

**DRAFT****Cornhill Parish Council****Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018,  
at the Village Hall at 6.00pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. Mick Plunkett (MP), Marie Gillespie (MG), David (DR) and Barbara Richmond (BR), Rev'd Bob Kelsey (RK), Rev'd John Carr (JC), parishioner Elizabeth Devon (ED), Clerk Angela Hallam-Baker.

**1. Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr. Tina Ayre and PC Dan Perry.

**2. Police Report:**

PC Perry had sent a report that there had been no recorded crime / incidents of note in the area since the last meeting.

Since Thursdays are PC Perry's days off, he has offered to meet members of the PC at other times if required.

**Speed survey** - the results of the speed survey carried out with strips placed outside the old police house in Cornhill **did** meet the criteria required by the Northumbria Safety Roads Initiative for consideration of additional enforcement measures.

In addition, the 30mph terminal signs in Donaldson's Lodge are being renewed to incorporate a speed camera warning sign. It is hoped this will encourage reduced vehicular speeds at all times, and not just when the camera van is in operation.

**3. Parishioners' questions** – none.

**4. The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018** were agreed and signed.

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

- **Repairs to the wall in Station Gardens** – Bernicia, which owns the wall, reported that this is not yet in need of repair.
- **Request for date of planning meeting** to discuss development of the school site – BR to ask Cllr. Lawrie.
- **Land for sale behind Tweed Meadows** – nothing to report.
- **Community Walk No. 2** – this was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February and attended by 16 people. Lynda was thanked for providing the refreshments. A third walk would be arranged in April.
- **Litter pick** postponed until Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> March due to bad weather.
- **Churchyard** – RK reported that he had been unable to find a landscape gardener, but Jo Scott, Heritage Planning & Interpretation Consultant with Inspired North East, had agreed to help. This organisation provides information, advice and guidance to churches, and one of the items specified is "caring for churchyards". A meeting is to be held in the Spring to which interested residents will be invited, and as many volunteers as possible recruited. MP would find a digital map of the churchyard on which a plan could be drawn. RK said some funds could be provided by the Church,

and the PC had agreed to give a donation. It was also suggested that funds might be obtained from Cllr. Lawrie's NCC Members' Fund.

#### **6. Financial Report:**

The clerk circulated a statement of the bank account to date showing a credit balance of £1,599.58. Also presented was a statement of projected income and expenditure up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. These documents showing a breakdown of the figures are attached hereto.

#### **7. Planning Applications:**

**18/00386/PRUTPO** – Tree Preservation Order for removal of overhanging limb of sycamore tree at 3 Tweed Meadows.

**18/00283/FUL** – Retrospective: Conversion of barn to one dwelling house on land south west of Castle Heaton Farmhouse.

No objections were raised by the Parish Council to either of these applications.

#### **8. Footpaths:**

Byways Open to All Traffic BOATS Nos. 18, 19, 21 – these had been agreed and would be registered on the Definitive Map. It was hoped that pedestrian gates might be installed next to the field gates.

**Riverside access** – MP reported that anglers are still struggling to get to the river, and they had met with Neil Thompson to discuss this. Mr. Thompson had agreed to amend the signage making it clear that the Coldstream and District Angling Association members have access to Cornhill No. 1 beat. His suggestion was that the existing signage be moved halfway up a tree to the right hand side of the track (looking up stream). MP to contact CDAA to clarify this.

**Bridleway No. 213/009** – Phil Bradley has agreed to open up this path and NCC will install a gate at the south end of the wood to allow access through the wood to the riverbank. Once this route is opened, all the rights of way in the Parish will be open.

**Kissing gate on the railway line** – MG reported that this had still not been mended. However, as pedestrians are not being affected, it was agreed to leave it unless problems arise with horses and/or motor bikes.

#### **9. Cornhill Community Action Group:**

BR reported that a meeting had been held on 24<sup>th</sup> January to discuss proposed forthcoming events. It had been agreed to try to hold one event per month. The calendar so far includes:

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|--------------------------|--|
| • Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | Walk No. 2                             |
| • April (date to be set) | Walk No. 3                             |
| • May 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | Bingo (for festive lighting)           |
| • May 12 <sup>th</sup>   | Geology Walk (Elizabeth Devon)         |
| • May 17 <sup>th</sup>   | Geology Talk (Elizabeth Devon)         |
| • May 19 <sup>th</sup>   | St. Helen's Church Coffee Morning      |
| • June 9 <sup>th</sup>   | Bell View Strawberry Tea               |
| • August 5 <sup>th</sup> | Summer Fair in Collingwood Arms garden |

The PC gives its full support to these events, but they would be run by the Action Group members. John and Val Carr are drawing up a list of tasks for the Strawberry Tea, and it was suggested that a local personality be asked to perform the opening ceremony.

It was suggested that a History Project should be put in place, and Dr. Keith Bailey would be approached and asked if he would be interested in leading this. MG and BR to contact him. MP suggested that the CCAG would need to be constituted and appoint a secretary and treasurer. It was noted that it already has an email address and Lynda Waite will be asked to help with a facebook page. [cornhillcommunityactiongroup@btinternet.com](mailto:cornhillcommunityactiongroup@btinternet.com)

#### **10. Play Area:**

A quote of £490 had been received for the removal of the climbing frame, but the contractor would not be able to remove the concrete base. It was considered that the two jobs would need to be done together to save money, and MG was asked to ask Graham Campbell if he would be able to submit a quote for the job as a whole.

#### **11. Cornhill-in-Bloom:**

It was understood that fund-raising quizzes are being held, and MP agreed to speak to Carol about these.

#### **12. EBDA Award for Village Shop:**

The Village Shop is a joint winner with Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival for the 2017 Award. A presentation was to have been made on 5<sup>th</sup> March in Berwick, but this had to be cancelled due to the bad weather. It is hoped this will be re-scheduled.

#### **13. Vacancies on the Parish Council:**

There will be 3 vacancies in May. The names of possible candidates were put forward, and it was agreed that the clerk should write personal letters to them asking if they might be interested in joining the Parish Council.

#### **14. County Councillor's Report:**

There was no report due to the absence of Cllr. Lawrie, but BR agreed to telephone him and remind him that he had offered the PC £1,000 from his 2017/2018 NCC Member' fund. It had been agreed that this would be spent on two new benches and festive lighting for the village. Written quotations for these would need to be submitted.

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

- **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)** – the clerk had received a 63 page document from NALC. She had hoped to discuss this with Cllr. Lawrie, as she is doubtful that it applies to this small parish council which does not keep lists of names and addresses, apart from the parish councillors whose contact details appear on the community website. She will follow it up.
- **Local Council of the Year** – an invitation had been received to apply to enter this competition. The PC showed no interest.
- **Getabout Access scheme** – information had again been received about this scheme which organises private drivers to use their own cars for a taxi service. It was thought this could cause insurance problems for drivers, and that it would not be attractive to local residents. Cornhill has a good bus service, and most elderly residents have free bus passes. However, notices advertising this would be displayed on the notice boards.

**16. Any other business:**

- **A1 road closure** – the news that a 4 mile section of the A1 from north of Brownieside to Adderstone 24 hours a day for around 2 weeks prompted the holding of a public meeting at the Blue Bell in Belford. The Chairman, having received no reply to his communication to Highways England, attended this meeting together with many other individuals and parish councils who issued the same complaints, including the lack of warning and consultation. Traffic is being diverted on to the A697 and A698 which passes through Cornhill. The work had been due to start on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, but has been postponed due to public anger at the lack of advance warning and lack of communication. The outcome of the complaints is awaited before a new date is set, probably in October, and it was agreed that Cornhill PC should liaise with Milfield and Powburn Parish Councils and keep this item on future PC agendas.  
The matter has been taken up by local Member of Parliament, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, and it was agreed that if no response is received from Highways England, a letter should be sent to her and to Cllr. Lawrie.
- **Adverse weather conditions** – many roads and private driveways had been blocked by the drifting snow and footpaths impossible to access. Thanks were recorded to Dan Lindsay from Cornhill Farm for kindly helping with clearing these, and it was suggested that a group of volunteers might be recruited to deal with such a problem in future. Extra grit bins would be needed, and it was considered that these should be provided at NCC's expense.
- **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Great War 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018** – JC said that a scheme is being launched to commemorate this with the ringing of church bells, lighting beacons, pipers' laments and the Last Post. It was agreed that Cornhill should take part and that Eric Grounds be asked to assist with planning.
- **Website update** – this is in need of updating, and parish councillors were asked to make contributions where possible. MP agreed to add some local photographs, and it was agreed that photographs and text relating to the Great War would be appropriate.
- **Traffic island** – this has still not been repaired – the clerk to write again to Highways.
- **Temporary closure of C20 road from Cornhill to East Learmouth** – it was noted in the local press that this road is to be closed from 12<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- **Dog poo bags** – several of these had been deposited on the grass verge in Donaldson's Lodge. Notices would be placed on the litter bins asking people to place them in the bins.

**17. Parishioners' questions on agenda items:** none.**18. Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018: 6.00pm Annual Parish Meeting, followed by May meeting.**

Signed.....

Date.....