

**DRAFT**

## **Cornhill Parish Council**

### **Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016, at 6.00pm at the Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. Mick Plunkett, David Buckle, Marie Gillespie,  
Parish Clerk: Angela Hallam-Baker,  
Parishioner: Barbara Richmond in attendance.

**1. Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs. Karen Stewart and Tina Ayre, County Cllr. Dougie Watkin, Rev. Rob Kelsey, and PC Dan Perry (Northumbria Police).

**2. Police Report:** nothing to report.

**3. Parishioners' Question Time:** no questions.

**4. The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015** were agreed and signed.

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

- **Hand-held speed sign** - the clerk had requested information from the Police about the hand-held speed gun and training. No response, but she would send a reminder.
- **Pedestrians in Road warning signs** for top end of Wark road and the corner by the bridge – a print out of a sign with “No footway for 400 yds” was shown to the meeting. After many requests to NCC for signs to be erected, it was assumed these were in the pipeline – the clerk would send a further reminder.
- **Double white lines through Donaldsons Lodge** – many requests made to NCC – a further reminder required.
- **Local Heroes Award** – information had been submitted some time ago regarding the long service to Tillmouth Village Hall by Tony Adams and Ann Wood – the clerk to follow this up.
- **Litter pick** – this had been arranged for 7<sup>th</sup> December, but had had to be postponed due to heavy rain. A further date would be arranged when the weather improves.

**6. Financial Report:**

A statement of transactions since the last meeting was distributed to the meeting, showing a credit balance of £2,153.86.

Precept for 2016/2017 – it was agreed that this should remain at £2,700.00 per annum.

**7. Road safety improvements requested:**

Dropped kerbs had been put in at Donaldsons Lodge.

Three road signs down following recent gales had been reported: next to the telephone box in Donaldsons Lodge; near the interactive speed sign in Cornhill; Cornhill Village sign on A697 on south easterly approach to the village. Also, a large hole in the metal post on the A697 supporting Cornhill Village and 30mph limit signs north west of Oaklea Lodge.

Other matters are referred to in Item 5 above.

### **8. Play Area repairs and inspections:**

Alan Cater had submitted his report with various items requiring repair urgently. In view of this the use of the play equipment had been closed until further notice. Ricky Fletcher had visited the site and was due to submit a quote for the repairs, including the replacement of all four poles supporting the swings.

A letter had been received from Alan advising that he could no longer carry out any independent play park inspections due to the prohibitive cost of insurance cover in case of any claim due to an accident caused by equipment failure at an inspected site. This would have increased the cost to each PC by four times.

The clerk had contacted Cornhill PC's insurance brokers, who had stated that Alan would be covered by the Employers' and Public Liability Insurance sections in the event of an injury attributable to an error or omission committed during a routine check. This information had been forwarded to Alan, and a response from him is awaited.

### **9. Grass cutting:**

Cllr. Watkin had informed the PC that a new grass-cutting system had been set up, and it was hoped this would improve future cuts.

### **10. County Highway U2:**

NCC had finally obtained agreement from the farmer to remove the fences across the route, and the padlocks from the gates, within 30 days (by end January/beginning February). If the obstructions are not removed by then, the matter would be put in the hands of the County solicitor.

### **11. Churchyard improvements:**

This matter was discussed and it was agreed that the PC would purchase a bench seat and have it placed facing south towards Moneylaws Hill, subject to Rev Kelsey's agreement. Paul Nichol, NCC Tourism & Visitor Economy Manager, is due to visit Cornhill in February, and he would be consulted on other improvements to the churchyard, including the addition of flower tubs.

### **12. Tourist Information:**

During Paul Nichol's visit on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February, at 1.45pm, he would discuss improvements to the notice board, and make suggestions for an updated version. Barbara Richmond suggested the notice board could be more Cornhill specific, and this would be looked at.

It was noted that the Scottish Borders Walking Festival, hosted by Coldstream Community Trust, is due to take place from 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September 2016. As this would bring groups of walkers to the village, it was important to have the leaflets for the four Cornhill Walks available in the Village Shop. The Chairman would make enquiries as to whether they are still being printed and issued.

The Tweed Horizons booklet of cycle rides should also be updated and reprinted.

### **13. Planning Application 14/02320/OUT**

This failed application for a housing development adjacent to Oaklea Lodge is being appealed. Original comments by the PC stated that the properties did not appear to be

“affordable”. The clerk had since learnt that they are to be made affordable by discounted rates. The PC felt that this was not clear, and that affordable housing is obliged to be handled through a housing association.

#### **14. Cornhill Community Website:**

A letter had been received from Alan Cater stating changes to his website terms and conditions. From January 2016 the security routine is to be upgraded and an automatic back-up system introduced. Instead of being charged ad hoc amounts for services, a monthly charge of £13.75 will be introduced. This will include the annual domain and hosting payments. As Cornhill PC paid for its annual domain and hosting in November 2015, the first new payment will not be due until the end of March 2016.

**Web page for St. Helen’s Church** – in view of Rev. Kelsey’s intention to involve the Church more prominently in the life of the Village, Alan had suggested that it might be prudent to give them a specific page on the website. The PC was in agreement in principle with this, but would also require Rev. Kelsey’s agreement.

#### **15. Correspondence:**

- **Devolution Agreement for the North East** – a letter had been received stating 10 ways in which devolution could help Northumberland by transferring powers from Westminster to local regions. It appears that this would involve more expense in appointing new boards to take on administration. The PC felt that any new finance would be spent in the south east of the county.
- **Road closures** to allow for work to be done on East Learmouth and East Learmouth Farm Bridges are to be put in place from Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> February, for six to eight weeks for each bridge, beginning on the East Learmouth bridge, below the Carham war memorial. It was noted that these bridges are not in Cornhill Parish, but notices would be displayed in the village for the convenience of parishioners.
- **Animal Boarding Establishment Policy Consultation** – draft document submitted stating licensing policy. This can be viewed on the NCC website and comments are invited by email to: [licensing@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@northumberland.gov.uk) by 31<sup>st</sup> January.
- **Northumbrian Citizens Advice Bureau** – an offer for a representative from the CIB to come and talk about its services. Suggest they contact the Village Hall.
- **Great North Air Ambulance** – it was agreed to make a donation of £25.00 from the Parish Council.

**16. County Councillor’s Report:** none, due to Cllr. Watkin’s absence.

**17. Any other business:** none.

**18. Date of next meeting:** Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016, at 6.00pm at the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....