

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

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

In attendance: 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. Police Report:

PC Perry had sent his report as follows:

“ The information to pass since the last meeting on 14th March is as follows. There have been some recorded incidents / evidence of poaching in the local area. I would ask that people report any suspicious persons or vehicles that they see, both within Cornhill and further afield if they are in the rural parts of our area.

A general reminder on behalf of our farming community that dog owners are to be mindful of their obligations when walking their dogs on footpaths in fields containing livestock.

There has been a report of a burglary to the fishing sheds on the bank of the River Tweed. Offenders remain unknown at this time. Further to this within our rural area there was a recent report of a burglary at Kilham, whereby a quad has been stolen from a farming outbuilding. Enquires into this crime continue.

If there are any further issues or matters that need to be addressed then please can I be contacted in the usual way.”

Following a report of drug paraphernalia being found on the grass verge in Donaldsons Lodge, this had been reported to the Police who had said they would give the area as much attention as they could. It was requested that any evidence of drug use should be reported to the Police.

Due to the danger to members of public coming into contact with any such drug-related items, it was agreed by the PC that warning notices be posted on the notice boards, website and local newsletter.

3. Parishioners' Questions: none.

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2019 were agreed and signed.

5. Matters arising from the minutes:

- Light between Rickerbys and Station Gardens installed.
- Damaged interactive speed sign radar unit replaced free of charge.

- Police speed camera – expected by June.
- Cllr. Lawrie’s Members’ Small Schemes grant – all items requested installed. A further £1,000 would be available for the current year, and councillors and parishioners were asked to consider how this could be spent.
- Vacancies on Parish Council – both filled by co-option.

6. Financial Report:

Copies of the Financial Statement at 8th May 2019 were distributed showing a bank balance of £1,505.10.

It had been agreed by councillors to increase the clerk’s annual fee by 3% bringing it to £757.05.

7. Proposed Capital Asset Transfer of Cornhill school site from NCC to the Parish Council:

Having considered this offer, the Parish Council had unanimously agreed at its meeting on 2nd April 2019, to accept the transfer of the school building and the playing field.

A steering group was formed, including the parish councillors and volunteer specialists, Martin and Elizabeth Devon, Clive Hallam-Baker and John Hardy. Since any professional advice from these volunteers would be given voluntarily, they would not be liable.

An initial site meeting had been held on 24th April with NCC’s Neil Easton and Iain Hedley to discuss the way forward. A further PC meeting with Iain would be arranged for Tuesday, 21st May to form a plan for a public meeting in order to put forward the current situation, ask for proposals from members of the public, and discuss the issues involved.

Sharon offered to keep a log of what needs to be done. It was agreed that this would be useful and much appreciated.

8. Planning Applications:

- Planning Application Ref: 19/00288LBC (Cornhill House repairs) – granted.
- Planning Application Ref: 19/00080/FUL (removal of railway abutment) – withdrawn
- Planning Application Ref: 19/00082/FUL (removal of disused railway bridge) – withdrawn.

9. Cornhill Community Action Group:

Prior to the meeting Barbara had circulated a report on the actions of the Group including an agenda for its meeting on 30th May when future use of funds and new initiatives would be discussed. She attached a diary of the events for the year which is posted on the village notice board.

A suggestion was put forward that the CCAG could become a constituted fund-raising group, with charitable status, perhaps also including the school playing field (intended to become the village green). This would allow for application for grants outside the range of the Parish Council. This will be discussed at the next PC meeting.

It was stated that the Churchyard Project is struggling for funds, but is not big enough to run a fund-raising event under its own initiative, and that the Social History Project also needs funds, to pay for oral history training. These two projects might be considered to be included in a constituted CCAG.

It was noted that grant-funding is available, and a useful source would be to attend a CAN Meet the Funders evening.

10. Footpaths:

A report had been received from Phil Bradley, NCC Area Countryside Officer, that “there has been some illegal strimming of paths across fields in the area, not by the farmer”. Mick ascertained that the public footpath in question runs up his drive at Harper Ridge and then through the field towards Stickle Heaton, but that he could find no evidence of strimming. The land is cultivated by local farmer, Cameron Binnie, and Mick had suggested that the clerk invites him to contact the PC or attend a future meeting if he has any queries about footpath issues. Barbara felt it necessary to wait until Mick returns from holiday in order to have further discussion with him.

Proposed Lower Tweed Trail – minutes of the Group’s meeting held on 16th April had been circulated, informing that most of the works on the path in Norham Parish had been done. Whether signage is adequate would be checked and publicity discussed, and parishes involved would be asked to produce a list of places of interest. Each parish is to be responsible for signage within their parish, and Mick had agreed to undertake this. Although not within Cornhill parish, it was noted that Phil would check the footpath between Twizell Bridge and Etal.

11. Broadband:

Mick, resident in Donaldsons Lodge, had reported that he is struggling with his broadband having only a 2mbps internet connection. Since 93% of properties in the county now have superfast broadband, Mick had contacted the iNorthumberland website, to be told that “*Availability Checker Not Available – this post code is not in Northumberland*”. Mick referred the matter to Cllr. Lawrie for help.

12. Road repairs:

The PC had requested a site meeting with NCC to inspect and discuss the road surface between the Collingwood Arms and the post box. The visit had been cancelled by NCC due to unforeseen circumstances, but had not been re-instated. NCC had been liaising with Julie at the village shop rather than the PC, which had issued the complaint. It was therefore agreed that the clerk should contact Neil Howie and Graham Bucknall again to request a visit.

13. Wall & fence in Station Gardens:

The owners of the privately-owned houses, and No. 3, owned by Bernicia, had agreed to consider jointly paying for these to be repaired or replaced. Bernicia agreed to obtain a quotation.

14. Play Area:

Mick was again thanked for carrying out the monthly inspection. He reported that the relatively new football net had large holes in it, and he had removed it to prevent children getting their heads stuck in these. The hopscotch slabs had been installed, and a notice would be displayed describing the rules for the game.

15. 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.”

Cllr. Lawrie followed this with a lengthy report on work done in other parts of the County – attached.

16. Correspondence:

NALC reported that it has a diary of training sessions for chairs, councillors and clerks. Further information to follow at a future meeting.

17. Any other business:

A complaint that the open churchyard is not being kept tidy was forwarded to the Churchwardens.

18. Date of next meeting: Thursday, 11th July 2019, at 6.00pm at the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....