

**DRAFT****Cornhill Parish Council****Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017, in the Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. Mick Plunkett, Marie Gillespie, Barbara Richmond and Tina Ayre,  
Parishioner David Richmond, Clerk Angela Hallam-Baker.

**1. Apologies for absence** were received from Rev. Rob Kelsey and PC Dan Perry.

**2. Police Report:**

PC Perry had sent his report stating that there had been no recorded crimes in Cornhill since the last meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March. There has been one crime recorded at Donaldsons Lodge, but this, he stated, did not impact on residents within Cornhill so there was no need to elaborate further.

**3. Written questions from parishioners:** none.

**4. The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017** were agreed and signed.

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

- **Riverside path** – Lady March had passed the Chairman’s letter to Neal Thompson stating that she has no wish to be on anything other than reasonable terms with the inhabitants of Cornhill, but is conscious of the need to protect the privacy and amenity of her paying guests at No. 1 Beat. She had made various proposals to Neal, which he will follow up and report back.
- **Footpaths** – a book had been produced containing walks in and around Cornhill and Coldstream which included some of the Cornhill four walks.
- **Cornhill School site** – County Cllr. Lawrie had said that this was no longer being considered for a crematorium. A sale board still remained on the gate stating “closing date set”, but with no date mentioned.
- **Churchyard improvements** – a two-page write-up had been sent to Rob Kelsey by Pippa Coles, including the following suggestions:
  - i) the area should be made more appealing from the roadside view
  - ii) planting yew trees and bulbs
  - iii) improve street furniture and bus stop area
  - iv) working with Village Shop and community to have churchyard enhanced
  - v) improvements to parking, and to paths so that people can walk through
  - vi) seats in good view sites to catch the sun
  - vii) rewarding the curious, eg. many people do not know that the steps beside the gate were designed as a mounting block. It was suggested that a photograph could be displayed of a rider using this to mount his/her horse.
- Barbara asked who would take these suggestions forward? It was stated that some money is remaining from the Cornhill Arts Festival, which may be available, and Barbara agreed to mention this to Sue Lindsay.

- There is concern that some of the gravestones are leaning, and it was felt that it would be necessary to carry out a risk assessment. It is preferred that the Church takes this on.

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

The clerk circulated the Financial Statement to date. This showed a credit balance of £1,649.85.

### **7. Report on Village Plan Project:**

A meeting of the committee members (Barbara, Rob and Steve Wright) is scheduled to take place on 24<sup>th</sup> May. Barbara said the committee should take the lead, and put forward suggestions to the PC. She asked Mick if he would attend this meeting.

The agenda would contain the following items:

- a) Village festive lighting
- b) Churchyard
- c) Led walk
- d) Village calendar
- e) Village Hall diary

**Flower tubs** – these are currently sponsored by Cornhill-in-Bloom, but it was understood that the two ladies involved in this wish to retire, and that the PC may have to take it on. The major problem was watering, which could be solved if each householder would water the tub in front of their property, as happens in Donaldsons Lodge.

Barbara suggested that the PC might sponsor a competition to produce the best planter. This would raise funds if interested people would register their interest in a tub for a modest donation.

### **8. Play Area:**

Repairs had been carried out to the swings by Caledonia Play, but the PC is still waiting for the chains on the small swing to be shortened, and also a quote for the goal net. Mick was thanked for carrying out monthly inspections of the equipment with RoSPA guidance rules.

### **9. Repairs to the churchyard wall and wall in Station Gardens:**

Mick had requested NCC to attend to these damaged walls which could pose a danger to passers-by.

### **10. Vehicle activated signs:**

A letter had been received from NCC stating that vehicle activated signs installed on the highway require a NRSWA (New Roads & Street Works Act) 1991 Section 50 licence for third party apparatus and an accurate location logged on to their mapping system.

The clerk has completed the application form on behalf of the PC, marked the site locations on their plan, and returned these to Andy Walker at County Hall. The Section 50 licence will be issued from the Street Works department in due course.

### **11. Village of the Year competition:**

Following a television series on UK villages hosted by actress, Penelope Keith, an invitation had been received for Cornhill to apply to enter a competition for Village of the Year 2017

which would result in a £10,000 prize for the winner. Mick agreed to apply for this.

### **12. Planning Application Ref: 17/01347/FUL:**

This involves the erection of a two-storey dwelling with separate detached garage/store with accommodation to first floor for family use on land south of Donaldsons Lodge.

A pre-application had been submitted in May 2016 in response to which the PC had expressed concern that the access was close to a significant bend in the road. Highways had carried out a vehicle speed assessment and the proposed access had been located further towards the bridge to allow some 140m of visibility.

In view of this, it was not thought necessary for the PC to repeat its concern.

### **13. Correspondence:**

- **Northumberland Day** – a county-wide 2 week celebration had been scheduled on and around 28<sup>th</sup> May. This invited communities to lay on some “amazing events and occasions”.
- **Promotion of the Getabout Project** – details of this had been available for some time, but since Cornhill has an excellent bus service, it was not taken up. Information would be displayed on the notice board.
- **Active Northumberland** – a letter informing parish councils that NCC has agreed to discontinue this County Hall based tourism development from 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017. This organisation was formed by NCC in July 2013 and since then has worked in partnership with Northumberland Tourism.

### **14. Any other business:**

- **Bell View** - this is a North Northumberland charity supporting older people, based in Belford. They have special facilities there from which they offer care facilities, as well as other services. In Cornhill, they offer two things - for a couple of years now they have run a soup and sandwiches lunch group once a month, meeting in the Village Hall; and they offer day trips out, using specially adapted transport so that less mobile people can be transported. Barbara, having had a preliminary meeting with the Manager, Jane Field, has arranged to meet her again on 17<sup>th</sup> May to discuss what other activities might be welcomed in Cornhill. Mick would also attend. Rob has suggested singing as one of the activities, and other suggestions made were bingo, a book club, men’s shed, knit & natter, etc. It was agreed that initially the people attending the Soup & Sandwiches lunch should be asked for suggestions as to what they would appreciate in Cornhill, and possibly be followed by a questionnaire delivered to residents. It was noted that there are around 50 single people living in Cornhill, some of whom have limited mobility, and they would need to be persuaded to take part in local activities. Perhaps “bring a friend” could be put on the Soup & Sandwiches notices.
- **Litter pick** – Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> June, meeting at the Village Shop at 9.30am, to clear litter between Cornhill and Donaldson’s Lodge.

### **15. Date of next meeting: Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017, at 6.00pm at the Village Hall.**

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