

Cornhill Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 9th July 2015, at the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Mick Plunkett (Chairman), David Buckle, Marie Gillespie, Tina Ayre, Karen Stewart, County Cllr. Dougie Watkin, Clerk Angela Hallam-Baker.

In attendance: Cllr. Rae Huntley (vice-Chair of Ord Parish Council)
Parishioners: David and Barbara Richmond.
Rev. Rob Kelsey attended for part of the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence were received from PC Dan Perry (Northumbria Police)

2. Police Report:

PC Perry had sent a report stating that two thefts of diesel had occurred from parked vehicles at Mindrum. The culprits had not yet been detected.

3. Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr. Rae Huntley explained that Ord Parish Council is part of the Norham & Islandshire Parish Council Association which consists of nine parishes stretching from Berwick to Holy Island, and this group is preparing to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.

Cornhill, although part of Glendale, would be welcome to join with Norham & Islandshire, and could be part of both camps.

A Neighbourhood Plan is designed to give a voice to each parish council and enable them to take part in planning, but it will require quite a bit of work to put the plan together. It is expected that the main issues will be to do with housing and building works. Decisions will be made by the parish councils and their parishioners, who know more about their local areas, and once they have adopted a plan, the County Council will conduct full consultation with them.

Consultations will cost money, and N & I would finance this for Cornhill. They have £8,000 to finance the consultation and a further £6,000 if they can get other parish councils to go with them. NCC will have the larger share of the funding.

Initially a questionnaire would be issued to all households for their views on issues such as type of housing, wind farms, footpaths, protection of village halls, etc. It may take two years to have a plan accepted, with a great deal of consultation, and County Councillors would be expected to give their support.

Cllr. Buckle stated that in the past Cornhill was invited to join with Wooler, but that did not go ahead, cost being the main reason. In the current proposed Plan, he asked who would do all the hard work for what would be a complex process, required to be well-prepared and well-produced. Cllr. Huntley stated that N & I has a number of strong characters, but would need co-operation with other parishes.

There will be clear constraints, and advice would be given by a dedicated officer at County Hall through the County Councillors. Mrs. Richmond asked whether there would be a set of standards, and that it would be helpful to have a consensus of what a parish wants, and therefore what would be put in the questionnaire. Cllr. Watkin handed round a copy of the Allendale Plan to give some idea of this, but this is a very long document and it was suggested that much of it would not apply to small parishes.

Questions were asked as to what would be the outcome if every parish in the group came up with something different. Cllr. Huntley suggested that it would make sense to concentrate on one specific issue. Cornhill PC had produced a Parish Plan in 2005/6, and this might be a starting point, although it may be out of date. It was suggested that a series of public meetings would need to be held before starting on a Plan.

Cllr. Huntley suggested that a member of the Parish Council attend the N & I meeting on Monday, 13th July, when David English would give a presentation on the Neighbourhood Plan, and the Chairman agreed to do this. He asked that questions anyone would like him to ask be emailed to him. The PC could then perhaps have another meeting to discuss the matter further.

Cllr. Huntley said that it is intended to set up a Neighbourhood Plan website with a drop-down page for each parish council.

He was thanked by the Chairman for his informative presentation and left the meeting.

4. Parishioners' Question Time

Interactive Speed Sign - Mr. Eric Bell had enquired about the promised interactive speed sign and had been told that an order for this had been submitted to the supplier and would be installed in 3 to 4 weeks' time. He suggested that as it is solar powered, it should be located away from the line of trees outside Tweed Meadows, and it was agreed that it should be put between the last tree and Plum Tree House.

Street cleaning – Mr. Bell also asked that the gutters on Main Street should be cleared of weeds which were causing flooding after heavy rain. The clerk had already asked NCC to attend to this.

Planters in Station Gardens – Mr. Colin Tait had mentioned that the two tubs had not been planted this year, and that he had put flowers in one of them himself. The clerk explained that these were extra tubs supplied by the PC and not the responsibility of Cornhill-in-Bloom. Last year the PC had planted a perennial plant in the centre of each tub hoping that these would spread and fill the space, but one of them had died.

It was agreed that the clerk should write and thank Mr. Tait for planting the tub, and that next year the PC would supply flowers if he would like to plant them.

Seat for Station Gardens – Mr. Tait said that residents had been asking for a seat for the older people to use. The PC agreed that this would be a good idea, and the Chairman would look into the purchase of one.

Pedestrian crossing - Mrs. Porter had requested directly to NCC that a crossing be put on the Main Street. This was listed on the Local Transport Plan (with no comment from NCC). It had already been agreed some time ago, but nothing further had been heard about it.

5. County Councillor's Report:

Cllr. Watkin referred to the requests listed on the Local Transport Plan Programme 2016-17 and the comments from NCC.

Priority 1 stated that there is insufficient funding to address the issue of a footpath extension from Millbrae to the Old Mill, and that it can be reconsidered for future years.

Priority 2 – this is a request for a Pedestrians in Road warning sign on the B6350 Wark to Cornhill road, prior to the bridge and junction with A698. This had been suggested as a temporary measure prior to putting in a footpath extension.

Cllr. Watkin announced that this had been agreed, and suggested the clerk contact Margaret Robinson at NCC.

Priority 3 –double white lines through Donaldson's Lodge – NCC had stated that sections where forward visibility is acceptable cannot be given a continuous white line; also that a

continuous white line would place an undue restriction on those whose properties adjoin the road.

Cllr. Watkin said the provision of double white lines had also been agreed by NCC, and that the ruling should be challenged.

6. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2015:

The minutes, which had been circulated to the Councillors and posted on the notice boards and website, were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

7. Matters arising from the minutes:

- **Speeding motor bikes at Donaldsons Lodge** – the Police had said they were monitoring this as far as is possible.
- **Local Heroes Award** – Cllr. Watkin would chase this up.
- **Flower tubs** – a donation of £100.00 had been given to Cornhill-in-Bloom to purchase four new tubs to replace the broken ones.
- **Rural bus services** – it was suggested that the proposed cuts would not affect this area.
- **Tour of Britain** – the clerk had been informed that the cyclists would be in “race mode” when passing through Cornhill on 9th September and therefore not likely to stop. However, there would be many onlookers, and the clerk had warned the Village Shop that they would be likely to be busy.
It was noted that the A697 would be closed from Coldstream Bridge to Crookham between 11.45am and 1.15pm on Wednesday, 9th September.
- **Parish Council vacancies** – it was agreed that Karen Stewart of Donaldsons Lodge be co-opted to the Parish Council. Joanne Cowens, also of Donaldsons Lodge, had expressed an interest, but apologised for being unable to attend this meeting.
- **Litter picking** – volunteers were asked to meet at the Village Shop on Monday, 20th July, at 9.30am.
- **Play park** – the short chains for the cradle swing had been returned to the supplier and the old longer ones put back, although Alan Cater had stated that new chains would be preferable. The rounded missing plank had been replaced by the joiner.
- **Grass cutting** – NCC had finally agreed to cut the area beyond Station Cottages, since this does not belong to the PC. Peter Logan was to cut the grass on the play area as and when required. The Chairman would continue to send photographs to NCC of areas which need cutting.
- **Footpath along the river** – the Chairman had written to the agents informing them that the gate is permanently locked and that there are signs saying “Private – Keep Out”. He was told that this is due to vandalism, but that walkers could access the path from the other side of the bridge. It was agreed that allowing people to walk along this path would be a deterrent to vandals. It was suggested that perhaps the path might be included on the definitive map, and the Chairman agreed to speak to Phil Bradley about this.
- **Flooding south of Coldstream Bridge** – the road had been resurfaced and the flooding reduced.

8. Financial Report:

The clerk distributed copies of the statement of account showing a balance of £6,287.71.

This includes a grant of £3,500 from NCC Members’ fund towards the interactive speed sign,

for which a cheque was drawn at the meeting in the sum of £3,916.98, leaving a current balance of £2,370.73.

9. Roadworks:

The Parish Council had received a complaint from Tillmouth Village Hall Committee relating to the occupation of the car park by vehicles engaged in NCC roadworks on the A698 at Tillmouth on 19th and 20th May. No permission was sought or given and no warning received. The car park was full, leaving no room for legitimate users, and deep ruts had been left in the car park entrance and damage caused to the surrounding grass areas..

PC Chairman, Cllr. Plunkett, had contacted NCC and requested that an apology be sent to the Village Hall, and that in future permission be sought. He requested that the damage be repaired immediately.

10. Cornhill Community Website:

A reminder was issued to parishioners to access the website regularly and submit contributions of local interest through the clerk.

11. Coldstream Energy Switch:

Information had been received from Coldstream Community Trust promoting this money-saving initiative relating to gas and electricity bills. This is open to all households in the UK.

From 4th August the community website, www.Coldstream.Co, under 'Energy Switch', will have a computer link to register people's interest in switching. For those not familiar with computers, the community centre can help with offline input after 4th August. It will be necessary to have to hand details of typical annual gas and electricity usage.

Note: this offer applies to both dual-fuel and just electricity or gas.

Anyone showing interest before August should contact Gerald Tait on 01890 882685, 077257 18589 or on tenwickettait@gmail.com

Full details will be posted on the village noticeboards and on the website and handouts will be available in the Village Shop and in the Church.

Cllr. Stewart stated the tenants of Four Housing in Donaldsons Lodge, who had been issued with new boilers, had been advised that they could not switch their electricity suppliers. She agreed to take up this matter with Four Housing.

12. Friends of Rural Northumberland:

It was agreed that Cornhill PC should join this new venture launched by CAN (Community Action Northumberland), which will provide and gather information on issues facing rural communities. There is no membership fee, and surveys and questions will be emailed to the clerk a few times each year.

13. Review of Polling Districts:

Notices would be posted on the village boards and website to enable residents to submit representations by 28th July 2015 if they have any problems regarding voting facilities.

14. Insurance:

Since the three-year contract with the PC's current insurers is due to expire at the end of August, the clerk is making enquiries as to whether Cornhill can join the NCC parish councils block scheme, which should be cheaper.

15. Planning Training:

The PC was informed that a session on planning training is due to take place on Wednesday, 15th July, at the William Elder Building in Berwick between 6pm and 9pm.

16. Any other business:

- **Planning Application Ref: 13/03385/OUT** - the PC had been advised that this re-submitted withdrawn application for 7 homes on land north-west of Oaklea Lodge, Main Street, has been refused permission.

17. Date of next meeting: Thursday, 10th September 2015, at 6.00pm at the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....

DRAFT