

CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at West Cornforth Community Centre at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 6th August 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. M. Simpson, Mrs. S. Traynor, Mrs. P. M. Walker, and Mr. W. R. Wilson.

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. R. Poole, Mrs. A. Woodhall and Mr. W. H. Woodhall.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mr. A. Hodgson and Mr. M. J. Pennick declared a personal interest in Item 10 Application for financial assistance, West Cornforth Primary School, Friends of the School Group - Summer Club

Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson declared a personal interest in Items 13(g) and (h) planning applications.

Councillors Mrs. H. P. Drew, Mr. M. J. Pennick and Mrs. S. Traynor declared a personal interest in Item 14(a) Ground Maintenance, West Cornforth Community Centre.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 2nd and 23rd July 2007 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 POLICE LIAISON

Police Constable Ken Barclay and Police Community Support Officer Lee Dixon attended the meeting. Details were reported of crimes committed in the previous two months and action taken by the police. Reference was made to incidents of anti-social behaviour and drinking on the streets. Constable Barclay suggested that the introduction of a byelaw banning the drinking of alcohol on the streets of West Cornforth be examined. Following discussion with members the police officers retired from the meeting.

RESOLVED: That enquiries be made regarding the suggestion that a byelaw be introduced to ban the drinking of alcohol on the streets of West Cornforth.

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no matters raised by the public.

5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that he had received the following:

- a) Durham County Council In Partnership With County Durham District Councils , Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2006/07
- b) Agenda for Lafarge liaison meeting on Thursday 6th September 2007.

He reported that he had received invitations to a Charity evening in September organised by Chilton Town Council and a Rail Art Exhibition on 23rd August 2007 at Locomotion Museum, Shildon.

6 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Consideration was given to the following Minutes:

Allotments Committee 9th July 2007
Recreation and Amenities Committee 30th July 2007
(for copies see file of Minutes)

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received and the recommendations adopted.

7 SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

<u>Receipts</u>		£
The Cornforth Partnership	Insurance 66, High Street	1,158.28
Mr. G. A. Wells	Allotment Rent	10.00
		<hr/>
		1,168.28
<u>Payments</u>		£
Northumbrian Water	Water Charges Allotments	205.55
Zurich Insurance Company	Premium Speed Matrix Sign	126.00
HM Revenue and Customs	Income Tax & NI April-June	699.75
B. Kennedy	Members Allowances	17.66
W. R. Wilson	Members Allowances	17.66
E. G. Hurrell	(Salary	605.68
	(Car Mileage	19.60
	(Stationery & Materials	33.50
	(Postage	21.48
Cornforth Partnership	Photocopying March - July	131.20
Sedgefield Citizens Advice Bureau	Donation	250.00
JWS Power Wash Cleaning	Cleaning Bus Shelters June	120.00
Ferryhill Town Council	Installing no smoking signs	50.00
Broxap	Provision of litter bins	1,484.80
Graves and Ramsey Ltd	Painting play equipment	2,896.00
Npower	Electricity Charges CCTV	586.54
		<hr/>
		7,265.42

RESOLVED: That the schedule be approved.

8 BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT - POSITION AT 30TH JUNE 2007

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

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

Having declared a personal interest in the following item Councillors Mr. A. Hodgson and Mr. M. J. Pennick took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

9 APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, WEST CORNFORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL, FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL GROUP - SUMMER CLUB - FUN ACTIVITIES

Members considered an application from the above group for financial assistance to provide twice weekly fun/activity sessions throughout the summer holidays from 1.00p.m. until 3.00 p.m. for children up to 11yrs. accompanied by an adult. The group also intended roll out the project throughout the school year. (Enabling legislation Local Government Act 1972 Section 137)

RESOLVED: That a contribution of £200 be made to the project

10 CORNFORTH CONSERVATION AREA BUILDINGS GRANT SCHEME - OFFICIAL LAUNCH

It was reported that the Borough Council had tentatively considered an official launch of the above scheme in August but that time constraints had prevented an event being held.

11 CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE (Local Government Act 1972 ss15(5) and 35(5))

Consideration was given to a proposal for the Council allocate a sum of £250 as a Chairman's Allowance to be utilised to defray the reasonable expenses of the office for example public relations and hospitality.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £250 per annum be allocated as a Chairman's Allowance.

12 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Sedgefield Borough Council Local Development Framework
 - i) Core Strategy Preferred Options
 - ii) Major Allocations Alternative Options
 - iii) Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document
 - iv) Incorporating a Renewable Energy Obligation into Developments - Guidelines for Developers.

RESOLVED: That no comments be made on the Local Development Framework.

- b) Sedgefield Borough Draft Green Space Strategy Framework Report

RESOLVED: That no comments be made on the report.

- c) Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for Sedgfield Borough Council - it was reported that a copy of the final report had been received.
- d) Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust - consideration was given to a consultation document on the organisations plans to become an NHS Trust.

RESOLVED: That no comments be made on the proposals.

- e) Footpath No 7 Cornforth Parish, Temporary Footpath Closure - closure of 150 metre length of footpath off Barratt Way West Cornforth in an easterly direction. It was reported that Durham County Council had confirmed that with effect from 19th August 2007 the closure would continue for a further six months .
- f) Erection of 47, dwellings, land east of Barratt Way, West Cornforth, Gladedale Homes Ltd. - Members were informed that notification had been received from Sedgfield Borough Council that the official addresses given to the new development were as follows:

1 - 15 The Lane) Both excluding No.13
 1 - 34 Howard Close)

Having declared a personal interest in items (g) and (h) below Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson took no part in discussion and voting thereon.

- g) Change of use from chapel to residential, St Marks Chapel, High Street, West Cornforth. Mr. I. Gibson 3, Oswald Close, West Cornforth.

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

- h) Erection of conservatory to the rear of 8, Stobb Cross Road, West Cornforth. Mrs. Wenmouth.

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

13 GROUND MAINTENANCE

Having declared a personal interest in the following item Councillors Mrs. H. P. Drew, Mr. M. J. Pennick and Mrs. S. Traynor took no part in discussion and voting thereon.

- a) West Cornforth Community Centre 2007/08

Members were advised that grass cutting of the playing areas at the Community Centre recommenced in the current year under the terms of the existing ground maintenance contract. Whilst the pitches were being developed maintenance had been organised by The Cornforth Partnership and costs were met from grant sources. Consideration was given to a quotation from Sedgfield Borough Council, in the sum of £958.76, to be added to the contract for the application of fertiliser on four occasions per annum.

RESOLVED: That the application of fertiliser to the playing pitches at West Cornforth Community Centre on four occasions per annum be added to the ground maintenance contract at a cost of £958.76.

b) Ground Maintenance Contract 2008/09

Members were reminded that 2007/08 was the final year of the existing four year ground maintenance contract with Sedgfield Borough Council. The Borough Council had confirmed that it would be pleased to continue to provide the contract for a further year under the terms of the existing contract. The existing contract made provision for rates to be increased or decreased each year in accordance with the General Index of Retail Prices (all items). Current rates in the contract were the same as those charged to Sedgfield Borough Council's in house service delivery. In view of the reorganisation of local government and the introduction of unity local government in Durham in April 2009 the Borough Council was not in a position to make commitments to new contracts extending beyond 2008/09.

RESOLVED: That standing orders with respect to contracts be suspended and the grounds maintenance contract with Sedgfield Borough Council be extended for a further year to 2008/09 and arrangements for ground maintenance for future years be reviewed in 2008.

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

It was reported that the Clerk's contract of employment had been approved at the meeting held on 7th August 2006. The National Association of Local Councils had issued a list of revisions to the Clerk's Model Contract of Employment to reflect changes in legislation and improve clarity etc.

RESOLVED: That a new contract of employment be issued to the Clerk incorporating the revisions in the Model Contract of Employment.

15 STOBB CROSS COMMUNITY PARK - DAMAGE TO STONE WALL

Members were informed that the Clerk had arranged for repairs to be carried out to the perimeter stone wall at Stobb Cross Community Park.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Clerk be confirmed.

16 GROUND MAINTENANCE - GRASS VERGE STATION ROAD, OPPOSITE CORONATION TERRACE.

Members referred to the need for the above strip of verge to be cut and raked to allow the existing wild flowers to flourish.

RESOLVED: That a price be obtained from the Council's existing ground maintenance contractor for this work.