

CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at West Cornforth Community Centre at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 3rd September 2007

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

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

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. K. Clasper, Mrs. P. Pennick and Mr. W. H. Woodhall.

MINUTES SILENCE

A minutes silence was held as a mark of respect for Councillor Mrs. Audrey Woodhall who had recently died.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mr. A. Hodgson, Mr. S. M. Pennick, Mrs. S. Traynor, Mrs. P. M. Walker and Mr. W. R. Wilson declared a prejudicial interest in item 9 - application for financial assistance, The Cornforth Partnership, The Cornforth Partner.

Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson declared a prejudicial interest in item 13 Planning applications.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th August 2007 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 POLICE LIAISON

a) Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, Alcohol Consumption in Public Places (6.8.07 Minute 3 Refers) - It was reported that with regard to the suggestion that a byelaw be introduced to ban the drinking of alcohol on the streets of West Cornforth, advice had been obtained from the Solicitor to Sedgefield Borough Council. The Borough Council would be the appropriate authority to introduce a bye law. Proposals for introducing bylaws to restrict drinking in public places may only go forward with the co-operation of the police. When approached the police had regularly resisted the suggestion that such bylaws be implemented within Sedgefield Borough. The police had informed the Borough Council that should the police feel that a local drinking ban was appropriate they would draw it to the Borough Council's attention. The Borough Solicitor had pointed out that with the Borough Council about to embark on a period of transition following the announcement regarding the Local Government Review for the County Durham area it was unlikely that many new projects would go forward for consideration during this period unless exceptional justification could be given.

b) Beat Report - Members were informed that no report had been received.

RESOLVED: That Inspector A. Green be informed that no beat report had been received.

c) Members referred to a Crime Reduction Report, High Street, West Cornforth, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, produced by Durham Constabulary and

queried progress since production of the report.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs. P. M. Walker be authorised to make enquiries into this matter.

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced the following:

- a) A 'have your say' event was to be held at Cornforth House on Wednesday 5th September from 2.00p.m. to 6.00p.m. for residents to raise issues concerning the village.
- b) He had attended a Meeting of Sedgfield District Local Councils' Committee held on Thursday 30th August 2007. However the meeting had been declared inquorate as less than four Parish/Town Councils had been represented.
- c) He had received the agenda for a Lafarge liaison meeting to be held on 6th September 2007.
- d) He had received an invitation to 'a Century of Wedding Gowns' charity event organised by Sedgfield Borough Council to be held on 10th October 2007

6 SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

<u>Receipts</u>		£
HM Revenue & Customs	VAT Repayment	1,093.91
Northern Electric plc	Wayleaves	24.86
		<hr/>
		1,118.77
<u>Payments</u>		£
B. Kennedy	Members Allowances	17.66
W. R. Wilson	Members Allowances	17.66
E. G. Hurrell	(Salary	605.68
	(Postage	11.62
West Cornforth Primary School	Friends of the School Fun Activities	200.00
H. Wren Maintenance Services	Repairs to Wall Stobb Cross	61.41
JWS Power Wash Cleaning	Cleaning Bus Shelters July	120.00
Broxap Ltd	Installation of litter bins	650.00
Sedgfield Borough Council	Advert re Code of Conduct	86.81
Freeman Hospital Critical Care Unit	Donation from Chairman	30.00
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		1,800.84

RESOLVED: That the schedule be approved.

7 GRASS VERGE STATION ROAD, OPPOSITE CORONATION TERRACE (6.8.07 Minute 16 Refers)

Consideration was given to a quotation in the sum of £558.05 from Sedgfield Borough Council for cutting the grass at the above verge, and raking, removing and disposing of arisings.

- RESOLVED:
- 1 That the quotation be accepted.
 - 2 That this work be added to the annual ground maintenance contract to be undertaken once per annum.

Having declared a prejudicial interest in the following item Councillors Mr. A. Hodgson, Mr. S. M. Pennick, Mrs. S. Traynor, Mrs. P. M. Walker and Mr. W. R. Wilson took no part in voting thereon.

8 APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - THE CORNFORTH PARTNERSHIP - THE CORNFORTH PARTNER (8.5.07 Minute 7(c) Refers)

Members were informed that in May 2006 the Council agreed to make an initial contribution of £600 towards the production costs of the Partner estimated at £300 per quarter and requested The Cornforth Partnership to contact the Council should further assistance be required.

Consideration was then given to a request for further assistance with the cost of producing the publication. The estimated cost of printing and delivering one issue of the Partner was approximately £350 and The Partnership was looking at ways of attracting subscriptions and advertising. (enabling legislation Local Government Act 1972, Section 137)

RESOLVED: That a contribution of £700 be made towards the cost of producing The Partner.

9 ANNUAL VILLAGE SHOW, WEST CORNFORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE SATURDAY 8TH & SUNDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2007.

Members were reminded that the Village Show would be held on the above dates. Winning entries would be on display from 4.30 p.m. - 10.30 p.m. Saturday and 2.00p.m. - 4.00 p.m. Sunday.

10 WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Consideration was given to a Member's suggestion that the Council, to acknowledge the importance of marriage, present a bouquet of flowers to the residents of the village who were celebrating their Ruby Anniversary onwards. The cost would be met from the Chairman's Allowance.

RESOLVED: That a bouquet of flowers be presented by the Council to parishioners in respect of Diamond Wedding anniversaries and to those celebrating reaching one hundred years of age.

11 PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP, 15 YEARS CELEBRATION, SATURDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2007, 10.00 AM - 2.30 PM ,THE DURHAM ROOM, COUNTY HALL, DURHAM

It was reported that the Council had been invited to send two representatives to the above event hosted by Durham County Council.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs. P. M. Walker represents the Council at the event.

Having declared a prejudicial interest in the following item Planning Matters, Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson took no part in discussion or voting thereon.

12 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Two storey extension to form additional bedrooms and enlarged kitchen; detached garage and porch to front 64, Garmondsway Road, West Cornforth. S. Bowerbank
- b) 1 - 8 Joseph Hopper Terrace, West Cornforth - installation of new boundary treatment to existing wall. Durham Aged Miners Association.
- c) Change of use from shop to residential, 34, High Street, West Cornforth. Euro Properties, Sunderland.

RESOLVED: That no objections be raised in respect of planning applications a, b, and c above.

- d) Durham County Council, The Rights of Way Improvement Plan for County Durham 2007-2011, Consultation draft - consideration was given to the consultation document.

RESOLVED: That no comments be made on the document

13 PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATION FOR T MOBILE UK LTD AT BEST ONE CONVENIENCE STORE, HIGH STREET, WEST CORNFORTH.

Members referred to the proposal to site three pole mounted antenna approximately 3.9 metres high on the rooftop of the lift of the above store and the petition raised by residents of West Cornforth objecting to the proposal.

14 ALLOTMENTS , ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS (6.8.07 Minute 6 Refers)

It was reported that a quotation, in the sum of £250, had been received from Building Design (Northern) Ltd, Consulting Civil and Structural Engineers, for inspecting existing bridge structures and commenting on their stability.

RESOLVED: That the quotation be accepted.

15 ACCESS ROAD TO VILLAGE GREEN

Members referred to a few potholes appearing in the above road.

RESOLVED: That arrangements be made for the potholes to be filled in.

16 ROAD FROM COXHOE TO WEST CORNFORTH - POTHOLE

Members referred to a pothole on the above road in the vicinity of the Railway Bridge near Bridge Road.

RESOLVED: That Durham County Council be informed of the presence of the pothole.