

## **Cornhill Parish Council**

### **Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014, at the Village Hall at 5.00pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. William Carrington (Chairman), Mick Plunkett, David Buckle, Marie Gillespie, Anthony Jewels, Claudio Rickard, and Clerk, Angela Hallam-Baker.

**1. Apologies for absence** were received from County Cllr. Dougie Watkin and Police Officer Dan Perry.

**2. Planning Application 14/00550/FUL** for a first floor extension, hard standing & new vehicular access via Knowe Head at The Cottage, Main Street, Cornhill:

Cllr. Carrington declared an interest and took no part in the following discussion, which was preceded by a site meeting. Comments were made on:

- The line of sight for vehicles exiting the property
- The question as to whether there is room within the property for a vehicle to turn and therefore exit forwards
- The garage and parking space opening on to the narrow B6350 road
- Whether the extension would be built and roofed in materials similar to those of the existing house
- A large proportion of the hedge would have to be removed
- New entrance in line of sight of listed building St. Helen's Church
- Possible infringement of easement relating to the neighbouring property's line of sight on to Knowe Head

These comments would be communicated to the Planning Office.

A vote was then taken for or against approval of the application, resulting in the five members being in favour.

It was noted that Cllr. Carrington, as an immediate neighbour, had not received notification of this application, nor had the requisite notice been posted on the outside of the property. The clerk would ask the planning department why this had not been done.

Cllr. Carrington then left the meeting offering his resignation from the Parish Council on the grounds that, in view of the result of the vote, he had a conflict of interests with the Parish Council.

### **3. Police Report:**

Police Officer Dan Perry had been unable to attend the meeting, but sent a report stating that there had been no reported crime or antisocial behaviour in the Parish during the past two months.

**4. Parishioners' Questions:** none.

**5. The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014** were agreed and signed.

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

- awaiting report from Stefan Bell on speeding traffic
- temporary work at Goslaw Cut may have been done, but road surface still bad
- Wark Common wind turbine application refused 8:1, also the Yetholm Loch application was refused, by Scottish Borders Council
- litter picking from Cornhill to Coldstream A697, and Cornhill to Donaldsons Lodge A698 undertaken by Parish Council. Bin purchased for layby.
- Five volunteers have applied to help with next litter picking.
- Dog fouling notices put up on C20 Cornhill to Learmouth road.
- Bus shelter cleaning – PC would have to pay NCC to do this. It was suggested that the person who cleans the Village Shop windows be asked if he would do it for a small fee.
- The clerk would liaise with Peter Logan regarding removal of overgrown grass on footpaths.

## **7. Post -16 Transport in Northumberland consultation:**

The document had been circulated to the Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. This was discussed and the questionnaire completed in accordance with the answers given. This will be submitted to NCC's Policy Board, as requested.

The general opinion was that the full cost of transport should be met by the County Council, otherwise youngsters could be disadvantaged. The geography of Northumberland renders it unrealistic to compare this county with other counties.

## **8. Revised Northumberland Town & Parish Council Charter Consultation:**

This document had been circulated to the Parish Councillors prior to the meeting for their consideration. Following discussion, the PC stated its agreement to the Shared Principles, the suggestions for better communication between the County Council and Town and Parish Councils, the intention of NCC to engage with the T and P Councils when making decisions to shape services and policies, and the transfer of management to the T and P Councils of the play area, bus shelters, seats and the war memorial – these items being applicable to Cornhill.

It was noted that the current North Area Meetings were often sited some distance from the old Berwick Borough parishes, and it was agreed to suggest that those applicable to the parishes in the extreme north of the county should be at more accessible venues; also that the agendas cover matters applicable to those parishes.

The feedback from the Consultation Document will be submitted to NCC before the deadline date of 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

## **9. Play Area:**

The transfer from NCC to Cornhill Parish Council is in the process of being transacted.

It was suggested that once the ownership has been transferred, an application should be sent to Awards for All for a grant to purchase additional play equipment. Cllr. Rickard agreed to make some sketches of possible equipment which could be displayed on the website for comment by local parents.

The possibility of moving the goal posts to the old school site was deferred until it was established what was to be done with this site.

The clerk had been informed by Alan Cater that he was shortly to undertake training in the inspection of play areas and equipment, and had offered to do this job for Cornhill at a cost

lower than NCC inspectors. The PC would be happy to take up this offer, and would also seek his advice on what equipment might be appropriate.

#### **10. Cornhill Community Website:**

With the help of Alan Cater, this is being kept more up to date, with the clerk endeavouring to submit items for publication as frequently as possible. Items from the PC or the public should be sent to her to be forwarded to Alan.

The Councillors who had not already submitted photographs of themselves were asked if they would do so.

#### **11. Planting:**

The clerk was asked to liaise with Tina Pope of Cornhill in Bloom to ask about their filling the tubs this summer. The PC would be happy to make a donation, though not pay the entire cost, as it did last year.

It was agreed that advice should be sought on what type of shrubs to plant on the roundabout, and that Peter Logan should be asked if he would be prepared to plant them.

**13. County Councillor's Report:** none due to the absence of Cllr. Watkin at an Area Meeting.

#### **14. Any other business:**

- **Speeding traffic** - it was noted that traffic is speeding from the roundabout past the bottom of the Station Gardens road, and the clerk was requested to report this to Highways Dept.
- **New telephone number** - NCC is reviewing the use of its 0845 600 6400 telephone number for the central contact centre, following concern at the cost of calling this number. As a result, from Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014, the Council has been offering locally recognisable telephone numbers alongside the 0845 number. The main local area code number for use within Cornhill Parish is **01890 230233**.
- **Fallen tree** – a tree beside the old railway bridge opposite Station Gardens had fallen into the road. Cllr. Rickard removed to the verge the part lying in the road, but this and the rest of the tree needs to be taken away. The clerk to advise Highways Dept.
- **Cornhill School site** – the clerk was asked to contact the NCC Estates Office to ask them how the property is being marketed and at what price. In spite of numerous residents trying to access this information, it has not been forthcoming.
- **Newsletter** – over 100 copies are available in the Village Shop each month, and it is posted on the website. There was a suggestion that volunteers might be asked to deliver it door-to-door, but it was thought that most of the residents visited the shop quite regularly.

#### **15. Parishioners' Question Time:**

- A resident who had recently moved to Cornhill said she was not aware of the dates of Parish Council meetings or that they were all open to the public. It was pointed out that these were publicised on the noticeboards and on the website. It was agreed that the dates should be listed in the Newsletter, and the clerk would post a separate notice on the boards to draw attention to the meetings and request input from the residents.

**16. Date of next meeting: Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014, at 6.00pm (includes the Annual Parish Meeting).**