

CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at West Cornforth Community Centre at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 7th August 2006

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

Councillors: Mr. B. Kennedy, Mrs. P. Pennick, Mr. H. A. Robson, Mrs. S. Traynor, Mr. W. R. Wilson, Mrs A. Woodhall and Mr. W. H. Woodhall.

Apologies: Councillors: Mrs. H. P. Drew, Mr. A. Mould, Mr. M. J. Pennick, Mr. R. Poole, Mr. M. Simpson, Mrs. P. M. Walker and Ms. C. J. Warbis.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs. S. Traynor declared a personal interest in Item 12 Cornforth Conservation Area Enhancement Scheme, and Item 13 Village Green Roads.

Councillor Mr. H. Robson declared an interest in Item 19(a) Planning Application, residential development comprising 52, No. dwellings, land east of Barratt Way.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd July 2006 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 POLICE LIAISON

Constable Gary Lamport presented crime figures for the previous month and discussed issues arising from the figures.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to facilitate public participation.

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public raised issues including: Access arrangements in respect of the proposed housing development on land to the east of Barratt Way, West Cornforth; the Village Gardening Competition; Council Agendas; and public notice boards.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING

The Chairman resumed the Council meeting.

5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that on the 20th July the Clerk had attended West Cornforth Primary School and presented the Pupil of the Year awards on behalf of the Parish Council.

6 SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

Receipts

£

HM Revenue & Customs	VAT repayment	495.39
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<u>Payments</u>		£
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B. Kennedy	Members Allowance	17.66
A. Mould	Members Allowance	17.66
H. A. Robson	Members Allowance	17.66
W. R. Wilson	Members Allowance	17.66
E. G. Hurrell	(Salary	588.35
	(Postage	21.67
	(Stationery & Materials	37.19
	(Car Mileage	15.20
JWS Power Wash Cleaning	Cleaning Bus Shelters July	120.00
The Cornforth Partnership	Photocopying Charges	19.95
Sedgefield Borough Council	Repairs to wall Stobb Cross Park	100.00
John Wade (Haulage) Ltd.	Skip Hire	117.45
J. A. Armatage	Internal Audit	110.00
npower	Electricity charges CCTV	431.52
Sedgefield Borough Council	Annual Playground Inspections	75.00
		1,706.97

RESOLVED: That the schedule be approved.

7 BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT - POSITION AT 30TH JUNE 2006

Consideration was given to a report of the Clerk. (for copy see file of Minutes)

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

8 ANNUAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2006

a) It was reported that the Council's Accounts for the financial year 2005/2006 had been audited by the Internal Auditor, J. A. Armatage Accounting Services and the following documents were submitted for approval:

- a) Annual Return, Section 1 - The Statement of Accounts
- b) Annual Return, Section 2 - Statement of Assurance
- c) Annual Return, Section 4 - Annual Internal Audit Report
- d) Balance Sheet at 31st March 2006
- e) Summary Income and Expenditure Account - Year ended 31st March 2006
- f) Accounts 2005/2006 Supporting Notes

RESOLVED: That items a, b, c, d, e, and f above be approved.

b) STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 2006 No.564 THE ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT (AMENDMENT)(ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2006

Members were informed that the above regulations came into force on 1st April 2006. It was noted that regulation 10 had amended the deadline for the approval of the Annual Return. From 2006/07 the deadline would be brought forward by one month to 31st August, for 2007/08 it would be brought forward by another month to 31st July and for 2008/09 it would be brought forward to 30th June.

It was also noted that regulation 9(3) increased the threshold at which Parish Councils had the option to keep their accounts on an income and expenditure

basis or receipts and payments basis from £100,000 to £200,000.

RESOLVED: That the information be received and the Council's Accounts for 2006/07 be prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

9 COUNCIL SURGERIES (3.7.06 Minute 5 Refers)

Consideration was given to the suggestion that the Council holds surgeries for members of the public to attend.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk examine options and submit proposals to the next meeting.

10 GRASS VERGE ON STATION ROAD OPPOSITE CORONATION TERRACE (3.7.06 Minute 18 Refers)

It was reported that enquiries had revealed that the land in question was not owned by either the County Council or the Borough Council and was not classed as adopted highway. However it was maintained by Sedgefield Borough on behalf of the County Council and the maintenance regime comprised cutting a two metre strip of grass twice per annum.

RESOLVED: That the information be received and enquiries be made at Land Registry to ascertain ownership of the land.

11 CORNFORTH CONSERVATION AREA ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

Consideration was given to a letter from the Design and Conservation Officer, Sedgefield Borough Council regarding progress on enhancement works within the Conservation Area. (for copy see file of Minutes) Works already undertaken amounted to £21,961 and proposed additional works were estimated at £28,500.

Plans of proposals to upgrade the access to Holy Trinity Church were displayed at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- 1 That the proposals to upgrade the access to Holy Trinity Church be approved.
- 2 That standing orders with respect to contracts be suspended and a contribution of £20,000 be made to Sedgefield Borough Council towards costs of improvements to land in the ownership of the Parish Council at the Village Green, West Cornforth.

12 VILLAGE GREEN ROADS (3.7.06 Minute 16)

It was reported that a quotation, in the sum of £900, had been obtained from Sedgefield Borough Council for tarmac patching to unadopted roads on the Village Green.

RESOLVED: That the quotation be accepted.

13 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Consideration was given to an application from Sho Shin Kai Trimdon to assist two students from West Cornforth, Dale Ventura and Sam Taylor who were to compete in the World Karate Association Championships in Italy in September 2006.

(Enabling legislation Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1976, Section 19) Recreational provision.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £50 each be made to Dale Ventura and Sam Taylor.

14 DEED OF GRANT, 10, THE GREEN WEST CORNFORTH

It was reported that the Clerk, following consultation with the Chairman, had arranged for a deed of grant to be entered into in respect of 10, The Green, West Cornforth allowing the existing and future owners of the property to gain access to the property over an access road owned by the Parish Council.

Members were advised that the Parish Council owned land to the frontage of many properties on the village green and increasingly, when a property changed hands, a request would be made for a deed of grant to be entered into. To eliminate delay it was suggested that the Clerk be authorised to make arrangements for any future deeds of grant of a similar nature to be entered into and reported to the next meeting of the Parish Council for information.

RESOLVED: 1 That the action taken be confirmed.

2 That the Clerk be authorised to make arrangements for deeds of grant, relating to access to properties across Council owned land on the Village Green, to be entered into and reported to the next meeting of the Parish Council for information.

15 CCTV VISIT TO SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL CONTROL ROOM, CHILTON

Consideration was given to an invitation for Members to visit the Control Room Chilton.

RESOLVED: That arrangements be made for a visit on the evening of Thursday 7th September.

16 STANDARDS COMMITTEE, PROCEDURE FOR GRANTING DISPENSATIONS

A report approved at a Standards Committee Meeting held on 6th July 2006 was submitted for Members' information.

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

17 GAMBLING ACT 2005 - STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES - SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

It was reported that a copy of the above document had been received from Sedgfield Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

18 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Residential Development Comprising 52 No. Dwellings, Land East of Barratt Way, West Cornforth. Bett Homes (NE) Ltd, Newcastle upon Tyne

RESOLVED: That the Borough Council be informed that whilst welcoming the new development the Council has grave concerns over access to the site via Bede Grove, Oswald Close and Barratt Way especially during the house construction period and suggests that a site meeting be arranged to examine the access issues.

- b) Erection of 141 dwellings and 12 apartments with associated infrastructure and landscaping, Thrislington Depot, Station Road, West Cornforth - amended site layout. H. J. Banks & Company, Tow Law.

RESOLVED: That no objections be made in respect of the application.

- c) Regulation 3 application to form new pedestrian entrance and footpath, West Cornforth Primary School, High Street, West Cornforth.

RESOLVED: That no objections be made in respect of the application.

- d) Erection of detached garage, garage site plot 1, Vicarage Road, West Cornforth Mr. R. Cullen, 15, Vicarage Road, West Cornforth.

RESOLVED: That no objections be made in respect of the application.

- e) County Durham Rights of Way Improvement Plan. (3.7.06 Minute 14(a) Refers) Consideration was given to the Council's response to the document.

RESOLVED: That the resiting of access to public footpath no 20 from the highway be suggested.

- f) Sedgefield Borough Council, Local Development Framework: Core Strategy DPD Alternative Options.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the above be deferred until the next meeting.

19 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

20 CLERK TO THE COUNCIL, CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT (Personal data under the Data Protection Act 1998)

Consideration was given to a proposed Contract of Employment for the Clerk to the Council.

RESOLVED: That the contract of employment be approved.