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Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held Wednesday 26 March 2025 at 6pm in West Cornforth Community Centre, Station Road, Cornforth, DL17 9LA.

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

In attendance: Mr R Ormerod (Parish Clerk).

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| 1 | <p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillor S Drew.</p> <p><i>Resolved: To receive and accept the apologies.</i></p> |
| 2 | <p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>None</p> |
| 3 | <p>Members' dispensation</p> <p>The Clerk informed the meeting that there were no dispensations for this meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that there were no dispensations.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Traveller encampment, Bill Wilson Memorial Park</p> <p>It was noted that the council had already engaged the services of James King Enforcement Agency to serve notice on those in the encampment, agreed by the Chairman and Clerk under emergency powers. Cllr P Metcalfe thought it was necessary to send a clear message that encampments cannot take place on the park.</p> <p>A discussion took place initiated by Cllr S Metcalfe on how to prevent similar situations arising in the future. Cllr R Vaughan suggested use of chicanes in the entrances to the park. It was noted that this could be done using reserves earmarked for park improvements.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr P Metcalfe and seconded by Cllr M Cunningham, and it was</p> <p><i>Resolved: That the council spend funds as necessary up to £5,000 in order to enforce the removal of the encampment.</i></p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr P Metcalfe and seconded by Cllr J Beetham-Yelland, and it was</p> <p><i>Resolved: That the council spend funds as necessary up to £1,500 in order to secure the park against future encampments.</i></p> <p><i>Resolved: That the Clerk contact Thrislington quarry to request boulders to prevent vehicular access to the park.</i></p> <p><i>Resolved: That the Clerk arrange for Durham County Council's Clean & Green team to clean the park following removal of the encampment.</i></p> |