

## **Cornhill Parish Council**

### **Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013, at 6.00pm at the Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. William Carrington (Chairman), David Buckle, Marie Gillespie, Anthony Jewels, Claudio Rickard, County Cllr. Dougie Watkin, PC Dan Perry, Parishioners Derek and Veronica Sheldrick. Anne Reay, Stephanie Carrington and Charlotte Djadoz were present for Item 16 – Parishioners’ question time.

**1. Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr. Mick Plunkett.

**2. Resignation of Michael Francis and Keith Bailey:**

The resignations from the Parish Council of Keith Bailey and Michael Francis (who had recently left the district) were presented and accepted.

**3. Co-option of Anthony Jewels and Claudio Rickard:**

Anthony and Claudio were welcomed to the meeting and duly co-opted to the Parish Council. The Chairman expressed his pleasure at having two young councillors on board.

**4. Police Report:**

PC Dan Perry reported two crimes in Cornhill since 1<sup>st</sup> June – one detected and one undetected. One of these involved damage to a boat and a rod rack on the Cornhill side of the River Tweed, and the other involved a person passing through the village in a vehicle in possession of drugs. PC Perry also reported a car having driven across the roundabout and crashed into a bollard.

The matter of speeding in the village was again raised. Following discussion at previous meetings, it was considered that the proposed flashing 30mph sign would not be a significant deterrent to speeding traffic. Cllr. Watkin had agreed to fund one of these in Lowick, in addition to one in Cornhill, and it was agreed that the matter be left in abeyance pending results from that. The last tested speed just past the Village Shop was 32.6mph which was not high enough to qualify for speed camera vans. It was thought that the main offenders were commercial vehicles.

There had been reports of the Police having been called to the playing field at Cornhill School due to damage caused to gutters by one or two young people and general low level disorder. The Police had therefore had to ask the people concerned to move away from the school, which regrettably had meant that the innocent are no longer permitted to play football there.

**5. Parishioners; Questions:**

*i) Would the PC please seek further information from Councillor Watkin as to which end of the village and where exactly the flashing 30mph sign is to be located? Given that most traffic speeds through the village from both directions, who determines and by what means, which end of the village would be the most effective location? The traffic from Coldstream enters the village travelling at speeds up to the National Speed Limit of 60mph, whereas the traffic at the other end of the village has been slowed down by the roundabout.*

This item was discussed during the Police Report at Agenda Item 4. Mr. Sheldrick suggested that flashing signs should not be situated in line of sight of private property.

*ii) Could the PC please ask Councillor Watkin to confirm from County Council exactly what interest they have received to date and from whom regarding the sale of Cornhill School? What is the time scale before a decision is made, and will the PC be consulted in the decision making process?*

Cllr. Watkin could not comment on what interest was being shown since this was sensitive information. He felt that it was unlikely that the PC would be consulted, and that the sale might go to auction. It had been rumored that a developer for housing was interested, and that a youth related project was possible.

It was pointed out that the Freedom of Information Act should allow sight of change of use, and Cllr. Watkin said that this would have to go through the planning process and that the PC would therefore be advised and asked to comment. The Chairman stated that the whole village would need to be involved and adequate time allowed for representations to be made.

*iii) Further to the Public Meeting about improvements to the village, could the PC please confirm when the Tourist Information Board is likely to be updated?*

*Also as previously suggested, will the old roadside milestone on the corner opposite St. Helen's Gardens be painted as a small cosmetic feature?*

The clerk said that the updating of the TI Board was in hand and would be completed as soon as possible.

Cllr. Plunkett had kindly offered to paint the milestone.

*iv) Could the PC please give an update on the Planning Application for a time limit extension for the alleged Caretaker's Dwelling at the Stables, as was circulated to Councillors in December 2012?*

This application had been passed in spite of the PC's adverse comments, and since no new evidence had been put forward, the application for a time limit extension had gone through on the nod. The Chairman agreed to investigate this further.

*v) A further question asked that the phone kiosk be repainted and the Perspex windows cleaned.*

The clerk agreed to write to BT and ask for this work to be done.

An email from Lynda Boland thanked the PC for brightening up the village with the flower tubs and flowers on the roundabout, and also for the regular cutting of grass verges and repainting of the white lines on the road.

**6. The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013** were agreed and signed.

#### **7. Matters arising from the minutes:**

- **East Moneylaws wind turbines** – no further information.
- **Wind turbine at Yetholm Loch** – 189 objections had been received, and 10 in support.
- **Internet Café** – The Chairman had spoken to Lynda at the Village Shop suggesting they took over the payment for the BT rental for the internet line. She had agreed to this, and the clerk would liaise with her to get the direct debit moved to the Village Shop account.

It was agreed that the PC would continue to supply the ink cartridges for printing the

two Walks leaflets, the other two being printed by the Chairman and Cllr. Buckle, who also supplied the paper. The Chairman continued to print the Newsletter. The Chairman suggested that the second computer, purchased for the Internet Café and which was not being used, could be used by the clerk to replace her own ageing laptop. This was agreed.

- **Broadband** – it was not known what percentage of people in the Cornhill Parish had responded to the County Council’s request for support, but it was thought that only half of the parishioners were connected to the internet. The speed was still mostly under 2mbps. It was hoped that a connection was to be put in Cornhill, but it appeared that residents might have to dig their own trenches in which to put pipes.

## **8. County Councillor’s Report:**

**Wind turbines** - no further information was forthcoming as yet.

**Planning** - there are some concerns about the changes to the planning system. Homeowners will be able to extend their properties by up to 6 metres for terrace/semi-detached properties or 8 metres for detached properties without the need for planning permission.

Office buildings can be converted to residential use without permission, and smaller agricultural buildings can be converted for a range of other uses also without permission.

**Community Chest** – this form of funding is being re-appraised by the new County Council.

**Potholes and re-surfacing** – these are being dealt with as time allows. The road surface at the Goslaw Cut is in bad condition and needs re-surfacing.

## **9. Financial Report:**

The clerk distributed a note of the financial transactions since the last meeting, the main expenditure being on the planting on the roundabout, the flowers for the Cornhill tubs, and the new tubs and flowers in Donaldson’s Lodge.

## **10. Planting on the roundabout and tubs:**

The plants are having to be watered every evening during the current heatwave.

A request had been received for two more tubs in Station Gardens. This was agreed, and it was suggested that the residents be asked to choose the flowers. The residents had agreed to water them, and the clerk was asked to order the tubs and the flowers.

The Parish Council is being asked to pay £100 per annum per bin for the grit deposited in the bins in Tweed Meadows and Station Gardens Bungalows last year 2012/13. If the PC disagrees with this charge, it is asked to get back to NCC for discussion. The clerk was asked to do this.

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

The Chairman had arranged to meet Alan Cater next month to re-write the website so that details could be submitted for a grant application.

## **12. Cornhill School playing field:**

This was discussed under the Police Report at Item 4.

## **13. Wark Common wind turbine and met mast:**

Cllr. Watkin declared an interest and took no part in discussion on this issue.

The Chairman stated that, since this proposed development would have no benefit to the community, the PC should continue to oppose it.

**14. Correspondence:**

The clerk had been notified that NCC are re-launching the campaign to help reduce dog fouling across the County and enforce the council's dog control orders. Offenders could face an on the spot fine of £75, and if prosecuted, a fine of up to £1,000 if they fail to pick up after their dogs. Posters and stickers for ordinary litter bins are available, and the clerk would order a supply of these.

It was reported that considerable fouling is occurring on the grass verge beside the bridge on the C20 road to East Learmouth, and this would be reported to the Dog Warden.

**15. Any other business:**

- **Housing for Older People in Glendale** – Cllr. Buckle reported that the Glendale Gateway Trust is leading a working group to look at the provision of housing for the ageing population. The closing of Horsdenside Retirement Home has resulted in the 23 residents being displaced, and this has added to the lack of accommodation for elderly people in the Glendale area.

The Trust would like to discuss ideas with parish councils, and it was therefore agreed that Cornhill would hold a public meeting in the Village Hall on a Saturday morning in either September or October. The clerk would arrange this on a date suitable for Patsy Healey, Chair of the GGT, and David Buckle, Vice-Chair.

Subsequently, the meeting was arranged for Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2013, at the Village Hall from 10.00am to 12.00 noon.

**16. Parishioners' Question Time:**

- **Traffic speeding from the roundabout up the A697 road** – Anne Reay of The Stables, Cornhill, expressed concern at the danger to horses and riders on this section of the road caused by speeding vehicles. She said that turning right into her property with horses and her horse-drawn carriage was a dangerous manoeuvre. On the opposite side of the road there is no footpath between Station Gardens and the entrance to The Stables, nor are there any street lights. As there is an ongoing request to NCC to construct a footpath on the B6350, it was felt this request be added as well. Anne and her riders were also having problems with traffic when riding through the village and down the Wark road.

It was suggested that the Police be asked to put a speed strip across the A697, and that NCC be asked to move the deregulation and 30mph signs further up the road.

- **Ragwort** – Anne said there was a large amount of ragwort around the village. NCC is responsible for removing this from the grass verges and landowners from their property. The clerk to report this. For more information, see Ragwort Control Act 2003.
- **Parking on the footpath beside No. 1 St. Helen's Gardens** – Cllr. Gillespie reported that this was causing an obstruction and asked that some form of barrier be placed to prevent this.

**17. Date of next meeting: Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 6.00pm at the Village Hall.**

This concluded the business of the meeting which was closed at 7.30pm.

Signed..... Date.....