

## Cornhill Parish Council

### Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs. Barbara Richmond, David Richmond, Mick Plunkett, Tina Ayre,  
Clerk Angela Hallam-Baker.

**In attendance:** Elizabeth Devon and Ann Brown.

Eddie Barrowman, who had recently tendered in writing his resignation from the Parish Council, came to say how sorry he is to leave, but that he and his family are shortly to move to a new home in Paxton. The councillors also expressed their regret, thanked him for his service on the Parish Council, and wished him well.

**1. Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr. Joan Easton, County Cllr. Roderick Lawrie, Revd. John Carr, Revd. Rob Kelsey, PC Dan Perry.

**2. Police Report:**

PC Perry had sent a report informing the PC that there has been a recent spate across North Northumberland of thefts of quad bikes. Two have occurred in and around Mindrum, which are under investigation.

Across the broader area and for other offences, police have made arrests and charged an individual in relation to some of these offences. There has been a report of a theft from a farm outside Cornhill on 5<sup>th</sup> March which is also under investigation. Other than this there have been no other issues of crime and disorder for Cornhill. Any issues for Dan should be communicated to him.

**3. Parishioner's Questions:**

A letter was received from Vera Porter complaining about the state of the pavements and the area outside her cottage and the Village Shop. This had been forwarded to Cllr. Lawrie who agreed to speak to Mrs. Porter and to investigate the possibility of having this area re-surfaced. Mick stated that the area outside the church in Donaldsons Lodge was also in a bad state with potholes.

**4. The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019** were agreed and signed.

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

- **Lighting** - It is understood that the extra light between Rickerbys and Station Gardens is due to be installed week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The lights 19CJ and 20CJ in St. Helen's Gardens had been fixed.
- **Repair to wall in Station Gardens** - Bernicia, the housing association, had responded to the clerk's request for repairs to the wall and painting the fence outside nos. 1-7 Station Gardens. They stated that they are only responsible for no.

3, the rest being privately owned. Bernicia offered to obtain a price to have the wall repaired and the fence painted if the other residents would be willing to contribute to the cost. The other residents had been contacted and are willing to consider this.

#### **6. Financial Report:**

The clerk distributed a statement of the PC's financial account showing a credit balance of £2,125.32. After deducting the ring-fenced amount for the Festive Lights of £804.62 and that for CCAG of £478.30, this showed a balance of £842.40. Outstanding VAT to be reclaimed at the end of March amounts to £677.00, and the first half of the precept (£1,463) will be due mid-April.

It was suggested and agreed that the PC should have a contingency fund for unexpected costs. This would amount to £250.00 to be ring-fenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April every year until further notice.

#### **7. Cornhill School Site:**

Two representatives of NCC had been to speak to the PC about the possible transfer of the school building and field. Discussion is ongoing.

#### **8. Planning Applications:**

- **Ref: 19/00288/LBC** - Listed Building Consent for various internal & external repairs to Cornhill House. Since this is a listed building, it is assumed any works undertaken will comply with the statutory regulations. The PC expressed no objections.
- **Ref: 19/00080/FUL** - Removal of disused railway abutment on A697 north west of Clovelly. The PC questioned why this was requested when the abutment appears to be in good condition. However, it was agreed that its removal would allow more room for a hard surface footpath to Clovelly and the adjacent properties, for which the PC had put in a request. This fact would be communicated to the planners.
- **Ref: 19/00082/FUL** - Removal of disused railway bridge south east of St. Cuthbert's Cottages. It was noted that this is not adjacent to any highway, but in the middle of a field beside a track leading to the cottages. Again, the planners would be asked for what reason would it need to be removed.

#### **9. Traffic calming:**

- **Damaged interactive speed sign** - following numerous requests by the clerk and intervention by Cllr. Lawrie, Unipart Dorman have agreed to replace the damaged radar unit free of charge. Both Cllr. Lawrie and the clerk were thanked for their persistence in this matter.
- **Police speed camera** - Cllrs. Sanderson and Lawrie are attempting to hurry this along.
- **30mph wheelie bin stickers** - these are available, but it was agreed that they would not make much impact in Cornhill.

#### **10. County Councillor's Members' Small Schemes grant:**

The defibrillator had been installed at Tillmouth Village Hall, for which the VH Committee had expressed their appreciation, and would arrange a training session. Five flower tubs

had been purchased to replace some of the old tubs in Cornhill. An order had been put in for concrete slabs to be installed for hopscotch on the play area in Station Gardens.

### **11. Cornhill Community Website:**

Alan Cater had officially retired at the end of December 2018 from managing the website, and Eddie Barrowman had been intending to take it on. However, due to his house move and resignation from the Parish Council, he is unable to do this. In view of this the PC has been able to secure the services of Jim Nuttall to host and manage the website. The transfer has taken place smoothly, and the PC is pleased that Jim is handling requests for posting of notices, etc., promptly.

Alan was thanked for having carried out the job so efficiently during the past six years.

### **12. Northumberland Development Plan:**

The following representations have been submitted to NCC Planning Strategy:

#### 1. Re: the Identification of Areas Suitable for Wind Turbine Development.

Cornhill Parish Council supports the submission of N & N S, and in particular the point made that the Plan exposes local communities to the risk that their views could be overridden by the planning authority. N & N S recommends that REN2 should redrawn so that the planning authority may not substitute its views for those of the local community and that for a proposal to be accepted it must have positive local community backing. Cornhill Parish Council considers this principle to be of fundamental importance.

#### 2. Re: STP1 Spatial Strategy. Last year Cornhill Parish Council submitted comments in connection with STP1. Our position was and remains that it is necessary to ensure that local community inputs are properly represented and given weight. Our submission dated March 2019 is that greater clarity is required with particular reference to:

- para 1.e – who is going to exercise the judgement required to assess whether development should be permitted – i.e in what way will the voice of the local community be heard and what weight will its voice be given; and
- para 1.f – what is the definition of clear community support.

### **13. Cornhill Community Action Group Report:**

Barbara distributed a report on ongoing initiatives, with diary dates. A statement of the ring-fenced account to date showed a credit balance of £478.30.

It was noted that the next churchyard clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March.

Flower pots have been put by the church door, and it is planned to sow some wild flower seeds in the churchyard.

**Festive Lights Project** - Barbara reported that the ring-fenced credit balance for the lights project stands at £804.62. Installing extra lights on the existing poles would cost around £500 per pole, and instead suggestions for other lights were requested. One of these was to install a Christmas tree on the site of the removed phone box. This would be considered, but the wind is a constant problem in the main street.

### **14. Cornhill Social History Project Report:**

Barbara presented the minutes of the last meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (attached), and stated that very real progress is being made in the compilation of local family records, led by Eric Grounds and ably assisted by David and Sharon Knight. Elizabeth had posted a series of old photographs on the website together with appropriate links to other sites.

Training for the Oral History part of the project would be available, but costly. It had been suggested that a bingo evening in September/October be considered to raise funds.

**15. Footpaths:**

Mick reported that the Tweed Trail project is progressing and that he would be happy to put up signage on the Cornhill Parish section. He also stated that two of the DL footpaths were still seeded and need to be re-instated.

**16. County Councillor's Report:**

Cllr. Lawrie had sent a message stating that he is working hard for his ward via email and phone and valued the assistance of Glen Sanderson on the ground. He is pleased to have been instrumental in saving Cornhill Parish funds in getting the interactive speed sign repaired free of charge.

Cllr. Lawrie is being kept in touch with all repair work required in the parish which is the responsibility of NCC, and adding weight to the PC's requests.

**17. Any other business:**

- **Vacancies on the Parish Council** - It was noted that there are two vacancies, and it was agreed that a notice should be posted on the website and in the Newsletter.
- **Litter pick** - this would take place on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, from Cornhill to Coldstream Bridge, meeting at 9.30 outside the Village Shop.

**18. Date of next meeting: Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019, at the Village Hall.**

**6.00pm Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the May meeting  
at approximately 6.30pm**

Signed.....

Date.....