

Cornhill Parish Council

Minutes of a special meeting held on Tuesday, 2nd April 2019, at 10.30am at the Village Hall to consider the future of the Old School Site.

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

In attendance: Martin Devon and Clive Hallam-Baker

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Joan Easton and Elizabeth Devon.

2. Co-option of Susan Dorrian as a member of the Parish Council:

This was proposed by Barbara and seconded by Tina, and agreed unanimously.

3. Main purpose of the meeting: At a meeting with Neil Easton and Iain Hedley of Northumberland County Council on Thursday 14th March 2019, the Parish Council was offered a Community Asset Transfer of the Cornhill School building and field. Parish Council undertook to consider the offer, and the purpose of today's meeting was to decide on our response. Three options were considered; to accept:

- a) the transfer of the building and playing field;
- b) the transfer of the playing field only; or
- c) no transfer.

It was unanimously agreed that the preferred option is to take transfer of the building and playing field, and that this decision should be advised to NCC without further delay.

It was noted that by doing so, the PC is expressing a willingness to pursue an opportunity, but that it is not under any obligation until and if any legal documentation is signed. Councillors will explore options and their implications in detail and may decide that transfer of the building is not feasible.

Therefore, it was further agreed that in any event transfer of the playing fields should be pursued, so that they are secured for the community.

4. The use of volunteer specialists:

It was unanimously agreed that, as well as the assistance offered by Iain Hedley, NCC Community Regeneration Officer, the following three volunteers with specialist skills should be engaged:

Martin Devon - structural engineer and expert on timber construction

Elizabeth Devon - administration

Clive Hallam-Baker - experience in local government affairs and building construction.

Other support from the community would be welcomed.

It was acknowledged and agreed that ultimate responsibility for decisions taken would lie with the Parish Council.

5. The way forward:

A meeting with Iain Hedley, members of the Parish Council, and volunteer specialists, will be held on Wednesday, 24th April, at 2.00pm at the school site, followed by a wrap-up meeting in the church, to consider process and next steps.

Depending on the outcome of that meeting, a Public Meeting will be called.

Signed:

Date: