

## 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 December 2007.

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

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

Apologies: Councillors: Mrs. H. P. Drew, Mrs. P. Pennick and Mr. R. Poole.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting the newly appointed Member, Miss J. Snowball.

### 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 14b, Sedgefield Borough Council, The Sedgefield Awards for Sensational Youth.

### 2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2007 were confirmed as a correct record.

### 3 POLICE LIAISON

Inspector Bill Bentham presented the beat report for November 2007 and commented on his appointment as Inspector for the area. He then gave an account of two new police initiatives to be introduced, operation dark and bottle watch. Finally he discussed with members issues of concern before retiring from the meeting.

### 4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

### 5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that he had received: a card thanking the Council for its decision to make a donation to the Royal and Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes; a Christmas Card from Chilton Town Council ; invitations to Carol Services organised by Sedgefield Borough Council, Ferryhill Town Council and Chilton Town Council and an invitation to Ferryhill Town Council Mayor's Charity Dinner.

During November he had attended the first combined service of the Ferryhill and Cornforth Parish and, together with Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson and the Clerk, had attended The Cornforth Partnership's Business Planning Day at Ferryhill Leisure Centre.

### 6 MINUTES, ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE 19TH NOVEMBER 2007

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Meeting held on 19th November. ( for copy see file of Minutes)

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

### 7 THRISLINGTON ALLOTMENTS

The Chairman reported that the County Council had been in contact with allotment holders to resolve outstanding issues.

8 VACANCIES - RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE AND SEDGFIELD BOROUGH PARISH RELATIONS WORKING PARTY

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson be appointed to the Recreation and Amenities Committee and Councillor Miss. J. Snowball be appointed to the Sedgfield Borough Parish Relations Working Party.

9 SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

<u>Receipts</u>		£
Nil		0.00
<u>Payments</u>		£
B. Kennedy	Members Allowances	17.66
W. R. Wilson	Members Allowances	17.66
E. G. Hurrell	( Salary	605.68
	( Postage	11.82
Sedgfield Borough Council	[ Ground Maintenance Station Road	558.05
	[ Ground Maintenance Allotments	259.10
Premier Traffic Management Ltd	Traffic Management Services	180.00
The R.A.O.B.	Donation	25.00
Cornforth Community Centre	) Donation	200.00
School of Dance	)	
BDO Stoy Hayward LLP	External Audit Fee 2006/07 Accounts	400.00
Building Design (Northern) Ltd	Report Allotments Access	250.00
		<hr/>
		2,524.97

RESOLVED: That the schedule be approved.

10 ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2007, AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2007 - EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE AND OPINION

Members considered a copy of the external auditor's certificate and opinion. (for copy see file of Minutes)

RESOLVED: That the external auditor's certificate and opinion be received and the annual return for the year ended 31st March 2007 be approved and accepted.

11 ROADSIDE FOOTPATH, BRIDGE ROAD TO MONEY'S BUILDINGS, WEST CORNFORTH (5.11.07 Minute 11 Refers)

Members were informed that the County Council had carried out remedial works to the above footpath on 12th and 13th November 2007. The footpath had been cleared of vegetation and tree branches and shrubs on both sides of the road had been cut back. The area was to be monitored and would be put in for a scheme in 2008/09.

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

12 PARISH PATHS (5.11.07 Minute 10 Refers)

It was reported that Elaine Field, Parish Paths Officer, Durham County Council and Tammy Morris-Hale, Countryside Officer, Sedgfield Borough Council had agreed to attend a meeting of the Council's Recreation and Amenities Committee at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 13th

December 2007, at West Cornforth Community Centre, to discuss developing interest in the community in existing public footpaths.

13 PROPOSED PROVISION OF STREET LIGHTING IN CORNFORTH COMMUNITY PARK  
(5.11.07 Minute 19 Refers)

Members were advised that lighting engineers at Durham County Council had confirmed that after investigating their records no trace could be found of a light or cable within the park area and therefore any cable that may have been there had been abandoned. There were no easily available electric supplies and lighting the area would be expensive.

RESOLVED: That the Council does not install lighting in the Community Park and Number 66 Anti bullying group be informed.

14 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Consideration was given to the following applications:

- a) The learning library - equipment and toys for people with special needs. ( Enabling legislation Local Government Act 1972, Section 137)

*Councillor Mr. A. Hodgson having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following application for financial assistance left the meeting for the duration of discussion and voting thereon.*

- b) Sedgfield Borough Council, The Sedgfield Awards for Sensational Youth - The SASY's 2007 - the Borough Council had suggested that the Council became a partner in the awards and made a financial contribution. ( Enabling legislation Local Government Act 1972, Section 137)

RESOLVED: That a donation of £50 be made to The Learning Library and a donation of £50 be made to Sedgfield Borough Council.

*The Clerk left the meeting for the duration of discussion and voting on the following item.*

15 NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES, NJC CIRCULAR 4/07  
2007/08 PAY SCALES & ALLOWANCES

It was reported that The National Joint Council for Local Government Services had reached agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1st April 2007. The award represented an increase of 2.475%.

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Council policy the revised pay scale rates be applied in respect of Council employees and members parish allowance be increased by 2.475%.

16 ROAD C24 -THINFORD ROAD, JUNCTION WITH ROAD A177 AT TURSDALE -  
APPLICATION TO PLACE STRUCTURE IN HIGHWAY VERGE. SEAT NEAR AGED  
MINERS HOMES (11.6.07 Minute14 refers)

Details were reported of the application process of Durham County Council in respect of structures within the highway boundary.

RESOLVED: That a formal application be submitted to Durham County Council to site a bench seat at the above location.

17 VILLAGE GREEN - MOLES

Members were informed of further enquiries to obtain a quotation for the eradication of moles from the village green.

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken on this matter.

18 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL , BUDGET PROPOSALS 2008/09

It was reported that the Council had been asked to comment on the above proposals.

RESOLVED: That no comments be made.

19 PUBLICATIONS

Members were informed that the Council had received copies of the following:

- a) North East Assembly, Working for the Region - outlined work undertaken in 2006/07
- b) Sedgefield Borough, SRB6 Local Area Partnership, Evaluation Report 2007-08 Summary
- c) Sedgefield Borough Council's Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012.

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

20 PLANNING MATTERS - BISHOP MIDDLEHAM QUARRY, PLANNING LIAISON COMMITTEE

It was reported that in October 2007 Durham County Council granted planning permission to extend the date for completion of mineral extraction and to revise methods of operation and phasing at Bishop Middleham Quarry. In approving the application the County Council's Planning Committee suggested that a Planning Liaison Committee be established as a suitable forum for the operator, W & M Thompson Quarries Limited, community representatives and the planning authority to discuss site progress and any issues or concerns.

Consideration was given to an invitation for the Council to nominate two representatives to sit on the liaison committee. It was anticipated that the Planning Liaison Committee would meet twice annually on a weekday evening at a local venue to be arranged (probably Bishop Middleham Parish Hall).

RESOLVED: That Councillors Mr. W. H. Woodhall and Mrs. P. M. Walker be nominated as the Council's representatives.

21 RAILWAY TERRACE , WEST CORNFORTH

Members suggested that the signage directing traffic from the village green to railway terrace was misleading.

RESOLVED: That this matter be referred to Sedgefield Borough Council for investigation.

22 HEDGE ABUTTING HIGHWAY, SOUTH OF STOBBS CROSS VILLAS

Reference was made to the condition of the above hedge.

RESOLVED: That this matter be referred to the Highway Authority.