8 December 2025 commencing at 7pm in West Cornforth Community Centre, Station Road, West Cornforth, DL17 9LA to which members of the council are summoned for the transaction of the under-mentioned business.

Dated this 28th day of November 2025.

Richard Ormerod - Clerk to the Council

THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

Photographing, recording, broadcasting, or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is permitted however the privacy of (i) persons who object to the same and (ii) children and vulnerable adults must be respected by anonymising the identities of such.

NOTICE OF MEETING – Public notice of the meeting is given in accordance with schedule 12, paragraph 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

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| 1 | Apologies Members who cannot attend a meeting shall tender their apologies to the Parish Clerk prior to the meeting as, under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted. |
| 2 | Declarations of interest At this point, Members are asked to declare: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests• any prejudicial interests or• any disclosable pecuniary interests which they may have in respect of business on this agenda. |
| 3 | Members' dispensation To consider written requests, submitted in writing to the Clerk prior to the meeting, for dispensations from members who have declared interests under Disclosable or Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – Section 33 of the 2011 Localism Act. |
| 4 | Public participation Members of the public are permitted to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. Questions will not be received by the council which are in furtherance of a person's individual circumstances, or which are about a matter where there is no right of appeal to the courts, a tribunal or government minister. A question will not be received by the Council where the issue it |

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| | concerns has been subject of a decision of the Council in the last six months. |
| 5 | Minutes Draft minutes reflect an accurate record of what transpired at that meeting and are put before this meeting for confirmation of accuracy and to consider, resolve to approve and to be signed by the Chair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordinary meeting of the council held on Monday 10 November 2025. |
| 6 | Chair's announcements To receive any announcements from the Chair. |
| 7 | County Councillors' report To receive reports by the County Councillors. |
| 8 | Police And Communities Together (PACT) To receive an update if needed. |
| 9 | Clerk's update To receive updates from the Clerk. |
| 10 | Planning To consider any planning applications received from Durham County Council which are of interest to the parish council and to make representations if necessary. |
| 11 | Financial matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To receive, consider and approve the receipts and payments analysis for November 2025. b) To receive, consider and approve the bank reconciliation statement for November 2025. c) To receive, consider and approve the summary of receipts and payments against budget analysis from 1 April 2025 to 30 November 2025. d) To approve pending payments. e) Transfer of funds from Unity Trust Bank to CCLA fund. |
| 12 | Council budget for 2026-27 To provide a general steer for the council towards a decision on the budget and precept to be made in January 2026. To decide on a response to Durham County Council's consultation on its budget proposals for 2026-27. To consider the status of the council's earmarked reserves. |
| 13 | Grant applications To consider applications for funding for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cornforth United AFC Youth b) Children's Christmas party, West Cornforth Community Centre c) Friends of West Cornforth Primary School |
| 14 | Land between Bill Wilson Memorial Park and Laburnum Road To consider possible future use as a dog park. |

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| 15 | <p>Closure of churchyard, Holy Trinity Church, Cornforth</p> <p>To determine whether or not the parish council supports the closure of the churchyard.</p> |
| 16 | <p>Durham County Council, Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy</p> <p>To decide whether to take part in the survey.</p> |
| 17 | <p>Motions on notice: Cllr J Beetham-Yelland to move the following motion:</p> <p>As the parish council's allotments are now seeing more use, they are becoming a target of thieves, and this has resulted in the theft of tools, of animals from the plots, and an increase in illegal hunting, which has culminated in a pet cat being killed and illegal hunting of wildlife escalating, particularly of owls.</p> <p>As the allotments are primarily used by local people as a source of both leisure and food, and are on private parish property, this council believes that we cannot simply ignore these problems.</p> <p>Fencing</p> <p>As it stands, renters are meant to sort their own fencing, but it may behove us to provide fencing to increase security as some of our allotment holders fall into low-income brackets. With the escalating costs of materials, it may well make allotments a luxury that only the more wealthy members of the community can afford to keep, excluding people already struggling during a cost-of-living crisis, particularly large families and disabled people who could do with a safe place to go in nature, and will use the plot for food.</p> <p>Cornforth Parish Council undertakes to fully investigate the following possible options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the parish council pays out-right for fencing around allotments. 2. the parish council liaises with existing plot holders and purchases the materials a plot at a time, setting up a payment plan for the plot holder that allows them the materials to build a fence, without having to pay everything upfront. <p>Signage</p> <p>Signs have now been designed and temporary versions are in place. These will not however last long.</p> <p>Cornforth Parish Council undertakes to install a more permanent signage system involving three metal signs of the same type and fitting.</p> <p>Trail cams</p> <p>Trail cameras can potentially act as a deterrent to crime, whilst also helping the council put in for environmental grants.</p> <p>Cornforth Parish Council undertakes to apply for grants to improve the environment and security at its allotments, with Cllr Beetham-Yelland leading on the project.</p> |
