

DRAFT**Cornhill Parish Council****Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, 12th May 2016,
at the Village Hall at 6.00pm**

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

In attendance: Parishioner David Richmond.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Revd. Rob Kelsey and PC Dan Perry.

2. Chairman's opening remarks and report for the year ended 31st March 2016:

The Chairman welcomed the members of the Parish Council, Cllr. Watkin, and parishioner David Richmond to the Annual Meeting. He thanked the Councillors and the Clerk for their work and input during the past year, and particularly thanked Karen and Barbara for agreeing to join the Parish Council.

He felt the PC had not achieved a great deal last year, mainly due to the County Council being under-staffed and therefore under pressure. However, he mentioned a number of improvements to the village including:

- A solar speed sign mounted outside Tweed Meadows.
- The roadside footpath in Donaldsons Lodge had been resurfaced and dropped kerbs installed.
- Various planning applications had been reviewed by the PC and comments sent to the NCC Planning Committee.
- The PC had contributed to Alan Cater's play area inspection training, and his detailed reports had been recognised, as a result of which repairs to the climbing frame and swing had been carried out. Sadly, Alan is unable to continue his inspections due to the high cost of his insurance.
- A new bench had been purchased for the play area.
- NCC Tourist Information had provided two new notice boards for Parish Council and local attractions and events notices.
- Footpaths Officer, Phil Bradley, had been helpful with the forthcoming Coldstream Walking Festival from 4th – 10th September.
- A fence, that had been obstructing walkers, cyclists and riders on County Highway U2, had been removed.
- Litter picking carried out on A697/698 within the Parish boundary.

On-going matters:

- New replacement road signs.
- Pedestrians in Road signs on B6350 Wark road.
- Improvements to the Churchyard – feasibility study being considered.
- LED new street lamps questionnaire.
- Grass-cutting in St. Helen's Gardens – requested.
- Double white lines through Donaldsons Lodge – unlikely.

3. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2015 were agreed and signed.

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

- **Old school site** – Cllr. Watkin said this could be subject to a pre-application. He was not at liberty to disclose possible plans.

5. Presentation of unaudited accounts for the year to 31st March 2016:

The Clerk distributed copies of the income & expenditure account and went through the items listed. The statement was agreed by all the Councillors and would be available for inspection by the public from 3rd June to 14th July 2016. The Annual Return was also agreed by all the Councillors and was signed by the Chairman. This would be submitted to the external auditors by 27th June 2016. It was agreed that Susan McCall should be asked if she would carry out the internal audit.

The Asset Register was presented to the Councillors, and it was agreed that the cost and value of the Solar Speed Sign should be documented as £3,916.98, which includes the erection cost.

6. County Councillor's Report for the year to 31st March 2016:

Cllr. Watkin reported that the County Council officers had been working under pressure – some of the staff having to undertake three jobs. It had been agreed to move the headquarters from Morpeth to Ashington.

Cllr. Watkin spoke of the proposed North East devolution deal which will result in powers being transferred from Westminster to local regions. In May 2017 a mayor is to be elected who will chair a Cabinet consisting of the seven leaders of the local authorities, and will be involved in making decisions affecting capital investment, funding, business support, housing, strategic planning, etc., throughout the north east area. The PC was concerned that funding would be concentrated in the south of the region.

7. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman:

Mick Plunkett was proposed as Chairman by Marie Gillespie, seconded by Karen Stewart. David Buckle was proposed as Deputy Chairman by Marie Gillespie, seconded by Barbara Richmond. Both appointments were unanimously agreed by the members present.

8. Programme of meetings for the year to 31st March 2017:

- Thursday, 14th July 2016
- Thursday, 8th September 2016
- Thursday, 10th November 2016
- Thursday, 12th January 2017
- Thursday, 9th March 2017

All meetings will be held in the Village Hall at 6.00pm unless otherwise advised.

9. Any other business: none.

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