

CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at West Cornforth Community Centre at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 9th January 2006.

Present: Councillor Dr. S. C. Drew, Chairman and

Councillor Mrs. H. P. Drew, Mr. B. Kennedy, Mr. A. Mould, Mr. R. Poole, Mr. M. J. Pennick, Mr. H. A. Robson, Mrs. S. Traynor, Mrs. P. M. Walker, Ms. C. J. Warbis, Mr. W. R. Wilson, Mrs. A. Woodhall and Mr. W. H. Woodhall.

Apology: Councillor Mrs. I. M. Kennedy and Mrs. P. Pennick.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs. P. M. Walker declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 19(c) planning application erection of single storey rear extension 44, The Green, West Cornforth.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th December 2005 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 POLICE LIAISON

Sergeant Kelvin Vincent presented a report on crime figures for the previous month. He commented particularly on an increase in the illegal use of mini motor cycles, a number of cars stolen from outside the area being set alight and abandoned in the village and a number of hoax 999 calls having been made from call boxes in West Cornforth.

In addition he explained that over thirty incidents had been reported to the police on the previous weekend in the Oval/ Salisbury Crescent area.

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned to facilitate public participation.

The following issues were raised by members of the public:

- a) Incidents of anti-social behaviour at a number of locations including ongoing problems at the openings between The Oval, Salisbury Crescent and Linden Road. It was noted that Sedgfield Borough Council's Area 2 Forum would be held at Cornforth Community Centre the following evening and questions related to the ongoing situation at the Oval, Salisbury Crescent and Linden Road could be raised with representatives of the Borough Council.
- b) A request was made by an individual for a meeting to be held with the Police, Sedgfield Borough Council and the Parish Council,

5 RESUMPTION OF MEETING

RESOLVED: That the meeting resumes.

At this juncture Sergeant Kelvin Vincent retired from the meeting.

6 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that he would be attending a Chairman's Charity Dinner on Friday 13th January 2006 organised by Ferryhill Town Council .

7 SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

| <u>Receipts</u> | | £ |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Nil | | |
| <u>Payments</u> | | £ |
| E. Maddison | Donation Co-op Women's Guild | 30.00 |
| B. Kennedy | Members Allowance | 17.16 |
| A. Mould | Members Allowance | 17.16 |
| H. A. Robson | Members Allowance | 17.16 |
| W. R. Wilson | Members Allowance | 17.16 |
| E. G. Hurrell | (Salary | 509.80 |
| | (Telephone Calls | 16.56 |
| | (Stationery & Materials | 35.73 |
| | (Postage | 10.34 |
| Premier Traffic Management Ltd | Road Closure Signs | 150.00 |
| JWS Power Wash Cleaning | Cleaning Bus Shelters Nov & Dec | 120.00 |
| Inland Revenue | Income Tax / NI Oct - Dec | 573.03 |
| Sedgefield Borough | CCTV costs 2005/06 | 11,010.00 |
| Northumbrian Water | Water charges allotments | 69.87 |
| | | 12,593.97 |

RESOLVED: That the schedule be approved.

8 PARISH PRECEPT 2006/2007

RESOLVED: That a special meeting of the Parish Council be held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 30th January 2006 to determine the Parish Precept for the following financial year.

9 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE (5.12.05 Minute 9 Refers)

Consideration was given to the filling of vacancies arising from the retirement of Councillors Mr. A. Denholm and Mrs. L. Denholm.

RESOLVED: 1 That the following Members be appointed to represent the Council on outside bodies as set out below:

Councillor Mrs. P. M. Walker - Cornforth Village Show Committee

Councillor Mr. W. H. Woodhall - Lafarge Liaison Committee

Councillor Dr. S.C. Drew - Sedgefield Local Council's Committee

Councillor Mrs. P. M. Walker - Sedgefield Borough Parish Relations Working Party

2 That Councillor Mr. M. J. Pennick be appointed to the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

10 GARMONDSWAY ROAD, PROPOSED PROVISION OF PUBLIC SEATS
(5.12.05 Minute 11 Refers)

Members were advised of costings for the above proposal as set out below:

| | £ |
|--|----------|
| Supply of two bench seats | 819.00 |
| Installation estimated cost. | 300.00 |
| Supply of two litter bins with anti -fly poster texture plus installation including concrete pad and anchor bolts. | 1,150.00 |
| Total | 2,269.00 |

RESOLVED: That householders overlooking the suggested sites for the two public seats be consulted to obtain their views on the proposal.

11 LITTER BIN, HIGH STREET, WEST CORNFORTH, OUTSIDE COSTCUTTERS

It was reported that a litter bin at the above location had been dislodged following impact with a vehicle and arrangements had been made with Sedgefield Borough for it to be re-set. Costs were to be charged on a time and materials basis.

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

12 PERIMETER FENCING CORNFORTH COMMUNITY PARK

Members were informed that a section of the perimeter fencing at Cornforth Community Park has been damaged by vehicle impact at the junction of Station Road and the road leading from Thrislington Industrial Estate. Arrangements had been made for a quotation for repair to be obtained from the original installers Rennyco Ltd and the incident had been reported to the police and an incident number allocated.

Members were reminded that this was the third occasion that such an incident had occurred, the dates being December 2001, December 2004 and December 2005.

RESOLVED: That the information be received and a site meeting be arranged with the police and highway authority to examine measures to make the junction safer.

13 VILLAGE GREEN MOLE INFESTATION

It was reported that a quotation in the sum of £420 had been obtained from Sedgefield Borough Council for treatment to the Village Green to remove moles.

RESOLVED: That at present no action be taken.

14 STANDARDS BOARD

a) Bi-annual review of registers of interests and gifts and hospitality - Members were issued with a copy of a letter from Dennis Hall, Solicitor Sedgefield Borough relating to the review of the registers of interests and gifts and hospitality.

b) Consideration was given to the Council participating in a Standards

Committee Training Event to take place on Tuesday 4th April 2006 at Sedgefield Council Offices. The main speaker was to be Peter Keith Lucas of Bevan Brittain, Solicitors. The cost was to be £90 per person. The event was planned to run between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. and cover problem areas of the code; how complaints arose, how they were dealt with; dealing with investigations and reports; going through the pre-hearing process, up to the start of the hearing; a role play exercise would be undertaken involving eight Councillors and five officers; and there would be the opportunity to learn about sanctions, appeals and related matters.

RESOLVED: That three places be reserved at the event for Councillors Dr. S. C. Drew and Mr. M. J. Pennick and the Clerk.

- c) Standards of Conduct in English Local Government: The Future - Members were advised that a copy of the document had been received from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

15 TRAFFIC CALMING - GARMONDSWAY ROAD

Consideration was given to a letter from a resident requesting that the Parish Council supported a suggestion to the County Council that traffic calming measures at Garmondsway Road be improved to reduce the speed of vehicles entering the village at this point. A traffic survey undertaken by the Highway Authority in December 2005 had revealed that only 38% of vehicles at this point were travelling below the 30mph speed limit.

RESOLVED: That the Police and Highway Authority be contacted to arrange a site meeting to examine ways to improve traffic calming measures at this location.

16 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS AND SOCIETY OF LOCAL CLERKS 2006/07 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD FOR LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS

It was reported that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services had reached agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1st April 2006 and consequently the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Clerks had issued revised salary scales based on an annual increase of 2.94%.

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Council policy the revised rates be applied to Council employees with effect from 1st April 2006.

17 BUS SHELTER AND ADJACENT LAND, SOUTH OF BRIDGE STREET, METAL BRIDGE

Members were informed that the Valuer and Corporate Property Manager, Sedgefield Borough Council had written to the Parish Council to point out that during a process to register all land holdings it had become apparent that the Borough Council still held deeds for the above land that should possibly have been transferred to the Parish Council. He had therefore suggested that the land be formally transferred to the Parish Council for a peppercorn with each party bearing their own legal costs. Members were advised that the Parish Council had maintained the bus shelter for many years.

RESOLVED: That arrangements be made for the land to be transferred from the

Borough Council to the Parish Council.

18 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT , PROPOSED SEMINAR

It was reported that the Executive Officer, County Durham Association of Local Councils had written to explain that he may have been able to secure the services of the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) to come to Durham to give representatives of Parish and Town Councils the opportunity to receive advice and information on the Freedom of Information Act. However the ICO would only come to visit if the numbers justified the cost of attending and therefore Councils had been requested to indicate whether they would be interested in participating.

RESOLVED: That places on the seminar be reserved for Councillor Mrs. P. M. Walker and the Clerk.

19 PLANNING MATTERS

Consideration was given to the following planning applications:

N.B. Councillor Mrs. P. M. Walker having declared a prejudicial interest in application c) below in respect of 44, The Green left the meeting for the duration of discussion and voting on that item.

- a) Erection of Modular Office to provide canteen and office space, Cleanaway Ltd. Garmondsway Ferryhill.
- b) Erection of 1 no dwelling, Land adjacent to 5, West View, West Cornforth, Mr. & Mrs. Howells.
- c) Erection of single storey rear extension, 44, The Green, West Cornforth, Mr. & Mrs. Lamb.

RESOLVED: That no objections be raised in respect of the applications.

- d) HM Government, National Community Safety Plan 2006 -2009, it was reported that a copy of the plan had been received and was available for Members inspection.

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

20 OPENINGS BETWEEN THE OVAL, SALISBURY CRESCENT AND LINDEN ROAD

RESOLVED: That the problems occurring at the above location be referred to the Area 2 Forum to be held on 10th January 2006 for consideration.

21 MEETING BETWEEN LOCAL RESIDENT AND DURHAM CONSTABULARY (5.9.05 Minute 8 Refers)

Further consideration was given to this item.

RESOLVED: That the resident be again advised that should a meeting be arranged then the Parish Council would be willing to be represented.