

DRAFT**Cornhill Parish Council****Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Wednesday, 16th May 2018, at the Village Hall at 6.00pm**

Present: Cllrs. Mick Plunkett (Chairman), Marie Gillespie, Barbara Richmond,
Tina Ayre, David Richmond, Eddie Barrowman, Clerk Angela Hallam-Baker,

In attendance: Martin and Elizabeth Devon.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Rev'd Rob Kelsey and Rev'd John Carr.

2. Chairman's opening remarks and report for the year ended 31st March 2018:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked the councillors and clerk for all their work during the year.

He went through the items dealt with during the year:

- **Cornhill Community Action Group (CCAG)** – thanks were expressed to Barbara and her team who had achieved a great deal during the year with promoting and working on the churchyard project, the Bell View events, festive lighting, geology talks, history project, community walks, summer fair, etc.
- **Planning applications** – included proposed crematorium (withdrawn) and Gleesons' proposed development on the school site (ongoing), holiday lodges on land behind Rickerbys (withdrawn), and latterly the application for an anaerobic digester at Stickle Heaton, which was also withdrawn. The Chairman asked that thanks be recorded to Frank and Clare Dakin for the huge amount of work and expense they had put behind objecting to the siting of the anaerobic digester.
- **Proposed closing of part of the A1 road and re-routing through Cornhill**, which was put on hold until October, due to county-wide objections.
- **Broken road surfaces and potholes** – after the meeting with Mitch Young and Neil Howie, repairs and resurfacing had taken place in Cornhill and Donaldson's Lodge, and potholes had been filled in along the C19.
- **Speeding traffic in Cornhill** – thanks were expressed to Tina for her work on having a monitored speed strip placed at the entrance to the village, which produced a result fitting the criteria for a speed van to be deployed. Although this appears in Donaldsons Lodge, it has not yet been seen in Cornhill.
- **Litter picks** – carried out bi-monthly between Cornhill and Coldstream Bridge in co-ordination with Coldstream, and also on the A698 between Cornhill and Tillmouth Bridge.
- **Church wall** and breaking up pavement reported and subsequently repaired by NCC.
- **Rights of Way** – 009 bridleway which was fenced across has been restored. The U2 Melkington to New Heaton bridleway has now been made into a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT), as has the bridleway from the A698 to Muggers Loan.
- **Community walks** – organised and led by Mick – the third one, including people from outside the parish, recently completed, and a fourth is in the pipeline.

- **Riverside path** – no progress with getting this opened to walkers, in spite of Neil Thompson having promised to put a gate in. It was suggested that the Clarion Newsletter might run an article on this.
- **Cornhill-in-Bloom** – thanks to Paul Ashton for planting and looking after the tubs.
- **Village Shop** – congratulations on winning the annual Eastern Borders Development Association (EBDA) Award.
- **Two vacancies** on the Parish Council.

A vote of thanks was proposed to Mick for all his hard work during the year, and unanimously accepted by all present.

It was pointed out, due to County Cllr. Roderick Lawrie having not attended a PC meeting since November 2017, we had not been able to access his promised £1,000 from his 2017/18 NCC Members' Fund for the benches needed to replace old ones in the village. It was therefore agreed to send a quote to Cllr. Lawrie for two benches for the High Street and one outside the village shop. Depending on cost, the £1,000 for 2018/19 might be requested for a bench and table in the churchyard.

3. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2017 were agreed and signed.

4. Matters arising from the minutes: none.

5. Presentation of unaudited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018:

The clerk circulated copies of the Income and Expenditure Account and went through the transactions. The statement was agreed by the councillors and would be publicised on the website and notice board. The Annual Governance Statement (AGS – previously the Annual Return) was also agreed and signed by the Chairman on behalf of the councillors. It was agreed that Susan McCall should be asked if she would again carry out the internal audit. It was noted that the new external auditors appointed are PKF Littlejohn LLP. Cornhill PC is classed as a 'smaller authority' where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure is less than £25,000, and can therefore be certified as exempt from a limited assurance review. A Certificate of Exemption was therefore signed by the Chairman and will be forwarded to the auditors. It was noted that an exempt authority is not required to send the completed AGS to the external auditors as long as it is publicised as stated above, along with the Certificate of Exemption.

6. The County Councillor's Report for the year to 31st March 2018 was not available due to the absence of Cllr. Lawrie.

7. Resignation of Councillor Marie Gillespie:

The Parish Council was sorry to hear of Marie's resignation. She has been involved with Cornhill PC for 16 years – 3 as clerk and 13 years as parish councillor. During this time she has gained a huge amount of knowledge relating to the parish and its residents which she has passed on to the current councillors and clerk. Marie has kindly agreed to continue to answer questions relating to past events in the parish, and to help with leaflet drops.

The Chairman thanked her for her dedicated long service, and a presentation event as a token of thanks would be arranged in the near future.

8. Invitation to Eddie Barrowman to join the Parish Council:

Eddie has very kindly agreed to be co-opted on to the Parish Council, and was warmly welcomed by the other councillors. This still leaves two vacancies, and it was hoped that other candidates might come forward.

9. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman:

Mick had announced at the last annual meeting of his intention to stand down as Chairman this year. He had held this position for 4 years, and felt this was long enough. He also had other plans for his time in the coming months. The councillors were sorry to lose their excellent, hard-working chairman, but pleased that he intends to remain as a member of the Council and continue to look after the footpaths and lead the community walks. Again, he was warmly thanked.

As the current deputy, Barbara was asked if she is willing to take on the position of chairman. She agreed to do this for the current year, and the position would be reviewed next year. The councillors all agreed that this position should be rotated.

It was agreed that it was not necessary to appoint a deputy chairman, and that in the absence of the chairman at a meeting, a member would be asked to take the chair.

The members of the new Parish Council were confirmed as:

Barbara Richmond – Chairman

Mick Plunkett

Tina Ayre

David Richmond

Eddie Barrowman

10. The programme of meetings for the current year was confirmed as:

Thursday, 12th July 2018

Thursday, 13th September 2018

Thursday, 8th November 2018

Thursday, 10th January 2019

Thursday, 14th March 2019

All meetings to be held in the Village Hall at 6.00pm unless otherwise notified.

This concluded the business of the meeting, which was followed by the May PC meeting.

Signed.....

Date.....