

Cornhill Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 11th March 2013, at The Old Vicarage, Cornhill.

Present: Cllrs. William Carrington (Chair), Mike Smith, David Buckle, Marie Gillespie, Mick Plunkett, Police Officer Dan Perry, and Clerk Angela Hallam-Baker.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Rosemary Cott and County Cllr. Dougie Watkin.

2. Parishioners' questions:

i) Speeding Traffic: with regard to the proposed installation of flashing 30mph signs, Derek and Veronica Sheldrick requested that these should not be sited in front of or near to residential properties.

The Parish Council agreed to look at a possible site for the sign at the entrance to the village, but pointed out that it would be necessary for the sign on the eastern approach to be visible to traffic from both the A697 and the A698.

County Cllrs. Watkin and Murray had confirmed their offers to contribute to the cost of the sign(s), and Cllr. Murray would ask Highways Dept. for a costing. It was thought that static sign(s) would be preferable to mobile one(s).

ii) Internet connection with Parish Council members:

In view of the fact that it is becoming easier, cheaper and less time-consuming for clerks and members to communicate using ITC, Derek and Veronica Sheldrick asked how the Parish Council might offer help to those members and potential members to gain the relevant IT skills to keep them up to date and in a position to engage in email debates from which they may find themselves excluded, and could training be offered and encouraged to avoid this from happening and to avoid some Council members being clearly disadvantaged.

Currently the Parish Council has two members who are not connected to the internet – one of whom will not be standing for election in May. The other member who lives in the village, has her communications printed out and put through her door by the clerk. Although it was suggested that she might use an i.pad or the computers in the internet café, she was quite content to carry on with the present system.

If, following the forthcoming elections, a member not on line should be elected, the matter would be taken from there.

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2013 were agreed and signed.

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

- **County and Parish Council Elections – 2nd May 2013** – the Clerk distributed nomination packs to those councillors wishing to stand again for election. It was noted that nominations open on 25th March 2013, and that Cllr. Buckle offered to take the completed forms into the Berwick Council Offices. The deadline for submitting the papers is noon on Friday, 5th April 2013. Other parishioners wishing to stand can obtain nomination packs from the Berwick Offices in Wallace Green.

- **Flashing 30mph road signs** – minuted under Item 2.
- **Damaged grass verges** – the damage caused by Northumbrian Water had been repaired by that organization. It was assumed that the damage on land belonging to the Collingwood Arms would be repaired by their appointed gardeners.
- **Overhanging trees:** the Chairman reported that Sir Michael Blake is concerned about overhanging trees in Donaldson's Lodge. These are the responsibility of the landowner, and the Parish Council would request pruning where necessary. Grass verges were frequently driven over by tractors contracted by farmers.
- **Cornhill Community Website** – it was noted that the website had been hosted by the Chairman's company for the last three years, and he had instructed one of his employees to write a specification which would be necessary for a grant application. This could also serve as a guide for other parishes to make applications. The Chairman had agreed with Alan Cater that the Parish Council would be pleased for him to update the website for a fee of £10.00 per month for one hour's work. Cllr. Buckle informed the meeting that the Glendale Gateway Trust is in the process of re-vamping its website, and would be in a position to offer a web point for each parish council. The cost for a website would be £50.00 plus £20.00 per year. Cllr. Buckle was thanked for this information, but the Parish Council felt that Cornhill does need its own independent website.
- **Bus Service 710** – a public meeting had been held in Wooler on 6th March which attracted some 300 people. This was to discuss the proposed withdrawal of the Kelso to Newcastle bus service, which costs NCC £138 per Saturday in subsidy, or £7,200 per year. The County Council, having to make vast savings in next year's budget, said they could no longer afford these subsidies. However, in view of the strong support shown by passengers for the continuation of the service, it had been decided to keep it going until April 2014. In the interim, ways of funding the service would be looked into by the County Council.
It was agreed that Cornhill residents would be invited to put their views on the service at the public meeting to be held on Saturday, 16th March.

5. Financial Report:

The Clerk distributed a statement of the current account at today's date showing a bank balance of £4,293.66.

Following a request from Community Action Northumberland for the annual donation, it was agreed to send £20.00.

6. Northumberland Local Development Plan:

A consultation document containing NCC's core strategy preferred options had been circulated amongst the Councillors. When their comments had been completed, the Chairman and Clerk would forward the Parish Council's observations to NCC in time for the 20th March deadline.

7. Public Meeting – Saturday, 16th March 2013:

This meeting had been called to discuss what improvements might be made to tidy up the villages of Cornhill and Donaldson's Lodge. Various suggestions had already been made, and residents would be invited to put forward their ideas. It was hoped that Terry Garnick, Neighbourhood Services Area Manager, might be able to help with additional grass-cutting, pruning, etc.

8. Police Report:

PC Dan Perry reported that no significant crime and disorder issues had arisen in Cornhill, apart from speeding vehicles. It was hoped that speed recording strips would be put across the road in Donaldson's Lodge, and that cameras would be placed in Carham.

It was noted that hoardings had been pulled off at Cornhill School, and this had been followed up. Youths hanging about by the school had left with no problem when asked by the Police. PC Perry warned that thefts of heating and diesel oil had been reported in areas near the A697 south of Milfield.

9. County Councillor's Report:

There was no report due to the absence of Cllr. Watkin.

10. Any other business:

- **Excavations at Stickle Heaton** – the Parish Council is making enquiries about excavations for a landfill site on land south of Stickle Heaton. It is not clear what type of waste is to be dumped here. It was noted that the excavations are close to the gas pipeline, and notices have been put up by the National Grid stating that permission should be obtained before excavations proceed. These notices are attached on marker posts all along the pipeline and were in place before any excavations commenced.
- **Road closed at Coldstream Bridge** – a notice has been posted on the gate by the electricity sub-station forbidding entry, and it is believed this notice has been posted by those who own or manage the salmon fishing rights. The path, although not marked on the OS map as a public right of way, has, it is understood, been used by anglers and walkers for over 40 years.

11. Parishioners' Question Time:

There were no members of the public present, therefore no questions.

12. Date of next meetings:

Monday, 20th May 2013 at the Village Hall - 6.00pm Annual General Parish Meeting, to be followed by the May Parish Council meeting.

Signed.....

Date.....