

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 March 2008.

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

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

Apologies: Councillors: Mrs. P. Pennick, Mr. S. M. Pennick, and Miss. J. Snowball.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members declared interests as follows: Dr. S. C. Drew, prejudicial interest in item no. 12a Cornforth Annual Village Show; Mr. M. J. Pennick and Mr. A. Hodgson, prejudicial interest in item no. 12b West Cornforth Primary School Pupil of the Year Award.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th February 2008 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 HOLY TRINITY CHURCHYARD, GROUND MAINTENANCE

The Reverend Keith Lumsdon addressed the meeting and gave an account of issues in respect of monuments in the churchyard that affected ground maintenance works. Discussion then took place with Members on the issues involved.

RESOLVED: That Councillors Mr. K. Clasper, Dr. S. C. Drew, Mr. A. Hodgson, Mr. R. Poole, and Mrs. P. M. Walker meet with the Reverend Keith Lumsdon at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 2nd April 2008 at Holy Trinity Church to draft a letter to parishioners regarding this matter and to make arrangements for a public meeting to be held at Holy Trinity Church.

4 POLICE LIAISON

Consideration was given to the beat report for February 2008.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to facilitate public participation.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No issues were raised.

The Chairman resumed the meeting.

6 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that the Council had received invitations to attend a number of social events organised by neighbouring Councils.

7 SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

<u>Receipts</u>		£
Durham County Council	Paths Partnership Grant	1,514.11
H. Wren	Allotment Rent	<u>15.00</u>

1,529.11

<u>Payments</u>		£
W. R. Wilson	Members Allowances	18.10
E. G. Hurrell	(Salary	617.43
	(Postage	31.34
	(Stationery & Materials	3.00
JWS Power Wash Cleaning	Cleaning Bus Shelters January	60.00
Durham County Council	Christmas Lighting, Erection & Removal	1,611.50
Sedgefield Borough Council	Ground Maintenance	2,875.55
West Cornforth Comm. Association	Affiliation Fee	15.00
JWS Power Wash Cleaning	Cleaning Bus Shelters February	60.00
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		5,291.92

RESOLVED: That the schedule be approved.

8 WAR MEMORIAL FORMER METHODISTS CHAPEL - STATION ROAD , WEST CORNFORTH (4.2.08 Minute 8 Refers)

Consideration was given to a letter from West Cornforth and District Community Association confirming that the Association was happy to house the memorial in West Cornforth Community Centre as long as a suitable place could be identified. A suggested site was in the main hall near the British Legion banner but the Association needed to know that the wall would be able to stand the weight of the memorial.

RESOLVED: That arrangements be made for a monumental mason to attend the site to comment on the viability of the proposal and that Councillors Mr. K. Clasper, Mr. A. Hodgson, Mrs. P. M. Walker and Mr. W. R. Wilson be invited to attend.

9 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2007/08

It was reported that notification had been received from the Audit Commission that it proposed to appoint BDO Stoy Hayward LLP as external auditor to Cornforth Parish Council for a five year period, commencing with the 2007/08 accounts.

10 CORNFORTH CONSERVATION AREA, SITE MEETING 4TH FEBRUARY 2008

It was reported that Councillors Mr. M. J. Pennick, Mrs. S. Traynor, Mrs. P. M. Walker, Mr. W. R. Wilson and Mr. W. H. Woodhall attended a site meeting at Cornforth Conservation Area with Mr. Bill Katakay of Sedgefield Borough Council. The proposal to accommodate additional parking had been examined and the recently completed parking area was inspected.

The condition of the existing metal seat had been noted and it had been suggested that it be removed and disposed of as part of the conservation area improvement scheme. It had previously been intended to re-locate the seat as highway furniture near to the Aged Miners Homes at Metal Bridge. (11th June 2007 Minute 14 Refers)

RESOLVED:

- 1 That the information be received and the metal seat in the conservation area be removed and disposed of as part of the conservation area improvement scheme.
- 2 That arrangements be made for a new Ollerton, Festival metal bench seat to be provided near to the Aged Miners Homes at Metal Bridge.

11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTIONS 87 AND 232 - NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY (14.1.08 Minute 19 Refers)

Members were advised that Sedgefield Borough Council had confirmed that, following notice of the vacancy being issued in accordance with the above regulations, it had not received a request for an election to be held and therefore it would be in order for the Council to co-opt a person to fill the vacancy. Consideration was then given to nominations.

RESOLVED: That Mrs. Rosemary Clewes be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Council.

12 APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - CORNFORTH ANNUAL VILLAGE SHOW

Councillor Dr. S. C. Drew having declared a prejudicial interest in the following item left the meeting for the duration of discussion and voting thereon. During his absence the Chair was taken by the Vice Chairman Councillor Mr. W. R. Wilson.

a) Cornforth Annual Village Show, Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th September 2008.

Members were informed that the Secretary of the Village Show Committee had requested a contribution towards the costs of the Annual Village Show to be held at West Cornforth Community Centre on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th September 2008. (Enabling legislation Local Government Act 1972, Section 145, provision of entertainment and support of the arts including festivals and celebrations)

RESOLVED: That a contribution of £1,000 be made to the event.

Councillors Mr. A. Hodgson and Mr. M. J. Pennick having declared a prejudicial interest in the following item left the meeting for the duration of discussion and voting thereon.

b) West Cornforth Primary School - Pupil of the Year

Members were reminded that the Parish Council had introduced the award scheme and annually made an award to the pupil of the year in each of the seven year groups. Each year the names of the pupils of the year were engraved on a plaque that was displayed in the school. (Enabling legislation Local Government Act 1972 Section 137)

RESOLVED: That a donation of £175 be made to West Cornforth Primary School.

13 RAILWAY ALLOTMENTS

Members were advised that arrangements had been made for allotment rents to be collected at West Cornforth Community Centre between 6.30 and 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 6th March 2008.

14 BIG LOTTERY PLAY PROGRAMME - DEVELOPMENT OF PLAY FACILITIES AT CORNFORTH COMMUNITY PARK

It was reported that Sedgefield Borough Council had informed the Council that it would be necessary for a contract to be drawn up between the two Councils covering permission to use the land, ongoing maintenance and Big Lottery terms and conditions for capital projects.

RESOLVED: That arrangements be made for a contract to be drawn up.

15 PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP (P3) GRANT APPLICATION 2008

Consideration was given to the content of the Council's grant application for 2008.

RESOLVED: That the application be submitted on the basis of footpath works included in the Council's ground maintenance contract for 2008/09.

16 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Durham County Council (Footpath No.7 Cornforth Parish) Temporary Footpath Closure - the County Council had confirmed that the closure of 150 metre length of the above footpath in an easterly direction from its junction with footpath no.8 off Barratt Way, West Cornforth had been continued from 19th February 2008 for an anticipated period of six months.

With regard to the query raised at the January meeting (14.1.08 Minute 20 refers) in respect of footpath No.7, notification had been received from Durham County Council that it had received written confirmation from the site engineer that there would be no steps on the public right of way adjacent to plot 33 (The Cornfields) at the eastern boundary of the site linking to The Green.

- b) Reinstate and restore front boundary wall, 53, The Green, West Cornforth

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

- c) Erection of 1 No. dwelling with integral garage, site adjacent to 44, The Green, West Cornforth.

RESOLVED: That the planning authority be informed that the Council has concerns over the suitability of access to the site for construction vehicles and building materials delivery vehicles and possible damage to the existing access road by such vehicles.

- d) North East Regional Spatial Strategy, further proposed changes - the Council had been invited to make comments on the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government's second draft revision of the North East Regional Spatial Strategy. The first revision had been considered by the Council in July 2007 (2.7.07 Minute 13a refers) and the Council requested the reinstatement of employment allocations at Net Park, Sedgefield and Heighington Lane West, Newton Aycliffe and reinstatement of Tursdale Rail Freight Terminal.

In the second draft revision North East Technology Park, Sedgefield (aprox 25hectares) and Heighington Lane West, Newton Aycliffe (aprox 70 hectares) had been included as key employment locations. The following comment had been included in respect of Tursdale ' In terms of sustainable freight distribution there remains a case to be made for the potential provision, in the long term, of a rail freight interchange at Tursdale, Durham. Amongst the issues to be considered would be its justification in terms of potential demand, how it would fit with existing facilities including Teesport, its relationship with other regional priorities for the rail network, and its impact on the City of Durham and its surroundings.'

RESOLVED: That no comments be made on the second revised draft.

17 RISK MANAGEMENT TRAINING EVENT, 7TH FEBRUARY 2008, COUNTY HALL, DURHAM

An account was given of issues covered at the above event. One issue raised was cover for staff absences.

RESOLVED: That this matter be examined further.