

**DRAFT****Cornhill Parish Council****Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018,  
at the Village Hall at 6.00pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. Barbara Richmond (Chairman), Mick Plunkett, Tina Ayre, David Richmond, Eddie Barrowman, clerk Angela Hallam-Baker.  
PC Perry attended for a short time to give his report.

**In attendance:** Marie Gillespie, Martin and Elizabeth Devon.

**1. Apologies for absence** were received from Rev'd Rob Kelsey and Rev'd John Carr.

**2. Police Report:**

PC Perry reported that no crimes in the parish had been reported since the last meeting. However, there were reports of poaching further south in the region of the A697 road, and hare-coursing in the Wark and Carham area.

He said that the Wooler Police team had been re-structured and now includes the area from Scremerston and Norham down to Rothbury and Seahouses and surrounding areas.

PC Perry was thanked for his help in getting the speed strip in Cornhill, and he said the village should soon have the speed van deployed.

**3. Parishioners' questions:** none.

**4. The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018** were agreed and signed.

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

- **Traffic island** – the broken lantern was reported to Highways, but the clerk was told that it is the responsibility of the lighting crew and the message was passed on to Mark Kane. It has not yet been mended, but it was assumed the repair would be done when the lighting crew come to put in the LED lamps on the posts.

**6. Financial Report:**

The clerk circulated copies of the statement of account as at today's date. This showed a credit balance of £3,893.32, of which £1,575.59 is ring-fenced for the festive lighting.

The Village Shop was thanked for raising £335.00 on an Easter raffle, and £535.00 on a bingo evening, which sums are included in the festive lighting fund phase 2.

**7. Planning applications:**

- i) **18/00386/PRUTPO** – pruning of sycamore tree at No. 3 Tweed Meadows – GRANTED.
- ii) **18/00842/FUL** – land at Donaldsons Lodge – the PC had asked that this application be put before the Planning Committee and that a site visit be made. The original submission stated concern at the position of the site entrance, but would welcome the possibility of new jobs being created.

**iii) 17/03894/FUL** – Cornhill School land disposal consultation – a letter from NCC’s Paul Urwin, Senior Surveyor, Strategic Estates, stated that “in accordance with S.77 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Council is required to consult on the proposed disposal of any land defined as playing fields. Comments received will be forwarded to the Secretary of State as part of the Council’s application for consent to the disposal.”

The letter further stated that “the site has been redundant and unused since the school closed in 2012”. The PC stated that this is incorrect, and that they sent in the following comment to the Planning Dept. on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017:

*The site of the proposed development has been used for recreation by villagers for more than 50 years. When the school was open, they were granted free access to the playing fields by the School Governors. After the close of the school, the gates were left open and the site has since been used on a daily basis. It has been our understanding that access to part of the site would continue, based on minutes of the CPC meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014 which record that John Marshall, Senior Surveyor, NCC, had advised the chairman of the intention of NCC to erect 10-12 affordable houses on the site and to gift some of the site to CPC via a Community Asset Transfer to be maintained as a play area.”*

On 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018 a notice was received with an amended plan for the development showing the number of proposed units reduced from 24 to 23 and an open area created in one corner of the site. This is apparently to be used as a soakaway, and does not deal with the objections to the original proposals submitted, that the development would deprive the community of the playing field without providing alternative amenity land.

Following discussion, the PC agreed that letters should be sent to the Planning Officer and to Paul Urwin pointing out these objections. It was also suggested that the PC should write to the Secretary of State with copies to Sport England and Anne-Marie Trevelyan.

**iv) 18/00552/MISC** – broadband cabinet & trench at Donaldsons Lodge – Mick reported that a neighbour of his accidentally came across this planning application, with permission, for a broadband cabinet at St. Cuthbert’s road end, and the digging of a trench in his garden for an underground cable linking to an electric pole on his property. Mick pointed out that the cabinet is 400 yards away from this supply, and he wrote to John Cooper (IT at NCC) to enquire why the PC had not been consulted on this. He was told that with such applications, there is no requirement for NCC to inform landowners affected or the PC. Mick would follow this up with BT.

**v) 18/01007/FUL** – Anaerobic Digester at Stickle Heaton – this application has been WITHDRAWN following a public meeting which was attended by a senior planning officer, and attracted a large audience of objectors. Clare and Frank Dakin were thanked for their valuable input.

## **8. Data Protection Bill:**

An amendment to the Bill removing the need for parish councils to have a Data Protection Officer appears to have been carried without opposition. Martin Devon confirmed this.

The only list of names and addresses held by the clerk is that of the parish councillors, which appears for all to see on line.

### **9. Cornhill Community Action Group (CCAG):**

Firstly, it was agreed that any funds raised and donated should be paid into the Cornhill Parish Council bank account and ring-fenced for CCAG.

Barbara went through the programme of events:

**Village Fair** – this will be held on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> August, and hosted by the Collingwood Arms. Plans are in hand for various stalls and entertainments.

**Churchyard Project** – it was reported that Toni Bush of Halo Projects had spent some time walking round the churchyard and had helped to clarify the aims and objectives of the project, and submitted a document identifying areas of need. She had also helped to formulate a questionnaire which is due to be used to encourage the involvement of more people. She has submitted an invoice and the PC was asked to split the cost with Cornhill Parish Council.

It had been assumed that the cost of Toni's work and ongoing expense was to be shared between the Church Council and the Parish Council, but it had previously been agreed by the PC that the project should be run by the Church and that the PC would make a donation towards costs. Mick requested confirmation that this was still the understanding.

As regards payment of the invoice, it was agreed that the PC would wait for a response from the Churchwardens when they had had an opportunity to review Toni's report.

**Summer Afternoon Tea on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> June**, 2.00pm – 4.00pm, at the Village Hall – this will be a joint event (PC, St. Helen's and Bell View). Help will be required. The Cornhill Community Choir will give its first performance.

**Festive Lighting** – this is still in the pipeline, and it is not yet known how many more poles will be available for box installation.

**Village Walks** – Mick is in the process of working out a fourth walk.

**Talks** – Elizabeth had led an interesting talk on 12<sup>th</sup> May on the geology in Cornhill, and this is to be followed by a talk in the church on 17<sup>th</sup> May, both followed by refreshments.

**History Project** – Dr. Bailey had withdrawn his input to this, but the project would be pursued. It was suggested that the Berwick-based archivist, Linda Bankier be invited to talk to a public meeting, and Clive Hallam-Baker would be happy to lead a walk and talk around the Flodden Battlefield.

### **10. Footpaths:**

The Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATS) Nos. 18, 19 and 21 had been registered and rubber-stamped. A gate will be installed on Bridleway No. 213/009 to allow access through the wood to the riverbank. No further progress had been reported with the riverside path.

### **11. Play Area:**

A quote for £350.00 had been received from Hands On, Branxton, for removing the climbing frame and the concrete base, and making good the ground. This was accepted. Since this trader is not VAT registered, the clerk had suggested that the PC be invoiced direct for the hire of a skip at the VAT-inclusive cost of £258.00, so that the VAT could be reclaimed. The permit for putting the skip on the road was costed at £30.00. To avoid having to pay for this, it was agreed that a request be made to put the skip on the grass.

David enquired whether we should keep this as a play area, since it was costing a lot of money to maintain it. It was pointed out that under the contract of handover from NCC, it had to be kept as a play area, and also that the questionnaire circulated to the village had firmly stated that it should be kept as such.

**12. Speed survey:**

A detailed documented survey had been carried out by Coldstream and Cornhill. No further information had been received from Coldstream as to what action they were going to take.

**13. Library Van:**

Reports that the mobile library was to be discontinued were apparently unfounded. The van is being repaired and would be back on the road shortly. In the meantime, a transit van is being used as a temporary measure.

**14. British Legion Armistice Vigil:**

The clerk had received a request that this be discussed at the PC meeting. Although the PC supported this, participation would be organised by the churches.

**15. County Councillor's Report:** none.

**16. Correspondence:**

- **Weed control** – the NCC is to employ ten extra staff to carry out weed-spraying treatment on hard landscape areas. The weed-killer will contain a harmless blue dye which will allow the teams and public to see exactly where it has been sprayed. The equipment used to treat weeds in some road channels means that the blue dye cannot be added, but in areas where the road meets the pavement there will be a white residue left instead of a blue one.
- **Building Control and Planning** – a request from Barrowden Parish Council, Leics. to complete a survey on parish councils' views on ending the split between development control and building control.
- **"Tweed Walk"** - request from Norham PC for parish councils to meet to discuss improving the walk along the south side of the Tweed from Berwick to Coldstream.

**17. Any other business:**

- **Litter pick** from Cornhill to Donaldsons Lodge – Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> June, 9.30am at the Village Shop.

**18. Parishioners' questions** on agenda items – none.

**19. Date of next meeting: Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 6.00pm at the Village Hall.**

Signed.....

Date.....