

Cornhill Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 20th May 2013, at The Old Vicarage, Cornhill.

Present: Cllrs. William Carrington, David Buckle, Marie Gillespie, Michael Francis, County Cllr. Dougie Watkin, Clerk Angela Hallam-Baker.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Mick Plunkett and Keith Bailey, Northumbria Police Officers Mark Lynn and Dan Perry.

2. Parishioners' Questions:

From Edward and Sandra Ashfield, received after the March meeting:

- a) that the white line across the Wooler road be made more visible
- b) that a slow down or give way sign be erected or painted on the Wooler road before the junction, or
- c) that an alternative would be a flashing 30mph sign

These requests had already been noted and action taken.

From Donaldson's Lodge residents:

i) A roadside tree at the Berwick end of Sunnyside is growing into a telephone cable and will require pruning. *This will be referred to British Telecom.*

ii) Flower tubs - residents are showing an interest in the flower tubs and are asking when they might be delivered. *These are about to be ordered.*

iii) River bank path - at a recent meeting of Coldstream and District Angling Association, questions were asked about access to the river bank upstream of Coldstream Bridge on the English side. A locked gate and no entry sign prevent anglers and walkers from accessing the river bank, which they have enjoyed for as long as local residents can remember. *This is a private path, but the gillie has no problem with the public using it as long as they do not leave rubbish and that they clear up after their dogs..*

iv) Excavations at Stickle Heaton - *these are for burying farm waste and require no planning consent. The National Grid is satisfied that the excavations do not pose any danger to the public.*

v) A new build at New Heaton has no planning consent. *The building has been halted pending a retrospective planning application.*

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2013 were agreed and signed.

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

i) Speeding traffic – Cllr. Watkin agreed to fund a flashing 30mph sign and in the interests of safety, this would be sited in the most appropriate place.

5. Police Report:

The Police were not present, but had sent an email stating that there was no crime to report in the neighbourhood.

An invitation had been received to join the Speed Watch project, but there was no interest in doing a job which it was felt was the Police's responsibility.

6. County Councillor's Report:

Cllr. Watkin had already left to attend another meeting, so there was no further report to add to that given at the AGM earlier.

7. Financial Report:

The clerk distributed a statement of the account at today's date, showing a bank balance of £4,956.64.

8. Progress on improvements discussed at a Public Meeting held on 16 March:

Roundabout - the Chairman had asked Cornhill in Bloom to provide some ideas for planting. They had come up with a plan for 8 square flower beds on the roundabout and the planting of low flowering shrubs. Rickerbys had very kindly agreed to make a donation towards this, possibly for the plants. It was suggested that the plants be purchased from Berwick Garden Centre, which was currently offering 3 packs of 8 for £10.00. The job would be advertised when a specification had been drawn up.

Flower tubs: it was agreed that 8 flower tubs be purchased at a cost of £240.00 for Donaldson's Lodge. These would be planted, and the residents had agreed to water them regularly.

Tourist Information Board – it had been agreed that this needed to be updated. The photographs illustrating places of interests are all in the south of the county, and the map stretches down as far as Gateshead.

The Chairman and clerk had met the Tourist Information Officer on site. She had suggested that the board be replaced with a standard layout applicable to Cornhill and neighbourhood, showing Attractions, Places to Stay, Eating Out, Information, etc. This would fill half the size of the existing board. The other half would accommodate a map, pinpointing the various items listed. In view of the large amount of local history attached to the area, The Remembering Flodden Project offered to help work this out with the Parish Council, provide some sponsorship, and invite other organizations mentioned to donate a small amount towards the cost..

Mole hills – these had been cleared in three locations: Donaldson's Lodge, behind the Village Hall and in front of Cross House.

Other items which are the responsibility of the County Council are being passed on to them

9. Cornhill Community Website:

Discussions had taken place as to how this could be updated. Cllr. Buckle informed the meeting that the Glendale Gateway Trust had been instrumental in updating the Wooler website which was offering six pages to each parish. This would cost an initial £50.00 and then £20.00 per year for hosting. This was noted, but it was felt that Cornhill would like to keep its own website with reciprocal links.

An experienced Software and Application Developer had suggested what needs to be done to rebuild the website, and Alan Cater had offered to take on the work. The Chairman was happy to sit down with Alan and produce a specification, which would be needed to apply for a grant. He stated that updating must be written into the quotation, and the community would need to be willing to provide information. It was noted that half of the community does not use a computer, but if a new young councillor could be found who was also able and willing to look after the website, this would be a great asset.

10) Planning:

- Cramond Hill Farmhouse – permission granted to rebuild.

- **East Moneylaws wind turbines** – appeal in progress. Cornhill is just out of the area, but the turbines would be highly visible from parts of the parish.
- **Erection of wind turbine at Yetholm Loch at the end of the Pennine Way** – (Application No. 13/00186/FUL - wind turbine 67.9m high to tip of blade and formation of new access track on land north west of Helensea Primsidemill, Yetholm – Scottish Borders Council).
- **Wark Common** – the original application for a 69m turbine had been turned down by NCC, and a subsequent application is for a 47m high turbine to tip of blade, preceded by a temporary 40m anemometer.

11. Neighbourhood Plan:

An email had been received advising that neighbourhoods can apply for a share of the £9.5 million earmarked by the Government to support neighbourhood planning. The funding and direct support would be administered by Locality, which organization would decide on the eligibility of an application.

The Localism Act states that if a plan is turned down by a planning department, a referendum may be held, and this would supersede the County's decision. However, the County has to approve the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was stated that the last Parish Plan was completed in 2006, and discussion as to whether a new one is required would have to be undertaken when all the Parish Councillors are present. This would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

12. Any other business:

- **Civic Service of Solemn Commemoration** – a letter had been received from Rev. David Taverner, Minister of the Church of Scotland, Coldstream and Eccles, inviting “every town and larger village” to send a representative to a service in Branxton commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Battle of Flodden on 10th September at 2.30pm, supported by the National Lottery. The representative is asked to bring a symbol of their town or village by way of a flag, banner or other significant object. The clerk was asked to find out more about this.
- **Internet Café** – it was agreed that the Internet Café should be asked to take over from the Parish Council payment of its BT line and ink cartridges. The Chairman agreed to speak to the Village Shop about this.
- **Markings on the road** – the 2 sets of bus stop markings on the road and the “keep clear” signs on both sides of the Village Shop are in need of re-painting; also the 30mph sign on the A697 approach road from Wooler. The clerk would contact Highways Dept.
- **Broadband** – it had been announced that NCC and BT have put forward an £18.9 million deal to roll out high speed fibre broadband to 91% of homes and businesses in the county. The remaining 9% of properties in rural areas will have access to speeds of 2mbps or above. To have this speed increased in Northumberland is asking for people to pledge their support online at: www.inorthumberland.org.uk
- **NALC annual subscription** – it was agreed to pay the £66.58 based on 280 electors.

13. **Parishioners' 15 minute question time on agenda items** – no extra parishioners present.

14. **Date of next meeting: Monday, 15th July 2013 at 6.00pm at the Village Hall.**

Signed..... Date.....