

Cornhill Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 8th January 2015,
at the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Mick Plunkett, David Buckle, Marie Gillespie, Tina Ayre.
 Rev. Robert Kelsey. Alan Cater and PC Alan Morton attended to give their reports.
 Clerk Angela Hallam-Baker.

1. Apologies for absence: County Cllr. Dougie Watkin.

2. Resignation of Cllr. Keith Bailey:

The Parish Council had received a letter of resignation from Keith Bailey, and this was regretfully accepted.

Since the number of members was now reduced to four, it was agreed that the requisite notice of advertisement of the vacancies should be publically displayed.

3. Police Report:

PC Morton reported that there had been no crime or disorder reported in the Parish since the last meeting, but the public was advised to ensure that properties and possessions are kept secure. Trading Standards officials were investigating vans selling fish.

4. Parishioners' Questions – none.

5. The minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2014 were agreed and signed.

6. Matters arising from the minutes:

- **Superfast broadband** – it was understood that this is imminent in Cornhill. It was believed that this would be coming from Coldstream, although the green box in the village shows i-northumberland. Since Crookham has been live for two months, Cllr. Plunkett agreed to get in touch with David Banks to make enquiries.
- **Tourist Information Board** – the new board is now in position, but the yellowing perspex from the old board has been put back and the casing has not been sealed therefore causing condensation. This is making the information difficult to read. The clerk would contact Paul Nichol about this.
- **Planting on the roundabout** – Cllr. Plunkett offered to put some canes around the plants to protect them from the grass cutter.
- **Cemetery gate** - nothing further had been done about this, but it was easy to open the left-hand gate.
- **Northumberland Local Heroes Awards** – it is understood that Cornhill Shop has won an award, but they are still waiting to receive confirmation of this. Other deserving residents were suggested for future nominations.
- **Donaldson's Lodge 'phone box** – still waiting to hear back from the Planning Officer.
- **Community consultation event** – nothing further heard from Jane Field.
- **Barmoor Wind Farm EDF Community Fund** – the clerk had enquired about receiving a grant from this, and is due to hear from CAN this month.
- **Damage to wicket gates on railway line footpath** – Phil Bradley will have a look at these.

7. Financial Report:

The clerk distributed a note of the financial transactions since the last meeting, showing a bank balance of £2,174.80. Imminent payments to be deducted included repairs to the climbing frame.

It was agreed to keep the annual precept at £2,700 for the year 2015/2016.

8. Cornhill Community Website:

Alan Cater reported that this needs to be kept up to date with more input on local news. The links shown should be reciprocated to encourage visitors to look at the website, and the address should be promoted. As well as the Cornhill Newsletter appearing on the website, Alan suggested that the editor of the Ford/Etal/Crookham/Branxton "Fourum" should be asked to send him a copy for inclusion. He also asked that the Cornhill Newsletter be sent direct to him.

Since the PC meeting minutes are put on the Parish Page soon after meetings, it was agreed that these should contain the word DRAFT.

9. Play Area Land Registration:

The transfer of ownership of the land to the PC had been completed. This now requires a notice stating the names of the playground and operator, and contact details. Alan would prepare a draft, and suggested that a new email address should be provided for the contact details, eg. parishclerk@cornhill-on-tweed.co.uk

10. Play Area monthly report:

Alan submitted his report showing minor items which required attention. He had fitted the new cradle swing, but there had been complaints that this is too high to lift a child into. The chains are the regulation length, as directed by the EU, to ensure that the person lifting the child would not strain his or her back. However, Alan would take a further look and take the matter up with the suppliers.

It was agreed that the torn net between the goal posts is not necessary and should be removed, and that the damaged ring on the baseball post should also be removed. Alan agreed to do this.

Cllr. Ayre reported that the field adjacent to the school building was being used by local children who were building their own makeshift play items. It was hoped that the wind farm grant money would be forthcoming to spend on new items for this and the Station Gardens park.

11. Planning Application No. 14/04092/OUT:

The PC had registered no objections to this application to build a dwelling on an infill plot south west of The Elms on the Berwick road.

12. Request for extra grit bins:

Two requests for grit bins had been received, one to be situated at the top end of Station Gardens and the other on Knowe Head between the Old Vicarage and the main road. Since there are already nine in the village, it was not thought necessary to purchase others. It was emphasised that the grit is provided to be spread by residents, and that if people are slipping on ice, this is not being done.

Cllr. Buckle felt there is a need for a grit bin on the C20 Cornhill to Campfield road. This is steep and regularly used. The clerk would put in a request for this to be considered a necessity.

13. Grass cutting:

It was suggested that to ensure the grass is cut regularly and tidily, the Parish could employ its own grass-cutter. It was therefore agreed that quotes for the work should be obtained, and presented to the residents at a public meeting to enquire whether they would be prepared to accept an increase in the precept to cover the cost. In the event of a majority agreement, NCC would be asked for a rebate. If the County Council would not agree to this, the Councillors were adamant that they would not wish to employ an outside contractor and therefore have to pay twice.

Mention was made of cut grass lying on the pavements, and the clerk agreed to ask NCC to use a grass blower to remove it.

14. Glendale Gateway Mission Statement:

A letter had been received from the Chair of the GGT enclosing a Mission Statement outlining its aims to benefit the community, economy, environment and heritage of Glendale. This was accepted unanimously by the Councillors.

15. Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy Consultation:

Drop-in sessions are to be held on Wednesday, 14th January, at the Cheviot Centre, Wooler, from 10.00am to 2.00pm, and on Wednesday, 21st January, at Berwick Town Hall from 2.00pm to 7.00pm.

16. Any other business:

- **Flower tubs** – it was noted that some of the tubs in Cornhill are falling apart. Cllr. Plunkett offered to repair any he could, and report back.
- **Footpath between Crossways House and The Stables** – it was agreed to make a further request to NCC to provide a path along this section of the A697 which currently leads to three houses. New dwellings are due to be built on the plot behind The Stables, adding to the number of people using this.
- **Footpath by roundabout** – due to the roundabout being too big to allow large trucks to negotiate the turn on the road, they were using part of the footpath leaving it muddy. It was agreed that NCC should be asked to visit and put forward suggestions to counter this.
- **Potholes and flooding on the A697 opposite the entrance to The Stables** - this had been causing problems for some time. The potholes had been filled several times, but were constantly opening up causing damage to vehicles and necessitating their taking avoiding action by swerving on to the opposite carriageway. The water draining off the field needs to be dealt with, and the clerk would report this to Highways Dept.
- **Church sign** – a sign advertising local information displayed in the church had been placed on the footpath. Rev. Kelsey would send a photograph of this to Alan for the website for wider publicity.

17. Parishioners' questions on agenda items: none.

18. Date of next meeting: Thursday, 12th March 2015, at 6.00pm at the Village Hall.

Signed.....

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