

DRAFT**Cornhill Parish Council****Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday, 8th May 2019,
at the Village Hall at 6.00pm**

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

In attendance: Sharon Knight, Martin and Elizabeth Devon, Clive Hallam-Baker,
Ann Brown

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Mick Plunkett, Susan Dorrian, and Joan Easton, County Cllrs. Roderick Lawrie and Glen Sanderson, Revd. John Carr, Revd. Rob Kelsey, PC Dan Perry.

2. Chair's opening remarks:

Barbara welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked her fellow councillors for their work and support throughout the year, and particularly the clerk for extra work and guidance. She also thanked County Cllrs. Roderick Lawrie and Glen Sanderson for their help and guidance, and Ann Brown for attending meetings in the absence of Cllr. Lawrie. Also included in her thanks were Revd. John Carr and residents Martin and Elizabeth Devon for their interest and input, particularly with the Community Action and Social History groups. Two new councillors had been co-opted – Joan Easton and Susan Dorrian, but the PC was sorry to accept Eddie Barrowman's resignation due to his and his family's move out of the area.

Barbara stated that during the year the PC had had an extensive workload including:

- Debate over the Gleasons' planning application to build on the school field
- Problems with speeding traffic through the village
- Pursuing the repair of the interactive speed monitor
- Problem of vehicles leaving engines running outside the village shop
- Pursuing NCC to have the new LED street lamps installed
- Pursuing NCC to have the pedestrian island bollard & lights repaired
- Obtaining a new lamp in the dark passage between Rickerbys and Station Gardens
- Removal of outdated climbing frame in Station Gardens play area and installation of hopscotch concrete slabs

Also general maintenance:

- Potholes filled
- Benches repaired
- Litter picks between Cornhill and Coldstream Bridge and to Tillmouth Bridge
- Monitoring footpaths, including Mick Plunkett's involvement in opening up a footpath from Coldstream Bridge to Berwick
- Monthly play area inspections by Mick Plunkett
- Closed churchyard clearing up

Also mentioned:

- The success of the Cornhill Community Action and Social History Groups
- County Cllr. Lawrie's NCC Members' Small Scheme grant to purchase a defibrillator for Tillmouth Village Hall, five new flower tubs for the village, and hopscotch slabs for the play area
- Thanks to Alan Cater for managing the community website during the past six years, and to Jim Nuttall for taking this over on Alan's retirement
- Break-in at the Village Shop – and the subsequent difficulty in contacting the Police due to the Scottish postcode and area 'phone codes. Barbara asked the clerk to check that the details are posted on the Community Website
- Submissions to the Northumberland Development Plan regarding the numbers and locations of wind farms and settlement areas
- Submission following the cross-country rail consultation

Information regarding all these items is included in the minutes of the bi-monthly meetings, which are available on the Community Website and are posted following the meetings on the Cornhill and Donaldsons Lodge notice boards.

Barbara thanked all who have been concerned in attending to the above.

Finally, Barbara mentioned a proposed transfer by NCC to the Parish Council of the old Cornhill school site. An initial meeting had been held with a representative of NCC. Discussions are ongoing, and it is intended to hold a public meeting within the next few weeks.

3. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2018, which had been circulated, were agreed and signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes: none.

5. Presentation of the unaudited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019:

Copies of the Income & Expenditure Account and the Annual Return Accounting Statement had been circulated to the councillors prior to the meeting. These were signed by the Chair and would be presented to the internal auditor for verification before again being presented to the councillors. It was agreed that Susan McCall should again be asked to carry out the internal audit.

Since the Parish Council's turnover is below £25,000 per annum, it is not necessary to submit the Annual Return to the external auditors, but a Certificate of Exemption signed by the Chair would be submitted. These documents would be displayed on the website and the parish notice boards.

The current Asset Register was agreed by the meeting.

6. County Councillor's Report:

Cllr. Lawrie, who was unable to attend the meeting, had sent his report as follows:

"I have worked with Cornhill Parish Council on a number of issues, all of which have had great results: a new replacement speeding sign, after the existing one broke down, and at no cost to the parish after raising the matter with the MD of the company.

Fighting to stop the development of the old school site in Cornhill. New up to date LED lighting in the streets. A new defibrillator for Tillmouth. Fly tipping and littering, which we suffer not only in Cornhill, but all over the ward, and 100s of potholes around the parish. I continue to help many individuals in the parish whenever they need it.”

There followed a lengthy report on work done in other parts of the County – attached.

7. Invitation to Sharon Knight to join the Parish Council:

As Sharon has shown an interest in becoming involved in the community and joining the Parish Council, it was proposed by Barbara and seconded by Tina, that she be co-opted as a member. This was agreed unanimously.

8. Election of Chair:

Barbara reminded the PC that it had been agreed that the position of Chair should be rotated in order that one person should not have to do the job indefinitely. However, it was proposed by Tina and seconded by Sharon that she continues for another year as Chair. Barbara agreed to this, and her election was supported unanimously.

9. Programme of meetings for the current year:

- Wednesday, 8th May 2019
- Thursday, 11th July 2019
- Thursday, 12th September 2019
- Thursday, 14th November 2019
- Thursday, 9th January 2020
- Thursday, 12th March 2020

Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday, 14th May 2020

All meetings in the Village Hall at 6.00pm

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 6.40pm

Signed.....

Date.....