

CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Cornforth Parish Council held at West Cornforth Community Centre, immediately following the Annual Meeting, on Monday 12th May 2008.

Present: Councillor Mr. W. R. Wilson Chairman and

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

Apologies: Councillors: Mrs. H. P. Drew, Dr. S. C. Drew, Mr. M. J. Pennick, Mrs. P. Pennick, and Mr. M. Simpson.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs. R. Clewes declared a prejudicial interest in item 19(a) Planning Matters erection of conservatory.

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 14(b) Application for Financial Assistance, The Cornforth Partnership.

Councillor Mrs. S. Traynor declared a prejudicial interest in item 14(a) Application for Financial Assistance, West Cornforth and District Community Association.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th April 2008 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 POLICE LIAISON

Consideration was given to the beat report for April 2008.

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Mr. W. R. Wilson reported that on 16th April the Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, had presented Mr. and Mrs Ord of Stobb Cross Road with a bouquet of flowers on the occasion of their platinum wedding anniversary.

6 BUS SHELTER, HIGH STREET, WEST CORNFORTH, REPLACEMENT OF BROKEN ACRYLIC PANEL

It was reported that a panel in the above bus shelter had been vandalised in April. The Clerk, following consultation with the Chairman, accepted an estimate of J.W.S. Power Wash Cleaning in the sum of £107 for the replacement of the panel and removal of the damaged panel.

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

7 SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

<u>Receipts</u>		£
Nil		
<u>Payments</u>		£
W. R. Wilson	Members Allowance	18.10
Great North Air Ambulance	Donation	50.00
The Cornforth Partnership	Photocopying 27.9.07 - 31.3.08	68.10
Durham Miners Gala Fund	Message in Gala Brochure	35.00
E. G. Hurrell	(Salary	651.60
	(Stationary & Materials	51.12
Sedgefield Borough Council	Playground Maintenance (6months)	1,046.47
S. C. Drew	Reimbursement re Bouquet of Flowers	30.00
Npower	Electricity charges CCTV	696.49
JWS Power Wash Cleaning	(Cleaning Bus Shelters	120.00
	(Bus Shelter Repair	107.00
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		2,873.88

RESOLVED: That the schedule be approved.

8 BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT - POSITION AT 31ST MARCH 2008

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

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

9 COMPARISON OF EXPENDITURE WITH BUDGET 2007/2008
POSITION AT 31ST MARCH 2008

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

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

10 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2007/08

Members were informed that notification had been received from the external auditor BDO Stoy Hayward LLP that the annual audit date for the year ended 31st March 2008 had been set as 1st August 2008. Notice of electors rights were to be displayed from 16th to 29th June 2008 and records were to be made available from 30th June 2008 to 25th July 2008.

Following consultation with the Chairman the Clerk had arranged for J. A. Armatage Accounting Services to conduct a review of the Council's internal control systems, as required by the audit regulations for a fee of £50.

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

11 GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FROM 2009

Members were reminded that the Council's ground maintenance contract would come to an end in March 2009. Consideration was given to the arrangements to be made for ground maintenance from 2009 onwards.

- RESOLVED:
- 1 That initially the Recreation and Amenities Committee examines the work to be included in the contract, the term of the contract etc. and makes recommendations to the Council.
 - 2 That Sedgefield Borough Council be approached to prepare the contract document for the next contract.

12 CORNFORTH CONSERVATION AREA - ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT WORKS AND BUILDINGS GRANT SCHEME (4.8.2003 Minute 6 Refers)

It was reported that Sedgefield Borough Council had confirmed that expenditure of £12,397.40 had been incurred in the financial year 2007/08 on environmental enhancement works in the conservation area as set out below:

Lakeland Cobbles	787.40
Transportation of scoria blocks for use in conservation area	1,410.00
Construction of first parking area	4,500.00
Construction of second parking area	5,700.00

In August 2003 the Council had agreed to contribute a total of £40,000 towards the total scheme with a contribution of £10,000 per annum. To date £20,000 had been paid and the Council would be invoiced shortly for its contribution towards the environmental works undertaken in 2007/08.

During the early part of the 2008/09 financial year the resurfacing of access ways would be undertaken, from the Square and Compass Public House to 11, The Green through to the point where this road meets the adopted highway opposite 21 The Green. The anticipated cost of this work was £35,000.

Five residents had been awarded a grant under the scheme aimed at architectural repairs and restoration of properties located around the Green. The total public sector contribution towards the grant scheme for these properties was £38,049 and the private sector contribution £16,335.

- RESOLVED: That financial regulations with respect to contracts be suspended and a payment of £10,000 to Sedgefield Borough Council, in respect of environmental works undertaken in 2007/08, be approved and a contribution of £10,000 be approved towards the cost of environmental works to be undertaken in 2008/09.

13 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Having declared a prejudicial interest in applications a) and b) below Councillor Mrs. S. Traynor left the meeting for the duration of discussion and voting on both applications.

- a) West Cornforth and District Community Association, renovation of West Cornforth

Community Centre - The total cost of the project was estimated at £270,000 and funding in the sum of £230,600 had been secured leaving a shortfall of £39,400. The Community Association had asked for a grant from the Council in the region of £10,000 towards the shortfall. (Enabling legislation Local Government Act 1972 Section 133 and Local Government , Miscellaneous Provisions, Act 1976 Section 19) Members considered the the implications of such a donation on the 2008/09 budget and the Council's reserves position.

- RESOLVED:
- 1 That a contribution of £10,000 be made to the project.
 - 2 That the Councils 2008/09 budget be increased by £10,000 by the use of reserves.

Having declared a prejudicial interest in the following application Councillors Mr. A. Hodgson, Mr. S. M. Pennick, Mrs. P. M. Walker and Mr. W. R. Wilson left the meeting for the duration of discussion and voting thereon.

During the absence of Councillor Mr. W. R. Wilson, Councillor Mr. R. Poole took the Chair.

- b) The Cornforth Partnership had been working with a group of young persons on planning an accredited ONC level one DJ training course for eight young people aged over fourteen. The group had identified a venue, a course tutor and had successfully raised £1,140 towards the project leaving a shortfall of £260. The Project Youth Worker for the Partnership had requested a contribution from the Council towards the project. (Enabling legislation Local Government Act 1972 Section 137)

RESOLVED: That a contribution of £260 be made to the project.

- c) Durham Miner's Heritage Group - School Project. The Group had produced a pick-and-mix package of teaching resource units covering the history and practice of mining in the North East and also some aspects of domestic and social life. The second part of the project entailed members of the group visiting schools and giving talks on mining heritage and taking along a small exhibition of mining artefacts. (Enabling legislation Local Government Act 1972 Section 137)

RESOLVED: That a contribution of £50 be made to the project.

14 ZURICH MUNICIPAL LOCAL COUNCIL ADVISORY SERVICE , ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY SEMINAR 2008

Consideration was given to an invitation to attend the above seminar to be held on Friday 25th July 2008 at Shotton Hall, Peterlee from 9.30a.m. to 2.30 p.m. One place was free and additional places were charged at £30 per person.

RESOLVED: That a place be reserved on the seminar for Councillor Mrs. P. M. Walker.

15 HOLY TRINITY CHURCHYARD (7.4.08 Minute 18 Refers)

It was reported that on Tuesday 6th May ,Councillors Dr. S. C. Drew, Mr. A. Hodgson, and Mr. R. Poole attended the meeting convened by the Reverend Keith Lumsdon with interested parties to discuss ongoing arrangements for ground maintenance at Holy Trinity Churchyard.

16 PLANNING MATTERS

Having declared a prejudicial interest in the following application Councillor Mrs. R. Clewes left the meeting for the duration of discussion and voting thereon.

- a) Erection of conservatory to the rear of 34, The Oval, West Cornforth.

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

- b) Planning Application CMA/4/38 Retrospective planning application for the change of use to Recycling Recovery Facility at the former National Coal Board building, Tursdale, Durham, for Greencycle.

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

17 LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS PROCESS

Member were informed that notification had been received from the Monitoring Officer, Sedgfield Borough Council that from 8th May 2008 responsibility for considering complaints that a Member may have breached the Code of Conduct had moved to the Standards Committees of Local Authorities. Any person wanting to complain about the conduct of a Member of Sedgfield Borough Council or one of the Parish/Town Councils within the Borough had to submit the complaint to The Chair of the Assessment Sub-Committee, The Standards Committee, c/o Dennis. A. Hall, LLB LLM, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Sedgfield Borough Council.

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

18 THE CORNFORTH PARTNERSHIP, CORNFORTH RESEARCH, OUTDOORS & CONSERVATION GROUP

Consideration was given to an application from the above group of young people to hold a 'party in the park' event at Cornforth Community Park between one and four p.m. on Saturday 7th June 2008 as part of volunteer week. The event would be supervised by a member of The Cornforth Partnership staff and covered by The Cornforth Partnership's public liability insurance.

RESOLVED: That the use of Cornforth Community Park be approved subject to the receipt of a satisfactory risk assessment from The Cornforth Partnership and at the end of the event the site to be cleared of any litter.