

DRAFT**Cornhill Parish Council****Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 11th July 2019,
at the Village Hall at 6.00pm**

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

In attendance: Martin and Elizabeth Devon.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Joan Easton, Rev'd Rob Kelsey, Rev'd John Carr, PC Dan Perry.

2. Police Report:

PC Perry had sent a report stating that since the last meeting there had been four crimes recorded in the wider Cornhill area, two allegations of assault and one public order offence. These relate to allegations between known parties and should not impact on anyone within the wider community. There is also an allegation of theft which is under investigation.

3. Parishioners' questions:

- **Dog fouling in the churchyard** – notices had been placed on the gates to both churchyards asking people not to take their dogs in. This appeared to be having little effect, and it was suggested a stronger notice asking people to clean up, bin it and bag it, might have more effect. This would be suggested to the Churchwardens and Clergy.
- **Parking by traffic island** – large vehicles were reported to be parking here obscuring the view of pedestrians crossing and traffic pulling out of St. Helen's Gardens. The clerk would mention this to PC Perry and ask if anything could be done.
- **Church steps** – in order to allow access for wheelchairs, a sloping path would need to be placed by the steps. The clerk would ask NCC if they would provide this.

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2019 were agreed and signed.

5. Matters arising from the minutes:

- **Police speed camera notices** - had been erected on the approaches to the village and it was therefore assumed the camera vans would be operating imminently.
- **County Councillor's Members' Small Scheme grants** – suggestions: Cllr. Lawrie had agreed to match fund the placing of the green strip outside the village shop and cottages. The clerk would remind him about this. It was also suggested he might consider funding the church path, referred to above.
- **Broadband in Donaldson's Lodge** – Mick reported no progress and had circulated a document describing what had been done, or not done, so far.

- **Road works** – it was reported that the shared parking space from the Collingwood Arms drive to the bus shelter had been resurfaced and the bus stop markings re-painted. The gravel had been swept from the area in front of the cottages and shop.
- **Wall and railing in Station Gardens** – a quote had been received via Bernicia for the replacement of the wall and fence. This amounted to £3,461.26 for the railing, and £7,158.59 for a new wall, making a total cost of £10,619.85 – a cost of £2,654.96 for each of the four private houses. This was considered to be out of all proportion, and the quote forwarded to the residents to find another means of repairing. It was noted that this was not a matter for the Parish Council, although they had initially pointed out that it spoilt the approach to Station Gardens.
- **Play Area inspection** – the annual inspection had found no problems with the equipment, and Mick was again thanked for carrying out the monthly inspections.

6. Financial Report:

The clerk distributed copies of the statement of account at today's date. This showed a credit balance of £3,421.58, of which £1,677.92 was ring-fenced for the festive lights, the CCAG, and a contingency fund, leaving an actual balance of £1,743.66.

It was noted that the grass-cutting of the play area had doubled since this time last year, presumably due to last year's dry summer. It was agreed that the grass could perhaps be cut less often to reduce the cost.

7. Cornhill School site – Report on Public Meeting and subsequent actions:

It was felt that the Public Meeting on 4th July had been a success in that there was a substantial number of attendees (40+) including representatives from across the parish.

They were well informed and actively engaged via questions and suggestions.

Notes were taken, and the councillors have now been asked to contribute their own expressions of interest, and forward these to the clerk by 19th July. The outcome of the meeting and subsequent contributions could then be made public, ie. a progress report and key factors.

Whereas the PC had gained some useful information from the meeting, it had not obtained evaluation criteria from the attendees. However, the PC felt it had gained a sufficient mandate to go forward. A substantial vote, via show of hands, was given by the attendees for the transfer of the whole site, and similar for the green area alone.

Barbara cited five of the PC's evaluation criteria which had been made known to the meeting, and suggested that the PC's objective be based on the feedback we now have:

- i) the project must generate social and economic environmental benefits for Cornhill Parish
- ii) it must not result in PC having hands-on responsibility
- iii) it must generate profits which the PC can put to the benefit of Cornhill Parish
- iv) it must not detract from our enjoyment of the village green or the wider village
- v) it must not operate 24/7, not involve high volume of traffic, nor high levels of noise and pollution.

The PC felt that it is now in a position to ask for further expressions of interest. Guidelines would be offered, and any expressions received would need to be justified, bearing in mind

that Cornhill is a small rural village, and that it is situated on the border with Scotland. Two expressions of interest have already been received, and these would be looked at.

The general feeling of the Public Meeting was to aim at a development incorporating health and leisure – a gym, exercise machines, etc., and to register the grassed area as a village green, also allowing leisure activities.

It was agreed that Iain Hedley should be notified of the PC's progress so far, particularly that the attendees showed overwhelming support for the CAT of the whole school site, and if this turned out to be non-negotiable, for the grassed area alone. Barbara would write to him, also informing him of the PC's decision to draw up a request for expressions of interest from potential strategic partners. Cllrs. Lawrie and Sanderson would also be kept informed.

It would be necessary to produce an Information Pack to give to prospective developers, containing photographs, floor plan, dimensions, technical description, etc. This would be put together by Barbara and Martin incorporating any further information from the councillors. Martin had agreed to take the measurements, for which it would presumably be necessary to gain access to the building.

Publicity - an article would be required to submit to the local Press, including The Journal, containing expressions of interest received. Clive had offered to try to get in touch with newspaper contacts he has used in the past who would also be provided copies of the press release. Cllrs. Lawrie and Sanderson would be sent copies.

The local community would be kept informed of progress via the website, the newsletter and the notice boards.

In conclusion, a resume of the objectives intended was documented as follows:

- Validation of the PC's processes so far
- Agreement of way forward
- Development of evaluation criteria
- Identification of general direction/objective
- Plan for development of expressions of interest
- Plan of campaign to keep NCC on board
- Feedback to the community

8. CCAG Report:

Barbara reported on the meeting held on 13th May.

Festive lights - It had been agreed to add to the festive lights, possibly on a prominent tree. There was currently £804 in the pot, plus £120 from Lynda. Further fund-raising may be required, but there would be £1,000 available to spend.

Summer Fair - this would be held in the Collingwood garden on Sunday, 28th July. The village green would have first call on the £600 from last year's event plus funds from this year's event.

Bell View Afternoon Tea – this covered its own costs, and several thanks had been received from the community for a successful and enjoyable event.

Social History Project - Elizabeth reported that this is going ahead really well.

9. Footpaths:

Tweed Trail - Mick reported that this is going ahead, and that each participating parish would be asked to contribute £300 towards a comprehensive leaflet containing text and map. Joan Easton had kindly agreed to fund Cornhill Parish's section, for which she was thanked in her absence.

It would be necessary to keep the Cornhill section in good repair, and Phil Bradley would be asked if we could add more of the Tweed Trail to the grass-cutting reimbursed by NCC.

Mick again raised the question of the overgrown footpath from Cornhill through Donaldson's Lodge to Twizel Bridge. Pedestrians have to walk mostly on the road.

Mick had contacted Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick MP, and received a reply saying she is pleased with the progress made since 2010 to encourage more cycling and walking. She reported that "the Government has published guidance on the preparation of infrastructure plans in order to support local bodies to take a more strategic approach to improving conditions for cycling and walking". Anne-Marie's letter further stated "it is for local authorities to identify and prioritise investment for cycling and walking schemes from local funds and relevant national funding streams". It was suggested that the MP should be invited to have a look at the overgrown paths to back up any claim the PC may make.

The problem with footpaths over Binnie's land remains in spite of his being asked to cut these. Footpaths Officer, Phil Bradley, had done his best to have these cut. It was agreed that a letter to the landowner, Michael Blake, might produce results.

The accusation that one of the paths had been strimmed (by person unknown), resulting in the Police being called, had still not been resolved.

10. NALC training dates:

These to be forwarded again to parish councillors.

11. County Councillor's Report:

The agenda had been sent to Cllr. Lawrie, but no apologies for absence or report received.

12. Any other business:

- **Countryside Walk** - Mick said he is looking towards organising the next walk, probably at the end of July.
- **Litter pick** - this was planned for Monday, 5th August, from Donaldson's Lodge to Twizel Bridge, meeting at 9.20am outside the church in DL.
- **Speeding in Donaldson's Lodge** - Mick asked that this item be added to next year's Local Transport Plan.
- **Cornhill Community Website** - Sharon asked that the out of date items be removed, and current event dates and flyers be inserted. The clerk had already asked for this to be done, but would send a reminder.

13. Date of next meeting: Thursday, 12th September 2019, 6.00pm at the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....