

## CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at West Cornforth Community Centre at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 14th January 2008.

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

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

Apologies: Councillors: Mr. K. Clasper, Mrs. H. P. Drew, Mr. M. J. Pennick, and Mrs. P. Pennick.

### 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mr. S. M. Pennick declared a personal interest in Item 13 , Durham County Council, Thrislington Allotment Site and Councillor Mrs. S. Traynor declared a personal interest in item 15 b, West Cornforth and District Community Association, Pantomime.

### 2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2007 were confirmed as a correct record.

### 3 POLICE LIAISON

#### Beat Report

Consideration was given to a beat report for December. It was noted that Durham Constabulary had introduced a confidential hotline for members of the public who wished to report in confidence, crimes or incidents of anti-social behaviour, telephone number 01325 742759.

#### Policing Priorities 2008/09

Members were informed that the County Durham Association of Local Councils had been requested by the Police Authority to identify the three most important priorities from a list of seven, for inclusion in the 2008/09 Policing Plan, and had requested the views of Parish Councils before responding. The proposed priorities were:

Improve the efficiency of the force by making better use of available resources.

Make our communities safer through effective Neighbourhood Policing and tackling anti social behaviour, working in partnership with other agencies.

Protect our communities from the threat of terrorism.

Protect vulnerable people from serious harm e.g. abuse, assault, injury.

Provide an effective citizen focused approach to our service delivery which is responsive to the needs of the individual, ensuring that we engage with the diverse communities within County Durham and Darlington.

Reduce the harm caused to our communities by organised crime groups.

Reduce the harm to our communities caused by the effect of alcohol and drug abuse.

RESOLVED: That the following three priorities be submitted to County Durham Association of Local Councils:

1st Reduce the harm to our communities caused by the effect of alcohol

and drug abuse.

- 2nd Make our communities safer through effective Neighbourhood Policing and tackling anti social behaviour, working in partnership with other agencies.
- 3rd Reduce harm caused to our communities caused by organised crime groups.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to facilitate public participation.

#### 4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The issue of anti-social behaviour to the rear of the High Street was raised.

Following public participation the Chairman resumed the meeting.

#### 5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that he and the Vice Chairman together with their wives had attended Ferryhill Town Council's Mayors Charity Dinner on Friday 12th January 2008.

#### 6 MINUTES, RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE 13TH DECEMBER 2007

Consideration was given to the above Minutes. (for copy see file of Minutes)

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

#### 7 SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

<u>Receipts</u>		£
Nil		0.00
<u>Payments</u>		£
B. Kennedy	Members Allowances	21.64
W. R. Wilson	Members Allowances	21.64
HM Revenue & Customs	Income Tax/NI contributions Oct-Dec	772.24
E. G. Hurrell	( Salary including arrears from April	711.73
	( Stationery and Materials	21.28
	( Tel Calls	19.33
	( Postage	14.34
The Learning Library	Donation	50.00
Sedgefield Borough Council	Donation SASY awards	50.00
Northumbrian Water	Water Charges Allotments	132.07
JWS Power Wash Cleaning	Cleaning Bus Shelters Nov & Dec	120.00
West Cornforth Comm. Association	Hall Hire Jan - Dec 2007	239.00
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		2,173.27

RESOLVED: That the schedule be approved.

#### 8 BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT 31ST DECEMBER 2007

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

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

#### 9 INTERNAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2007/08

It was reported that J. A. Armatage Accounting had confirmed that the firm would be able to undertake the internal audit of the Council's 2007/08 Accounts at a cost in the region of £120.

RESOLVED: That the Council appoints J. A. Armatage Accounting as its internal auditor for the 2007/08 Accounts.

10 RAILWAY ALLOTMENTS REMEDIAL WORKS TO BRIDGE STRUCTURES  
(3.12.07 Minute 9 Refers)

Members were informed that in accordance with the recommendations of Building Design Northern, quotations had been invited for remedial works to the two bridge structures at the above site from WJM Quigley Ltd, Sedgefield Borough Council and H. Wren Maintenance Services.

Quotations ranked in descending order of cost had been received in the sums of £4,511, £1,406.51 and £1,401.01.

RESOLVED: That the lowest quotation in the sum of £1,401.01 from Sedgefield Borough Council be accepted.

11 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL, THRISLINGTON ALLOTMENT SITE (9.2.04 Minute 2 Refers)

It was reported that Durham County Council had written to inform the Council that it was considering the disposal of garage and allotment sites in its ownership. As an initial step in the disposal process it had enquired whether the Parish Council would be interested in purchasing the Thrislington Allotment and Garage site.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be informed that at the present time the Council does not wish to acquire the site.

12 RAILWAY TERRACE, WEST CORNFORTH, STREET SIGNS (3.12.07 Minute 21 Refers)

Members were informed that Sedgefield Borough Council had confirmed that it had arranged for the street signs on the village green to be amended to read 'leading to Railway Terrace'.

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

13 APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- a) Victim Support County Durham.

RESOLVED: That no contribution be made to victim support.

- b) West Cornforth and District Community Association (5.11.07 Minute 15c Refers) - Members were reminded that in November 2007 the Council had agreed to underwrite any loss that may be sustained in staging the pantomime Cinderella at the Community Centre. The pantomime staged on 4th January attracted an audience of 93 people generating an income of £339. The cost of the production was £616.87 resulting in a contribution of £277.87 being required from the Council.

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

14 THE PARISH COUNCILLOR'S GUIDE

It was reported that a Member had suggested that the Council obtained a copy of the above publication for each Member of the Council at a cost of £13.78 each from [www. Amazon.co.uk](http://www.Amazon.co.uk).

RESOLVED: That a copy be obtained for any Member requesting a copy.

15 RISK MANAGEMENT AWARENESS TRAINING

Members were informed that County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership had invited the Council to participate in a risk management awareness training event to be held at County Hall, Durham from 10.00 a.m. till noon on Thursday 7th February 2007. The event would focus on raising awareness of the understanding of the basic principles of risk management in the context of Parish Councils. David Marshall (Corporate Risk Manager, Durham County Council) was to be the trainer. The event was free and restricted to one attendee per Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs. P. M. Walker attends the event.

#### 16 TEMPORARY HIGHWAY CLOSURE, MAUGHAN CLOSE, WEST CORNFORTH

It was reported that notification had been received from Durham County Council that an Order had been made under the provisions of Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 the effect of which had been to close to vehicular and pedestrian traffic from Monday 7th January 2008, a 360 square metre area of highway adjacent to the garages and hard standing area east of No.1 Maughan Close, West Cornforth. The closure was necessary to enable new drainage works, expected to take some 8 weeks to complete, to be carried out to that area of road. Throughout the period of closure no alternative route would be available to vehicular traffic.

#### 17 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority, 'Safer Places Safer People' Integrated Risk Management Planning: draft Year 5 Improvement Plan 2008/09.

RESOLVED: That no comments be made on the document.

- b) Durham County Council, proposed diversion of Public Footpath No. 6 Ferryhill Parish - to provide a footbridge for safer crossing of the East Coast Main Railway Line.

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

#### 18 WEST CORNFORTH CCTV REPORT APRIL 07 TO NOVEMBER 07

Consideration was given to the above Report. (for copy see file of Minutes)

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

#### 19 COUNCILLOR MR. BRIAN KENNEDY, RESIGNATION

It was reported that Councillor Mr. B. Kennedy had submitted his resignation from the Council with effect from 14th January 2008.

- RESOLVED:
- 1 That a letter of appreciation be sent to Councillor Kennedy for the many years of dedicated service and support given to the Council.
  - 2 That notice of the casual vacancy be given in accordance with Rule 5 of the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006.

#### 20 PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 7, NR. BARRATT WAY, WEST CORNFORTH

Members referred to the proposed revised route of the above footpath through housing site currently under construction and whether it would meet the needs of disabled persons.

RESOLVED: That enquiries be made of Sedgfield Borough regarding this matter.