

## CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at West Cornforth Community Centre following the Annual Meeting on Monday 14th May 2007

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

Councillors: Mr. K. Clasper, Mrs. H. P. Drew, Mr. A. Hodgson, Mr. B. Kennedy, Mr. M. J. Pennick, Mrs. P. Pennick, Mr. S. M. Pennick, Mr. R. Poole, Mr. Mrs. S. Traynor, Mrs. P. M. Walker, Mr. W. R. Wilson, Mrs. A. Woodhall and Mr. W. H. Woodhall.

Apologies: Councillor: Mr. M. Simpson

### 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 21 Local Government Reorganisation and item 22 Planning Matters.

Councillors Mrs. H. P. Drew, Mrs. S. Traynor and Mr. M. J. Pennick declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 20, West Cornforth Community Association.

### 2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd April 2007 were confirmed as a correct record.

### 3 POLICE LIAISON

PC Ken Barclay, PC Susan Moyes and Community Support Officers Lee Dixon and Donna Guthrie attended the meeting. They discussed with Members policing matters relating to West Cornforth before retiring from the meeting.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to facilitate public participation.

### 4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following points were raised by members of the public:

- a) West Cornforth Community Association, the official opening of the picnic area was to be held at the end of May 2007. Assistance may be required from the Parish Council with respect to ongoing grass cutting of the area.
- b) Further information was required from appropriate authorities by certain residents regarding a suggestion to gate a section of residential highway to deter vandalism.

Following public participation the Chairman resumed the meeting.

### 5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that he had received an invitation to attend a question and answer session on local government reorganisation on 2nd June 2007 arranged by the County Council. He also reported that he had received from Chilton Town Council dates of charity events to be held by the Council in the forthcoming Civic Year to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation and Great North Air Ambulance.

## 6 SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

<u>Receipts</u>		£
HM Revenue & Customs	VAT Repayment	662.52
Unity Trust Bank	Interest	1,593.90
Sedgefield Borough Council	Precept 1st Instalment	33,500.00
The Cornforth Partnership	Insurance 66, High Street	255.19
		<hr/>
		36,011.61
<u>Payments</u>		£
B. Kennedy	Members Allowances	17.66
A. Mould	Members Allowances	17.66
H. A. Robson	Members Allowances	17.66
W. R. Wilson	Members Allowances	17.66
E. G. Hurrell	( Salary	605.68
	( Keys for allotment barrier	30.00
	( Postage	25.18
NUM Durham Area	Gala Brochure Message	35.00
Robinson Landscape Services	Relocating seat and litter bin	260.00
The Cornforth Partnership	Photocopying Charges	33.00
Sedgefield Borough Council	( Conservation Area Enhancements	20,000.00
	( Playground Maintenance	293.85
JWS Power Wash Cleaning	Cleaning bus shelters April	120.00
Npower	CCTV electricity charges	570.50
Northumbrian Water	Water Charges Allotments	32.65
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		22,076.50

RESOLVED: That the schedule be approved.

## 7 BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT 31ST MARCH 2007

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

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

## 8 ANNUAL BUDGET 2007/08

The budget for 2007/08, determined at the precept setting meeting on 29th January 2007, was submitted for Members information. (for copy see file of Minutes)

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

## 9 SEWER BARRATT WAY (2.4.07 Minute 10 refers)

Members were informed that Northumbrian Water had confirmed that it had received a request for a sewer requisition under Section 98 of the Water Industry Act 1991 from Gladedale Homes for foul and surface water sewers. In both cases the authority was investigating the most suitable connection points but these had not been determined. However, initial thoughts had been that connections to the far side of the disused mineral railway line were more favourable than into sewers in Barratt Way.

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

#### 10 STREET FURNITURE

- a) Consideration was given to the suggestion that a litter bin be provided at the bus stop in Station Road opposite the Community Centre.(2.4.07 public participation refers)

RESOLVED : That this matter be considered in conjunction with agenda item 20 request from West Cornforth Community Centre for litter bins.

- b) Consideration was given to a suggestion that a bench seat be provided near the Aged Miners Homes at Metal Bridge. (2.4.07 Minute 14 refers)

RESOLVED : That initially the residents of the Aged Miners Homes be consulted on the proposal.

#### 11 RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Members considered a Risk Management Strategy Report and a risk assessment. ( for copy see file of Minutes)

RESOLVED : That the risk management strategy be adopted and the risk assessment be approved.

#### 12 ANNUAL AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2007

Members were informed that notification had been received from the Council's external auditor, BDO Stoy Hayward LLP, that the Council's Audit date had been set as 10th August 2007. Notice of electors rights were to be displayed from 25th June to 8th July and records were to be available from 9th July to 3rd August 2007.

RESOLVED : That the information be received.

#### 13 REVIEW OF SYSTEMS OF INTERNAL CONTROL AND INTERNAL AUDIT

Consideration was given to the review of the Council's system of internal control and internal audit .

RESOLVED : That the Chairman and Vice Chairman and Councillor Mr. S. M. Pennick

conduct a review the Council's system of internal control and internal audit and report to a future meeting.

14 WEST CORNFORTH SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION - INVITATION TO ATTEND THE UNVEILING OF A PLAQUE IN MEMORY OF ALDERMAN KENNETH HOWARD

It was reported that Members had been invited to attend a ceremony to be held at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday 30th May 2007 at which a plaque would be unveiled in memory of Alderman Kenneth Howard.

RESOLVED : That the information be received.

15 APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, VICTIM SUPPORT, COUNTY DURHAM

Consideration was given to an application for financial assistance towards the cost of volunteer travel and telephone expenses. (Enabling legislation Local Government Act 1972 Section 137)

RESOLVED : That a contribution of £50 be made.

16 PARISH CLERKS MEETING THURSDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2007 12.15 P.M.

It was reported that Parish Clerks the Sedgefield Borough Area met on a number of occasions each year to discuss issues of common interest. The meetings were hosted on a rota basis and the Council had been asked to host the meeting on 19th September 2007.

RESOLVED : That the Council hosts the September Meeting.

17 CORNFORTH CONSERVATION AREA - NEXT PHASE

Members were informed that Mr. Bill Katakay, Conservation Officer, Sedgefield Borough Council, had suggested that he attended the next meeting of the Council to submit proposals for the next phase of enhancement work in the Conservation area. He had also suggested that a meeting with residents of the conservation area be held on Thursday June 14th to gauge public response to proposals.

RESOLVED: That Mr. Katakay attends the next meeting to submit proposals for the Conservation Area but that the meeting with residents be postponed.

18 COURSES

Consideration was given to invitations to attend the following courses:

- a) Sedgefield Borough Council, Standards Committee Training Event, Wednesday 27th June between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. Ferryhill Leisure Centre. Mr. Peter Lucas of Bevan, Brittan, Solicitors was to present the training event. He had spoken widely at a

national level on standards issues. Cost per place £120.

RESOLVED: That two places be reserved on the course for Councillors Mrs. S. Traynor and Mrs. P. M. Walker.

- b) Zurich Municipal Local Council Advisory Service, Annual Health and Safety Seminar, Shotton Hall, Peterlee 13th June 2007, 9.30 a.m. - 2.30 p.m. One place on the course was free, additional places £30. each.

RESOLVED: That one place be reserved on the course for the Clerk.

***Councillors Mrs. H. P. Drew, Mr. M. J. Pennick and Mrs. S. Traynor having declared a prejudicial interest in the following item in respect of West Cornforth Community Centre left the meeting for the duration of discussion and voting thereon.***

19 PROVISION OF LITTER BINS AT WEST CORNFORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE AND AT BUS STOP IN STATION ROAD OPPOSITE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Members considered a request from West Cornforth and District Community Association for the Council to provide three litter bins at the site. Two were required for football pitches and one for the picnic area.

Consideration was also given to the provision of a litter bin at the bus stop in Station Road opposite the Community Station.(14.5.07 Minute 10a Refers)

It was reported that a quotation, in the sum of £2,134.80, had been obtained from Broxap for the supply and installation of four 'Derby' litter bins similar to ones installed previously at various locations in the village.

- RESOLVED:
- 1 That permission be sought from Sedgefield Borough to site a litter bin on land in its ownership adjacent to the bus stop on Station Road opposite the Community Centre.
  - 2 That West Cornforth and District Community Association be requested to identify the proposed locations of three litter bins and to indemnify the Parish Council against any accidents or claims whatsoever and however the same may arise as a result of the installation of three litter bins at West Cornforth Community Centre.
  - 3 That the provision of four litter bins be agreed in principle and subject to the matters referred to in 1 and 2 above being resolved satisfactorily standing orders with respect to contracts be suspended and the quotation of Broxap in the sum of £2,134.80 be accepted.

***Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson having declared a prejudicial interest in the remaining items on the agenda left the meeting and took no part in discussion and voting***

*thereon.*

20 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

It was reported that the Council had been invited to complete a questionnaire received from Sedgefield Borough Council on unitary local government.

RESOLVED: That the invitation to complete the questionnaire be declined.

21 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) 27, The Oval, West Cornforth, construction of front enclosure to enclose porch and provision of attic room.
- b) Planning Application CMA/7/60 Extension of amenity landform on land north of Thrislington Works, West Cornforth for Lafarge Aggregates Ltd.

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