

DRAFT**Cornhill Parish Council****Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday. 14th July 2016,
at the Village Hall at 6.00pm**

Present: Cllrs. Mick Plunkett (Chairman), David Buckle, Marie Gillespie, Barbara Richmond, Karen Stewart.
County Cllr. Dougie Watkin, PC Dan Perry (Northumbria Police), Angela Hallam-Baker (Clerk), 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Tina Ayre and Rev. Rob Kelsey.

2. Police Report:

PC Perry reported that one of the foreign nationals involved in the fraud at the Village Shop has been arrested. Investigation into a second theft by foreign nationals at the shop is ongoing.

A theft of cash from the fishing hut on the riverside is as yet undetected.

An incident involving a cold caller selling fish in the village was reported. A cheque was paid, but this was subsequently cancelled. Trading Standards have been informed and are investigating the legitimacy of the sellers.

PC Perry stated that usually fish sellers are polite, but he advised residents to be vigilant when confronted by callers at the door. Any incidents can be reported by dialling 101 or emailing Dan on: Daniel.perry281@northumbria.pnn.police.uk

PC Perry then left the meeting to attend to another appointment.

3. Parishioners' Question Time: no questions.

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2016 were agreed and signed.

5. Matters arising:

- **Pedestrians in road sign** -details had been received from NCC together with details of the other signs which need replacing.
- **Fly tipping** – the Chairman had contacted Cheryl Wilcox about this matter three times, but it was clear that no action would be taken.
- **Noticeboard** – tourist information had not yet been added to the new board.
- **Churchyard improvements** – it was noted that it would be the Parochial Church Council which would be applying for a grant, not the Parish Council.
- **Flower tubs** – the two new tubs are now in situ and have kindly been planted by Theresa Culbertson. The clerk would send a letter of thanks to her. John Culbertson was also thanked for offering to pressure-wash the concrete bus shelter. The Chairman discovered that the black noticeboards on the bus shelter are blocking the holes which were once windows. These could therefore not be removed, and David Richmond very kindly offered to re-paint them.
- **Recycling bins** – Cllr. Watkin suggested that it would be pointless asking NCC if they could screen the bins since they are trying to save money on waste disposal. Cllr.

Richmond reported that there are two dumped suitcase and broken glass outside the bins. Cllr. Watkin said that NCC waste disposal would collect any dumped rubbish and could be contacted by phone on NCC local number: 01890 230233 or on 0345 600 6400 or via website: <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk> A notice would be put on the noticeboard (and on the Cornhill Community website) asking the public if they would do this. These contact details may also be used to report potholes, footpath problems, etc. It was agreed that, since the bins are in close proximity to the Collingwood Arms, presenting an untidy approach, the Manager should be asked if the hotel would be prepared to have them sited in their car park on the other side of the wall.

- **Potholes** – two potholes had been repaired on the bend beyond the Collingwood Arms and also at Donaldson’s Lodge.
- **War Memorial lighting** – Cllr. Watkin suggested that Highways could be asked about assisting with lighting, pointing out that there are no street lights on the B6350 Wark road. A 3D slide in front of floodlights would change colours. Since the anniversary of the first day of the First World War had been missed, it was suggested it would be more appropriate to erect the lights to mark the end of the War in 2018.

6. Financial Report:

The clerk reported that the Annual Return had been audited by Susan McCall who had signed it off, not having found any errors. This had then been sent to the external auditors. A note of the financial transactions since the May meeting was circulated, leaving a credit balance of £3,314.65.

7. Planning permission granted:

Notification had been received from NCC that planning permission was granted on the following applications:

- **Ref: 16/01247/FUL (amended)** – Rickerbys Ltd. - extend existing building for general purpose use.
- **Ref: 16/00152/HEGRMN** – John Laing – removal of 1.610m of hedgerow at Stickle Heaton Farm
- **Ref: 16/01711/FUL** – Steven Jones – erection of general purpose agricultural storage building on land south of Oxendean Lodge, Donaldson’s Lodge. Although permission had been granted, the PC expressed concern about the entrance and exit on to the main road.

8. New planning applications:

- **Ref: Pre-Application 16/00155/PREAPP** – Peter Greenwood – to convert school site to crematorium. Since this is a pre-application, no plans or specific details are available. This will be discussed when a full application is submitted. However, it was learnt that the school site is still on the market, and that Mr. Greenwood would not make an offer for this until he had received planning permission. If permission is not granted for a crematorium, it is probable that the applicant may apply to build social housing on the site.
- **Ref: 16/00208/PREAPP** – Martin Bowie – Detached house with detached garage/workshop on land south of Donaldson’s Lodge. Awaiting full application.

- **Ref: 16/02183/FUL** – Lynne O’Reilly - construction of two bedroom bungalow at The Sidings, Station Gardens. The PC could find no problems associated with this application and is pleased that it would tidy up the site.

9. Overgrown footpaths:

The Chairman had sent several photographs of the overgrown footpaths with thorough documentation to Phil Bradley. A reply stated that Phil had spoken to the three farmers over whose land the footpaths run.

Cornhill footpaths Nos. 3, 4, 5 & 6 - agreement had been reached with the three farmers from New Heaton, St. Cuthbert’s and Melkington that they would reinstate the overgrown sections of these Cornhill footpaths, and if this is not carried out legal action would be taken and NCC would clear the paths and bill the farmers for the work.

A 4 x 4 vehicle had been driven along the section of the U2 road by Neil Howie, Highways Inspector, but Mick stated that this was not fit for walkers and cyclists, there being shoulder-high undergrowth along it.

Cllr. Watkin stated that farmers are required, under the single farm payments scheme, to keep footpaths open provided they are used.

It was pointed out that bushes on the sides of footpaths are the responsibility of the landowners and need to be kept trimmed.

10. Riverside footpath:

It was stated that two years ago Lady Astor’s agent had given permission for the path to be used, but it was understood from Neil Thompson that someone had gone into the fishing hut, and a car had been driven along the path. This had caused tension towards walkers. Although Mick could see no problems with litter or dog fouling, it seemed likely that the path would be closed again. Neil Thompson would inform Mick of his decision on this. If his answer is negative, it was agreed that the PC should write to Lady Astor and ask permission to reinstate the path.

It had been reported that the kissing gate on the railway line had been broken. Allegedly, John Laing’s cattle had escaped from their field, and he had driven them back along the railway line having to demolish the gate. Since this gate had been put in by NCC, Phil Bradley had been informed and had agreed to have a look at it.

11. Play Area inspections and repairs:

Mick had spoken to the NCC representative who had told him that RoSPA recommended that inspections were required to be carried out weekly. Enquiries to NCC regarding setting up an SLA found that the cost would be £28.00 per week - £1,400+ per year.

Cllr. Watkin suggested that the PC contact Norham for information as their PC has appointed a competent person to carry out the regular inspections. The RoSPA inspector should be asked to do the annual inspection.

A quote for £400 had been received from Graham Campbell for repairs to the equipment, although he felt that some of the repairs requested are not necessary. It was agreed that RoSPA should be asked to clarify this. It was suggested that Mr. Campbell should be asked whether he would be prepared to carry out the weekly inspections. It was also agreed that RoSPA should be asked to carry out an inspection before the play area is re-opened.

12. Results of street lighting questionnaire:

Following receipt of information about the Northumberland LED Street Lighting Project, questionnaires were delivered to 110 households in Cornhill out of which 27 were returned. The majority of the respondents were content with like for like replacement lamps, and the only extra light required would be on the footpath linking Station Gardens to the roundabout. The cost of this was estimated at around £900 depending on location, etc. Any rusting lamp posts will be replaced free of charge. In Donaldson's Lodge 24 questionnaires were delivered to households and only 4 returned. Again, the majority were content with the orange lights being replaced by white LED lamps.

13." Happy Street" competition:

Radio Borders is running a competition to raise money for its charity, Cash for Kids. The Parish Council has been invited to join with the Village Shop and the Collingwood Arms and as many villagers as possible to help raise funds and prove Cornhill to be "the happiest place to live in the Borders".

An entry has been put in by the Village Shop and the Collingwood Arms, and they have been informed that they are one of six finalists. Various fund-raising events have been organised, and the finalist who raises the most income and attracts the largest number of people will receive a free street party for up to 200 residents, hosted by Radio Borders. The Parish Council expressed its wish to help wherever possible, particularly with the Summer Fair to be held in the Collingwood Arms Gardens on Sunday, 24th July. The PCC will be running a Wine or Water tombola.

14. Local Transport Plan 2017-18:

Requests for the PC's top three highways and transport priority issues are to be submitted before the end of August. Several requests have been on the list since 2014, and it was agreed to add: Resurfacing the footpath from the Collingwood Arms to Coldstream Bridge.

It was agreed that an interactive speed sign is required for the northern approach to the village. NCC will not fund this, and as Cllr. Watkin agreed to make a donation towards the purchase, it was agreed that the PC should go ahead and put in the order.

Cllr. Richmond was concerned at the volume of heavy traffic driving through Cornhill and wondered whether a traffic flow survey could be carried out. There is a huge number of logging trucks using the road, but it was pointed out that this is the best route for them. It was also pointed out that the commercial traffic brings a substantial amount of business to the Village Shop.

15. County Councillor's Report:

Cllr. Watkin said he is depressed at the current state of affairs at County Hall. A saving of £40 million has to be made over the next two years, and some of the officers are doing two or three jobs. Services will continue to be cut, and it is vital to concentrate on which of these are most important.

16. Correspondence:

a) Projected cuts in services – grass-cutting, bus services, community group support, public toilet provision, are likely to be cut, and parishes are being asked whether they would take on any of these services. Grass-cutting is the only service which applies to Cornhill, and if the PC were to take this on, it would require the precept to be raised. This item would be discussed at the next meeting.

b) Alternative Household Waste Recovery Centre Opening Arrangements:

It is proposed to reduce opening hours at the five smallest sites from 7 days per week to 4 days per week, with the days being Friday to Monday inclusive. Suggestions and comments should be emailed to: centralwasteteam@northumberland.gov.uk no later than 5th August.

c) Belle View Day Care:

Belle View (Belford) would like to bring their older persons day care service to Cornhill Village Hall – a drop-in event was held on 14th July to ascertain local views on this project, which would entail once a month activities in the morning, lunch, and further activities in the afternoon, with transport provided from surrounding villages. The Chairman offered to supply further information to anyone who might benefit.

The Chairman had attended the event, but said there was an attendance of only five people. This was presumably because flyers had not been circulated in Cornhill. The clerk would make this known to the Manager.

d) Barmoor Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund:

A further invitation was received to apply for grant money – it was agreed that the PC should submit another application for funds to purchase play equipment.

17. Parishioners' questions on agenda items: none.**18. Any other business:**

Litter pick from Cornhill to Coldstream Bridge – this was arranged for Monday, 15th August 2016, meeting at 9.30am at the Village Shop.

19. Date of next meeting: Thursday, 8th September 2016, at 6.00pm at the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....