

## **Cornhill Parish Council**

### **Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015, at the Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. Mick Plunkett (Chairman), Marie Gillespie, Tina Ayre,  
County Cllr. Dougie Watkin, Angela Hallam-Baker (Clerk).

**In attendance:** Mrs. Karen Stewart.

**1. Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr. David Buckle, PC Dan Perry (Northumbria Police), and Rev. Rob Kelsey.

**2. Parishioners' Question Time:**

Mr. William Carrington had enquired of the Planning Office when conditions relating to the work on The Cottage, Main Street, Cornhill, are to be implemented, with a request that the PC chase up this matter. He had received a reply from the Planning Office, which he stated was "not clear" (no copy of this to the PC).

It was noted that the PC's letter advising of the granting of the planning permission does not mention any conditions, and that this matter is therefore considered to be between Mr. Carrington and the Transport Dept.

Mr. Carrington had also asked the PC to report that a car was parked on the pavement on the B6350 Wark road. The clerk had spoken to the Police about this, and was told that parking on the pavement is not an offence unless it causes an obstruction. Mr. Foster of The Cottage had already moved his car from the other side of the property in the Knowe Head road, and has nowhere else to park while his drive is under construction.

It was pointed out that Mr. Foster is working hard under extreme conditions to improve his property to a high standard.

Mr. Carrington was thanked for keeping the PC informed, and it is hoped that the matter will be resolved.

**3. Police Report:**

PC Perry had sent a report stating that there has been one recorded crime in the Cornhill area since the March meeting - a theft of tools and items in the DL area. As yet this crime is undetected.

Residents were asked to remain vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour, vans, etc.

The camera van is continuing to deploy in DL and was there at the end of last month.

Speeding had been monitored between the roundabout and Station Gardens. This was found to be in excess of the speed limit, but because this stretch of road is close to the de-restriction sign, it may be difficult to put in a camera.

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015** were agreed and signed.

**5. Matters arising from the minutes:**

- **Police Report** – The temporary matrix speed sign which PC Amer had said he would lend had not materialised, but the Chairman pointed out that the sign ordered last year, which Cllr. Watkin had agreed to fund, had been promised for February this year. He would follow this up with Neil Snowdon.

Karen Stewart raised the problem of speeding motor bikes after dark in DL, and this would be reported to the Police.

- **The Local Heroes Award**, which the PC had been told had been won by the Village Shop, would be chased up by the clerk.
- **Belle View Project** – the two soup and sandwich lunches held at Cornhill Village Hall had been well-attended. The clerk would ask the Village Shop, which had supplied the food, for a list of the dates of future lunches, and these would be listed in the newsletter and on the website. Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Buckle for his persistence in bringing this project to Cornhill.
- **Barmoor Wind Farm Community Fund** – the grant submitted by the PC for play equipment had been turned down, mainly due to the distance of Cornhill from the site of the Wind Farm.
- **Flower tubs** – Cornhill-in-Bloom would pay for the plants, and had gratefully accepted the PC's offer to purchase five new tubs, which would cost around £30.00 each. The Chairman had kindly offered to help with the planting.
- **Planning Application Ref: 15/00305/LBC** – permission for the repairs and improvements to the building at Heaton Castle had been granted.
- **Rural bus services** – nothing further had been heard from NCC.
- **Tour of Britain** – the clerk had enquired as to whether this was to pass through Cornhill, and was waiting to hear back from James Fell.
- **Triangle of rough land behind Tweed Meadows** – the clerk had ascertained that this belongs to Cornhill Farm.
- **Parish Council vacancies** – Karen Stewart would consider whether she would wish to be co-opted on to the PC and let the clerk know in due course.
- **Litter picking** – it was agreed that the PC should undertake another litter-pick this month. Cllr. Ayre said that her neighbour had offered to help, and it was agreed that a notice would be put on the noticeboard and website asking for more volunteers.

## 6. Financial Report:

The clerk distributed a statement of the bank account to date showing financial transactions since the last meeting and a credit balance of £3,037.34.

## 7. Review of the Planning Service:

The Chairman had attended a meeting of the full County Council on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 where the recommendations of the Policy Board were considered. An extract from the draft minutes of the meeting had been circulated to the PC prior to the meeting and a copy is filed with these minutes.

County Cllr. Watkin had reported on the decisions taken at the Annual Parish Meeting, held prior to this May meeting, as follows:

Findings from the recent Planning Review ascertained that 5-10% applications have to be recalled due to parish and town council objections, but these objectors do not attend the meetings to speak.

There are three planning committees, politically and geographically balanced, and the Chairs and vice-Chairs are on the central committee. Specialised planning officers are in place to deal with specific applications. Meetings are held in Morpeth as the more central venue for the county, but if there is a controversial application, the meeting will be held as near as possible to the site.

Around 94% of applications would be dealt with under delegated powers, but parish and town councils will be consulted. Any delegated decisions to officers which contain a valid

town/parish council objection are seen by the Chair of the Committee to maintain that level of elected accountability.

Applications should be determined after two weeks.

Planning issues can be found on the website, but should also be on the back of an application.

Training is available, but changes to the planning issues are being made all the time.

### **8. Roadworks:**

At a recent Town/Parish cluster meeting, the Chairman had been asked by Kevin Bartlett, Locality Officer, to let him have a list of the PC's requested roadworks which are still pending. These include:

- the missing DL village sign
- "Pedestrians in Road" sign for the Wark road
- double white lines for DL
- removal of the school sign outside Tweed Meadows
- interactive speed sign

### **9. Planting:**

The shrubs and lavender planted last year should provide a better display during this summer.

### **10. Road closures:**

It was noted that the following road closures for surface dressing are to be implemented from 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015 to 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2015 every evening between 18.00pm and 6.00am:

- A697 Cornhill roundabout to Barelees Farm

and from 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015 to 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015 every evening between 18.00pm and 6.00am:

- A697 Humbleton to Bendor

Notices will be posted on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017, respectively.

### **11. Cornhill Community Website:**

Alan Cater was thanked for his efficient management of the website. The PC endeavoured to keep this up to date with new postings where possible. The Chairman suggested that photographs of the surrounding area would attract visitors, and it was agreed that he should contact Tillmouth Fishing to add their beats.

### **12. Play Area Inspections Report:**

Alan Cater had carried out his March and April inspections. He was still trying to get the correct length new chains for the cradle swing – the wrong ones having been sent twice. Cllr. Gillespie said that the old ones, which had been put back, appeared to be quite adequate although they were a bit rusty, and the clerk would ask Alan if these could be left.

The Chairman had been trying to locate a rounded plank for the top of the climbing frame, but with no success.

It had been agreed by the PC to purchase a statutory play park sign at a cost of £40.50 including VAT.

The clerk was asked to confirm with Alan Cater that he would be able to take on the maintenance of the play area.

It was noted that the grass in the play park had not been cut in April or May, and that NCC had told the PC that it was now their responsibility. However, it was thought that Four Housing would do the cutting, and the Chairman agreed to contact them. The grass beyond Station Cottages (not the property of the PC) had also not been cut.

Cllr. Ayre reported that the grass on the old School site had been cut twice recently, and since there were apparently two different cutters, the play area might still be cut.

**13. Any other business:**

- **Neighbourhood Plan** – Chairman of Tillside PC, Jim Railton, had contacted the Cornhill Chairman to ask whether Cornhill would be interested in a Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that Lowick PC intends to undertake one, and Mick agreed to contact them.
- **Footpath along river bank from Coldstream Bridge** – Coldstream Angling Club had again complained that the gate by the bridge was locked and had a Private sign. It was noted that this path had been open and walked for many years by the public, and it was not known why it had been closed. It was ascertained that the land belonged to the Astors, and the Chairman would contact the boatman to see if he could find out why it has been closed.
- **Flooding on A697 south of Coldstream Bridge** – although some work had been done on this section of the road, flooding was still occurring after heavy rain. Since the approach from Coldstream is hidden by the bend in the road, traffic has difficulty in taking avoiding action. This has been reported to Highways, but it appeared to be necessary to give them a reminder.

**14. Date of next meeting: Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015, at 6.00pm in the Village Hall.**

Signed.....

Date.....