

DRAFT**Cornhill Parish Council****Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 14th September 2017,
at the Village Hall at 6.00pm**

Present: Cllrs. Mick Plunkett, Marie Gillespie, Barbara Richmond, Tina Ayre,
David Richmond, County Cllr. Roderick Lawrie, Clerk Angela Hallam-Baker.

In attendance: Rev'd John Carr, Lynne O'Reilly.

1. Apologies for absence: Rev'd Rob Kelsey, PC Dan Perry.

2. Police Report:

PC Perry had sent a message informing that since the last PC meeting there had been one theft from an outbuilding in Cornhill.

3. Questions from parishioners – none.

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2017 were agreed and signed.

5. Matters arising from the minutes which are not itemised on the agenda:

- **State of the road through the village** – the road is currently being re-surfaced.
- **Flower tubs** – Carol Ashton had expressed an interest in looking after these, with the help and support of the Parish Council.
- **Repairs to the churchyard wall** – the crumbling wall had been reported to NCC, but the clerk would send a reminder to Bob Hodgson.
- **Repairs to wall in Station Gardens** – this had also been reported to NCC, but it was not known to whom it belongs. Clerk to find out.
- **Churchyard clean-up** – this had been arranged for Saturday, 23rd September, from 10.30am, followed by a barbecue. A poster advertising this would be displayed and flyers put through doors.
- **Gravestones** – it was noted that several of these are leaning at an angle, but NCC apparently checks them every year.
- **Notices put on concrete bus shelter** – these were being removed by councillors.
- **Litter pick** – to be decided later on in the autumn.

6. Financial Report:

The Annual Return had been agreed by the external auditors, with no matters requiring further investigation. The Return had already been agreed by the PC, and signed by the Chairman, at the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2017. Agreement by PC confirmed. The relevant pages of the Annual Return had been displayed on the website and village notice board for at least 14 days to comply with the auditors' regulation. The clerk circulated a financial statement as at 14th September 2017, showing a credit balance of £6,392.78. It was noted that £4,163.95 of this is ring-fenced for the Christmas lights.

In order to monitor the cash flow for the rest of the year, Cllr. Barbara Richmond asked that the financial statements issued at each meeting show a list of estimated forthcoming expenses.

7. Meeting with Mitch Young and Neil Howie of Northumberland County Council:

Earlier in the day the PC met with Mitch Young (Maintenance Engineer) and Neil Howie (Highways Inspector) to discuss the condition and upkeep of the local roads, pavements, verges, etc. The officers explained their responsibilities and informed the meeting of the names of the NCC employees to contact with regard to specific matters. The clerk would compile a list of these for the councillors. It was agreed that their contact details should be posted on the village notice board, although Mitch stated that all communications should be directed through the parish clerk.

8. Local Transport Plan 2018-2019 (LTP):

The PC had been asked to submit its top three highways and transport priority issues for inclusion in the LTP Programme for 2018-2019.

Already on the list, requested in September 2016 are:

- Ref: 07852 Issues with the blind spot at the bridge on the B6350 Wark road
- Ref: 07918 Traffic safety concerns on the same road

Although a Pedestrians in Road sign had been erected, there is still trouble with speeding traffic on this road which has no footpath. It was agreed that the above two issues should remain as priorities and that a site visit by Neil Howie should be requested to try to find a way of making the road safer for pedestrians.

In addition, the permanent filling of potholes in the roads, and maintenance of pavements was considered to be a priority, and this would be added to the list.

9. Speeding traffic:

Cllr. Ayre had written to PC Dan Perry of Northumbria Police to ask for his assistance in slowing down traffic through the centre of Cornhill. It was agreed that a monitoring strip should be applied for and that this should be placed on the A697 between the roundabout and the Station Gardens road end where traffic tends to speed up.

In addition, PC Perry offered to apply for a speed monitoring vehicle if and when this is possible.

Two of the local residents had offered to be trained to deploy a speed gun. Ford PC had apparently expressed concern at speeding through its village, and it was suggested that they may wish to join with Cornhill in recruiting volunteers to use the speed gun and perhaps swap pitches.

10. Christmas Lights:

A total so far of £4,163.95 has been raised in donations and events towards the Christmas lights to be erected in Cornhill Village. This will pay for eight poles to be adapted in Phase 1 of the project. The cost of installation, switch-on, and an estimated cost of £800 for the electricity, totalling £3,632.64 (ex VAT) has been quoted. An additional cost for installing the lights themselves would be charged, but Paul Smith, local qualified electrician, has kindly offered to install and remove the lights free of charge.

It was noted that NCC has had to change some of the poles originally designated. This means there would not be a Christmas light in the centre of the village, and it was suggested that residents might be prepared to fill in with their own lights on their properties.

It is fortunate that the erection of the boxes to cater for the lights coincides with the changing of the orange street lamps by NCC to white down-lighter LED lamps, thus saving money on the PC having to pay an extra charge for the Christmas lights connections. Lynda Waite has ordered and paid for the Christmas lights at a cost of £1,216.10 (ex VAT) and will be reimbursed from future fund-raising. Paul Ashton has kindly agreed to run two quiz nights and another bingo night, and Cllr. Lawrie would donate £1,000.00 from his NCC Members' Fund if required.

It was formally proposed by Cllr. Ayre and seconded by Cllr. Plunkett that the PC should go ahead with the above plans for the Christmas lighting. This was unanimously agreed.

11. Play Area:

Cllr. Plunkett, having been advised by Caledonia Play, stated that the current climbing frame is really past its usable life. Cllr. Plunkett had therefore obtained from them a quotation for a new Single Junior Activity Tower, aimed at children aged 3-8, at a cost of £5,490.00 plus VAT including removing the existing climbing frame. A more complex tower suitable for children between 5-14 years would cost £7,045.00 plus VAT, also including the removal of the existing frame.

A grant would have to be obtained to finance this new equipment, and it was suggested that the Barmoor Wind Farm fund could be tried again. Alternatively, the existing equipment might be repairable. Estimates would be obtained .

12. Parish Councillors' contact with NCC and designated responsibility for specific matters:

A list of NCC contacts had already been distributed to the councillors, but this would be amended based on the information obtained from Mitch Young.

The parish councillors had voluntarily taken on responsibility for specific matters which had reduced the workload of the Chairman and the clerk, although, as noted above in Agenda item 7, requests to NCC should be put through the clerk.

An informal list was noted:

Cllr. Plunkett:	Footpaths, rights of way
Cllr. Barbara Richmond:	Christmas lighting
Cllr. Tina Ayre:	Speeding traffic
Cllr. Marie Gillespie:	Leaflet drops
Cllr. David Richmond:	Litter picking, clearing vegetation from roadsides

13. Riverside path:

No further progress had been made with gaining access to the path. Lady March had not been persuaded to change her mind about this.

14. County Councillor's Report:

Cllr. Lawrie said a machine is available for digging out potholes into rectangles, from which the filling is less likely to come out than just filling a circular hole. Requests to fill holes and other road repairs should be sent to the clerk and forwarded to Cllr. Lawrie.

The pothole on land outside the Village Shop has not been filled, since it is arguable as to whom this land belongs.

Cllr. Lawrie said that the Conservative Members of the County Council are circulating a paper throughout Northumberland on their achievements during the first 100 days of their office.

15. Proposed Chairmen's meeting with Cllr. Lawrie:

This had been scheduled for Thursday, 21st September, but had had to be cancelled due to its clashing with an Area meeting containing several planning applications. Cllr. Lawrie, being a member of the Planning Committee, is obliged to attend this meeting.

He had produced a schedule of meetings up to the end of the council year, but these dates would have to be changed due to the Area meetings falling on the same dates.

16. Village events:

Cllr. Barbara Richmond said that a sub-group running these events will produce a calendar of the year's events which will show one activity per month. The first of these will be the churchyard clean-up on Saturday, 23rd September.

On 14th October Fool's Gold performance at St. Helen's Church at 7.30pm, £5.00 including refreshments.

It was suggested that Cllr. Plunkett's planned walk which had been cancelled earlier in the year, should be re-instated, adding that dogs would be especially welcomed.

Lynne O'Reilly, who is a graphic designer, offered to produce posters for forthcoming events.

17. Bell View:

Cllrs. Barbara Richmond and Marie Gillespie and Rev'd Rob Kelsey had attended the Soup & Sandwiches Lunch in July when a questionnaire was handed out asking local people what they feel is lacking in the village. Some 18 people attended. Cornhill will have its own portion of identification and events will be held to encourage residents, particularly the elderly, to join in. A first suggestion was a Christmas party which the PC would attend and towards which it would make a donation. It was agreed that the Manager of Bell View, Jane Field, should be invited to the next PC meeting to discuss other possible events.

18. Donaldsons Lodge problems with telephone and internet:

Following the long-standing complaints by Cllr. Plunkett about holes in the grass verges, exposed cables, loss of telephone and internet connection, and slow broadband, he had contacted John Cooper of iNorthumberland and the problems on the road sides have now been solved.

Cllr. Lawrie reported that a representative from iNorthumberland is visiting parishes with updates regarding local fibre broadband. He showed a map noting where the work is being/has been done.

19. Planning:

Application ref: 17/02581/FUL – Proposed sunroom extension + timber terrace with deck to rear of dwelling house – Orchard House, Donaldsons Lodge.

This had been reviewed by the PC and no objections were lodged.

20. Funding Fair – Tuesday, 26th September, at Felton Village Hall:

Possible attendance at this event was discussed with a view to requesting funding for new Play Equipment. It was agreed that more time is needed to review what might be required and that the matter be left until next year.

21. Joint meeting with town and parish councils on Thursday, 19th October:

This will be held at the Northumberland Hall, Alnwick – agenda to follow nearer the time.

22. Correspondence: none.

23. Parishioners' questions on agenda items: none.

24. Any other business:

- **Churchyard improvements** – Rev'd Kelsey had sent a message to the clerk saying that he is having difficulty in contacting Cathy Ryan, the landscape gardener. He had suggested a meeting on site, but had received no reply. Consequently, he assumes Ms Ryan is no longer interested in the project, and he is therefore in the process of trying to find another landscape gardener.

25. Date of next meeting: Thursday, 9th November 2017, at 6.00pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....