

# Cornhill Parish Council

## Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013, At the Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs. William Carrington (Chairman), Mick Plunkett (Deputy Chairman), David Buckle, Marie Gillespie, Claudio Rickard, County Cllr. Dougie Watkin, Alan Cater (WizardVision), PC Dan Perry (Northumbria Police), Angela Hallam-Baker (Clerk).

**1. Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr. Anthony Jewels.

### **2. Police Report:**

PC Perry reported five crimes, of which three have been detected. These occurred in Cornhill and Mindrum, two of which were break-ins where tools were stolen, and the third a call to the Police to deal with damage and assault.

**Road accident near Wark** - following investigation, it had been determined that the main cause of the fatal accident near Wark was driver error on behalf of the deceased.

**Speeding at Donaldson's Lodge** – the average speed had been clocked at 39mph. PC Perry said it would be a long process before a speed van could be deployed, as there were many requests for this in North Northumberland, but it was hoped this would begin in January. The van is currently operating in Milfield, where to date 68 drivers have been caught exceeding the speed limit.

Cllr. Plunkett suggested that double white lines are necessary throughout the length of the A698 through Donaldson's Lodge where a considerable amount of overtaking takes place. This would be suggested to NCC Highways Dept.

**Logging trucks** - the Police had spoken to Scotts of Wooler about the speeding logging trucks on the B6350 road between Wark and Cornhill, and had learnt that these were driven by agency drivers to whom the message would be passed on.

**B6350** - it was noted that the clerk had written to Richard Mackenzie following the last meeting suggesting that a priority system be introduced on the B6350 for traffic leaving Cornhill, but as yet had not received a reply. It was agreed that this matter should be chased up, and a width restriction be deployed to reduce speed. This was supported by PC Perry on behalf of the Police, and suggested by Cllr. Watkin that, Stefan Bell from NCC, should be asked to come and look at the site and offer advice.

PC Perry was thanked for his attendance and input, and left the meeting.

**3. The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013** were agreed and signed.

### **4. Matters arising from the minutes:**

- **Planning application for farm office at New Heaton** – since Mr. Sproat had written a detailed letter to the Planning Dept. on this matter, the Chairman had considered the Parish Council had nothing to add to this.
- **Signs on Cornhill School field** – these had been produced and erected by Cllr. Plunkett, for which he was thanked.
- **Flower tubs** – the residents of Donaldson's Lodge had looked after the tubs during the summer, and had subsequently removed the dead bedding plants and replaced

them with winter flowering plants. The Chairman praised them for this benefit to the community, and suggested that the Cornhill residents might be encouraged to take more interest in their village tubs next Spring. It was noted that the Village Shop had watered their tubs during the summer and replaced the dead plants with new ones.

- **Tweed Horizons booklet** – following distribution in September on the Scottish side of the Border, also in Berwick, Wooler and Seahouses, Cllr. Buckle had two full boxes left, and it was therefore agreed that these would be sufficient for the time being.
- **Rubbish on the railway line** – the clerk had written to the landowners to report this.
- **Locked gate on Muggers Loan footpath** – this had been walked by Cllr.Plunkett with Doug Zinn and Footpaths Officer, Phil Bradley, and the gate can now be opened. A stile had also been erected at Stickle Heaton.
- **Seat beside the post box** – a quotation had been obtained to replace the rotten planks, but since this appeared to be expensive, Cllr. Plunkett had kindly done the job at a much reduced price.
- **Mole hills at Donaldson's Lodge** – these were appearing again, but the resident in front of whose house they had emerged was averse to having traps set. Cllr.Plunkett would monitor the situation.

### **5. Financial Report:**

The clerk distributed a statement of the PC account, showing a credit balance of £3,480.15 following receipt of the second half of the precept.

NCC had sent a request for the amount required for next year's precept. The amount to be deducted to pay for the shortfall on properties not required to pay council tax would be £135.77. Last year this had been paid by NCC, when it had been stated that this grant would not be continued for future years.

Since documents relating to the transfer of Cornhill play area in Station Gardens were being studied by the Chairman, he asked that the setting of the precept be delayed in case special expenses would be incurred. Since the deadline date for submitting the precept amount is 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014, before the next scheduled meeting, the PC would be kept informed of any unforeseen charges and consulted before the amount is submitted.

A request for a donation to the Great North Air Ambulance had been received. Whereas the Chairman felt the PC should give financial support to local groups, it was pointed out that the service given by the Air Ambulance could benefit any local person or persons. It was therefore agreed to donate the sum of £30.00.

### **6. Cornhill Community Website:**

Alan Cater had kindly agreed to attend the meeting and answer any questions regarding the re-writing of the website. He had emailed details of the design which would include four pages: Home, Community, What's On and Parish Council. The cost for the work would be £450.00, with an annual hosting cost of £15.00 per annum. Posting items on the website would be charged at £10.00 per hour.

The Parish Council was agreeable to the design and terms, and the clerk was authorised to sign the Agreement on its behalf.

Funding of the project was discussed. Initially, it had been considered that an application for a grant be put in to Awards for All, but since this organisation had sponsored the setting up of the previous website, it was doubtful whether they would be prepared to pay for another one. Also, any application would take 4-6 months to be processed.

In view of these factors, it was agreed that the PC should provide the funding, and that Mr. Cater be asked to go ahead with the work forthwith. He would liaise with Lonres, the current hosts, and the clerk would provide him with updated PC information.

**7. Planning Application No. 13/03385/OUT:**

Cllr. Watkin declared an interest and would take no part in this discussion.

The proposal, submitted by Mr. Eric Grounds, is for outline permission for 7 new dwellings in 2 terraces: 4 x three bedroom and 3 x two bedroom; access road and parking area on land north west of Oaklea Lodge, Main Street, Cornhill-on-Tweed.

After consideration the Parish Council, agreed with this proposal as it stands with affordability as the predisposing factor, and this decision would be communicated to the Planning Dept.

Cllr. Gillespie had added in a written note that she considered that bungalows would be of more interest to elderly people, and that three-bedroom houses might be difficult to fill due to no school and scant employment.

**8. Any other business:**

- **Temporary Road Closure of A697 for 600 metres north of Barelees** - the PC has been informed that this section of road is expected to be closed from 10<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> December 2013. The official notices will be displayed on the village noticeboards.
- **Register of Interest forms** – facsimiles of these forms completed by Cllrs. Carrington, Buckle and Gillespie do not appear on the County Council website. The clerk was informed that these had not been received at County Hall. According to her postal records, these were posted first class on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2013 to Andy Thorn, Monitoring Officer, and a receipt for these has been retained. This information was communicated to NCC, but they still could not be found. The clerk was then informed that a number of forms from other parishes also appeared to be missing, and this was confirmed by Cllr. Watkin. Cllr. Plunkett had posted his own form, which was received at County Hall, and does appear on the website. The forms for co-opted Cllrs. Rickard and Jewels, posted on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2013, had also been received at County Hall and put on the website.

**9. Date of next meeting: Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014, at 6.00pm at the Village Hall.**

This concluded the business of the meeting which was followed by a Public Meeting to discuss Four Housing’s proposals for the development of the Cornhill School site.

Signed.....

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