

Draft

Cornhill Parish Council

**Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 13th September 2018,
at 6.00pm at the Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs. Barbara Richmond (Chair), Mick Plunkett, Tina Ayre, David Richmond, Eddie Barrowman, Clerk Angela Hallam-Baker.

In attendance: Rev'd John Carr, Martin and Elizabeth Devon, Joan Easton,

1. Apologies for absence were received from PC Dan Perry (Northumbria Police).

2. Police Report:

PC Perry had submitted a short report informing that there were three recorded crimes in the Cornhill Parish which were not pertinent to pass on to the Parish Council.

3. Parishioners' Questions:

- **Horse chestnut tree** in Knowe Head - the roots are extending towards the garden path of the house opposite – request to have this checked.
- **Interactive speed sign** outside Tweed Meadows reported not working properly – the suppliers to examine this in the coming weeks.
- **Footpath 15** on railway line needs strimming – this has been done.
- **Double parking** of commercial vehicles outside the Village Shop is causing difficulty for pedestrians, particularly those with prams or in wheelchairs. This is being investigated.
- **Vehicle engines** left running whilst drivers are in the shop. This it is understood to be against the Law.
- **Drone** spotted over houses and gardens at Donaldson's Lodge. White van at the scene, reg. no. MT55 NSU.
- **Overgrown trees and bushes** at the Drain (triangular plot adjacent to Tweed Meadows). Cornhill Farm agreed to prune these.
- **Street light CJ38** being obscured by tree branches – clerk has reported this to NCC.

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2018 were agreed and signed.

5. Matters arising from the minutes:

- **Play Area** - the holes left by the climbing frame have been filled and Mick has sown grass seed.
- **Benches** - a quotation of £195.00 has been received and agreed to replace the rotten seats on the benches opposite the Village Shop and at the entrance to Knowe Head.
- **Station Gardens** – Mick reported that a resident had complained that there had been no Christmas lights last year on this road. He pointed out that resources are stretched and that it was considered that the main road should take precedence. It

was also stated that a street lamp had been applied for to be located beneath the trees between Rickerbys and Station Gardens to lighten this short cut.

Now that the old climbing frame had been removed, consideration was being given to what new play equipment could be purchased and installed.

- **Litter pick** - this had been carried out with the helpers wearing the new high viz vests bearing the slogan "Parish Council Volunteer". These had been kindly sponsored by Cornhill Village Shop, for which thanks were recorded. Thanks were also expressed to resident, Alan Martin, for his help with clearing the litter from the roundabout towards Donaldsons Lodge.
- **Grass cutting around the War Memorial** – the gardening contractor had agreed to have a look at this and mow and strim when necessary. It was pointed out that this must look tidy and cared for particularly for the commemoration on Armistice Day.

6. Financial Report:

The clerk circulated a statement of the income and expenditure account (attached) since the last meeting in July, to date. This showed a credit balance of £4,079.22, with amounts of £1,256.62 ring-fenced for the festive lights, and £516.30 ring-fenced for CCAG.

7. Cornhill Community Action Group (CCAG) Report:

Barbara reported on recent activities:

- **Summer Fair** - successful event with net benefit of £479.80. Thanks were recorded to Lynda Waite, her family, and team from the Village Shop; Shona and staff at The Collingwood Arms; Stevie Braithwaite who ran the dog show; stall holders and all who attended.
- **Churchyard Project - Report on Churchyard Questionnaire:**
These results are based on only a 9% return of the questionnaires; they are therefore not representative of the Cornhill community. It seems that more than half of those who responded think the project is worthwhile; currently, the churchyard is not used a great deal. Most people agree that the churchyard needs improvement from the roadside especially, pruning of the trees and hedges and generally tidying up. Inside the churchyard, it is thought that the toppled gravestones should be either mended or laid flat and more seating is required. It is suggested that more seating should be considered for the new churchyard too. One person thinks the gate should be re-instated on the south, Knowehead, side and that there should be a sign to ban dog fouling. This resident of Knowehead may be expressing the views of neighbours as well. Of the ideas suggested, the planting of wild flowers, spring bulbs and new seating are popular. People are also interested in the local heritage and want more signs and more information, preferably in Church. It is generally agreed that regular maintenance is needed. Eleven of the people who responded would be willing to be involved and some would be prepared to give donations towards planting. People are most interested in gardening, encouraging wildlife and in the history of St. Helen's. (Analysis of questionnaire results attached)
- **Bell View** - John stated that the Christmas Lunch has been arranged for Saturday, 8th December, at the Village Hall. Flyers are to be sent out, and the event will be supported jointly by Bell View, St. Helen's Church and the Parish Council.
- **Village Walks** - the 4th Community Walk was held on a very wet Saturday, 28th July, and consequently it was not well supported. Mick reported that much of the path is

overgrown and difficult for walking. An effort will be made to have this cleared. The next Community Walk will be scheduled for October.

- **Festive Lighting** - three additional light boxes and motifs have been ordered. Lynda Waite has been asked to organise a Bingo evening in October to generate a contingency fund. The LED lighting project will not be completed until the end of October.
- **Talks** - Elizabeth has given two linked geology talks to date. Suggestions of topics were invited – Angela said she would ask Clive if he would give a talk on The Battle of Carham.
- **History Project** - Linda Bankier to facilitate a discussion about how to approach a Cornhill social history project on Monday, 8th October, at 5.00pm in St. Helen's Church. She has requested a donation towards the work of Berwick Archives, in lieu of payment for her time. CCAG will agree an amount.
- **Calendar and Communication** - Elizabeth asked that she be informed in good time of future events to put on the calendar. Lynda would be asked to put the dates in the Newsletter, and it was suggested that another slot be added to the website.
- **Funding** - the current ring-fenced balance stands at £516.30. A pop-up banner measuring 2m x 800cm costing £49.00 would list activities, etc., and be displayed at events.

8. Northumberland Local Plan:

The following general comment on STP1 was submitted to the Consultation on behalf of the Parish Council:

"This relates to the use of settlement boundaries. These are proposed for certain categories (Main Towns, etc.) and it seems the intention is to give some protection to communities within those boundaries, so that development of any form will be considered in terms of what is appropriate to its size, role, function. As a statement of principle, this seems sensible, but there are 2 issues. One is, who will be deciding on what will be considered appropriate and how will this be democratically agreed. The second is what might be the unforeseen consequences of this for communities which do not have settlement boundaries. Will they be seen as areas available to take any overspill or developments unwanted elsewhere? The Plan needs to consider the role and exposure to development of all communities however small."

Wind Farm Development – a map shows areas identified for suitable development covering a huge area of Northumberland's beautiful countryside, including land within a few miles of Cornhill, with turbines approaching 40m high. A letter opposing such a development had been sent on behalf of the Parish Council to planningstrategy@northumberland.gov.uk

9. Planning:

- **Application ref: 17/03894/FUL** – proposed 23 dwellings on Cornhill school site - this is now to be put before the Planning Committee following further enquiries made to Gleasons regarding some planning obligations and highways matters. It was reported that the Planning Dept. is allowing them whatever time it takes to respond, and there is no deadline date for when a decision will be taken. The designation of the site as a playing field is not a responsibility for Planning, but the Planning Officer is aware that NCC wants it de-designated. It was noted that Sport

England supports the PC's wish for the land to remain as an amenity area, but that a decision by the Secretary of State is still awaited.

Although this is not within her authority, it was agreed that local MP, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, should be invited to Cornhill to see that the school playing field is the only green space in the village, apart from the very small play area in Station Gardens, and that the riverside path is no longer open to walkers.

- **Application ref: 18/03119/VARYCO** - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission 15/04221/FUL in order to show amendments to the clamp roof design at New Heaton Farm – Applicant Mr. John Laing. This requests permission to extend the current steel stanchion to an appropriate height, install steel portal frame to support roof and install a new metal profiled roof at a height of 7.09m.
- **Application ref: 18/03121/FUL** - new manure shed with steel portal frame, concrete panels between uprights and timber boarding above, and profiled metal roof up to a height of 7.90m to the ridge at New Heaton Farm - Applicant Mr. John Laing.

The PC studied these New Heaton plans and awaits comments from residents adjacent to the property.

10. Footpaths:

Mick reported that there are still problems with footpaths. The bridleway 213/09 from the A698, near to the Cramond Hill track, towards the river is still blocked, and the footbridge on the path from the Wark road to West Learmouth has still not been replaced.

Tweed Way Walk meeting - to be held at Norham Village Hall on Tuesday, 25th September, at 11.00am.

11. County Councillor's Report:

No apology for absence, nor the requested report had been received from Cllr. Lawrie. Mick expressed his discontent at Cllr. Lawrie's failure to communicate with the Parish Council, and the consequent lack of representation at County Hall.

12. County Councillor's Funding:

Since there is an ongoing fund-raising campaign for festive lights, the clerk had been asked to write to the significant organisations in the parish to ask for their suggestions as to what the Members' Fund for 2018/19 should be spent on.

Replies had been received from Tillmouth Village Hall asking for a defibrillator, and from Cornhill Village Hall asking for help in resolving the bat problem in the roof.

It was agreed that funds should be requested towards both these projects, and the clerk would first check with Ruben Morgan whether they are allowable for funding.

13. Local Transport Plan Programme 2019-20:

It was agreed that the three priorities to be requested should be:

- A 20mph speed limit on the A697/698 road through Cornhill
- Double white lines through Donaldsons Lodge
- Camera vans in Cornhill

The 2018-19 submissions feedback commented that the request for a footpath alongside the B6350 Wark road from opposite The Collingwood Arms down to the bridge did not score well against the LTP criteria. Since this is a dangerous road for pedestrians, it was agreed that Cllr. Glen Sanderson should be shown the road and asked for his support for a footpath.

14. Cornhill Community Website:

Alan Cater had kindly invited Eddie, Martin and the clerk to a meeting at his home to discuss the future of the website. He went through the ins and outs of the running and management, and stressed the importance of keeping it up to date. Eddie said he would be prepared to take this over from Alan at the beginning of next year, and in order to help him, Alan agreed to try to provide a trial website on which he could practice. Martin kindly agreed to help Eddie.

15. Meeting with County Cllr. Glen Sanderson on Monday, 22nd October, at 2.00pm:

It was agreed that this should be publicised to the Parish in advance of Cllr. Sanderson's visit, and requests made for any issues the residents wish to be discussed.

It was also agreed that all the parish councillors should meet Cllr. Sanderson at the Village Shop and walk round the village with him to identify the problem areas, after which they could sit down and document these. Items suggested were:

- How long it takes to have issues resolved, and why this area is at the end of the queue for some services.
- Infrastructure - roads, pavements, cleaning, rubbish, weeds, grass cuts, etc.
- Wider case for Cornhill - roadside littering, footpaths, etc.
- The problem facing pedestrians walking up and down the B6350 Wark road due to the amount of traffic, particularly logging trucks.

Nearer the date of Cllr. Sanderson's visit, the councillors would pool their thoughts via email.

16. Correspondence:

Requests for donations were received from Northumberland Age UK and Hospice Care North Northumberland. Whereas the PC supports these worthy charities, the precept level does not allow for financial help.

17. Any other business:

- **Remembrance Day – Sunday, 11th November** - the service in St. Helen's Church will take place at the usual time, followed by the wreath laying and commemoration at the War Memorial.

At 7.00pm the beacon behind the Village Hall will be lit, followed by a period of silence, prayers, and playing of the pipes. Refreshments will be available in the Hall afterwards.

It was suggested that the Parish Council lays a poppy wreath. John would check with the other parishes as to whether they would be agreeable with this, since their wreaths would be removed to their own Memorials after the ceremony.

- **Dept. of Transport Cross Country Passenger Rail Franchise Public Consultation** - in reply to this, the Chair has submitted a document pointing out the problem issues along the route between Newcastle and Edinburgh. These include overcrowding – not enough carriages; the possible cancellation or reduction of services to Morpeth,

Alnmouth and Berwick; the lack of late night services; and the need for more services to Berwick in the tourist season.

18. Diary dates:

North Northumberland Local Area Council - Thursday, 20th September, at St. James’s Church Centre, Pottergate, Alnwick, NE66 1JW. Planning applications from 3.00pm, other local area council business from 6.00pm.

The 5th Annual Town and Parish Council Conference - Thursday, 11th October, from 2.00pm, in the Council Chamber at County Hall. Booking required.

Joint meeting with Town/Parish/Community Councils North Northumberland Area - Thursday, 18th October – venue not yet specified.

19. Date of next meeting: Thursday, 8th November 2018, at 6.00pm in the Village Hall.

The clerk had already sent a letter on behalf of the Parish Council to Joan Easton asking her whether she would consider joining the team. After sitting through the meeting, she agreed to be co-opted on to the Parish Council.

Signed.....

Date.....