

Cornhill Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 19th May 2014, at the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Mick Plunkett, David Buckle, Marie Gillespie, Keith Bailey,
County Cllr. Dougie Watkin, Rev. Rob Kelsey.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Claudio Rickard who was away on business.

2. Chairman's opening remarks and report for the year ended 31st March 2014:

Cllr. Plunkett, as acting Chairman, opened the meeting. He referred to the co-option of Claudio Rickard and Anthony Jewels in July, saying how pleased the Parish Council was to welcome two young members. Sadly, Anthony felt he could no longer remain as a member after the year end due to pressure of work and had offered his resignation.

Similarly, the Parish Council was sorry to receive the resignation of former Chairman, William Carrington, due to a conflict of interests.

Cllr. Plunkett also referred briefly to the following items of business dealt with during the year which are documented in the minutes of the Parish Council meetings:

- The new Cornhill Community Website rebuilt, hosted and managed by Alan Cater.
- Requests to reduce speeding traffic in Cornhill and Donaldson's Lodge.
- Requests to make the Wark road safer for pedestrians.
- Planting on the roundabout and purchase of oak tubs and plants in the two villages.
- The annoyance of the PC and many residents at the way in which the future of the former Cornhill School site had been handled by the County Council. A drop-in event was held subsequently by Four Housing, followed by a Housing Survey which determined a need for only 10 new houses to be built in Cornhill, including bungalows for elderly people. Four Housing had said that fewer than 24 units would not be viable for the developer, but Neil Turnbull of NCC had said that the County Council had its own house-building programme and would build where houses are needed.

The Parish Council had suggested retaining the school building and converting it to small business units and pop-up shops. Setting up a Community Land Trust was suggested in order to protect a community asset. The Parish must be thinking in terms of maximum benefit for the community now and in the future, and this would be likely to require housing for the ageing population and hopefully young families. It was hoped that this could be achieved and discussed amicably.

- The impending transfer of the Play Area in Station Gardens to the ownership of the Parish Council.
- The two half-days spent by Parish Councillors in picking up litter from the road verges between Cornhill and Coldstream Bridge, and Cornhill and Donaldson's Lodge.
- Fly-tipping in Donaldson's Lodge, which was cleared by NCC upon request.
- Two blocked rights of way were re-opened with the co-operation of the landowner and the NCC Footpaths Officer.

3. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th May 2013 were agreed and signed.

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

Cllr. Watkin stated that there had been no applicants for the 5 houses in Norham destined for shared ownership and these had been put into the Social Housing sector.

5. Presentation of unaudited accounts for the year to 31st March 2014:

Copies of the Income & Expenditure Account and Final Summary for the year were circulated to the meeting. The Clerk went through the figures, and there were no questions. It was proposed and agreed that these be accepted. The Annual Return was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. An internal audit would be required, and it was agreed that Susan McCall be asked to undertake this again. The accounts will be available for inspection by parishioners from 9th June, and the Annual Return will then be sent to the external auditors in time for the audit date of 7th July 2014.

6. County Councillor's Report for the year ended 31st March 2014:

- **County Council's management structure** - Cllr. Watkin stated that the County Council's plan to save £30 million was decimating the staff. The Chief Executive and his five former colleagues had been replaced by three Executive Directors.
- **Grass cutting** - Cllr. Watkin told the meeting that two extra cuts a year would cost in the region of £200. The PC is under the impression that these would have to be in March and October, but Cllr. Watkin informed them that they could be done at any time on request. This would need to be clarified.
- **Planning** - Cllr. Watkin stated that parish councils can now request updates on planning applications within their postcode areas.
- **Home-care** - some home-care visits are being carried out by people from Tyneside because there are not enough local people applying for the jobs. This means that they need to travel there and back twice a day. This is costly and could be difficult during bad weather.
- **Cornhill Play Area** - Four Housing may be able to help with the maintenance of this.

7. Election of Parish Council Officials:

Chairman: Cllr. Mick Plunkett, proposed by Cllr. Buckle, seconded by Cllr. Gillespie.

Deputy Chairman: Cllr. David Buckle, proposed by Cllr. Plunkett, seconded by Cllr. Gillespie. Both elections were agreed unanimously.

8. Co-option of new members:

The vacancies on the Parish Council had been advertised according to the statutory regulations.

Dr. Keith Bailey had expressed an interest and was co-opted with unanimous agreement.

Mrs. Tina Ayre, currently on holiday, had also expressed an interest, and it was agreed that she would be considered for co-option when she returned.

There is still one vacancy on the PC and it was agreed that this should be advertised more widely, eg. in the local newsletter and on the website.

9. Programme of meetings for 2014/2015:

It was suggested that the day of the PC meetings be changed from the third Monday to the second Thursday of alternate months when the Village Hall would be available in the evening. This was agreed and the following dates had been booked with the meetings starting at 6.00pm:

2014:

Monday, 21st July (this date retained due to an earlier booking by another party)

Thursday, 11th September

Thursday, 13th November

2015:

Thursday, 8th January

Thursday, 12th March

Thursday, 14th May

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 6.35pm and thanked his fellow councillors and the clerk for their help and contributions towards the work of the Parish Council during the year.

Signed.....

Date.....