

Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th of September 2015

At The Parish Hall, West Woodburn at 7.30pm

Present:- Councillors: C. Hamilton (Chair), C. Currie, P. Saunders, D. Carrington, P. Bilton, G. Scott (from 9pm onwards) Clerk: K. Traill

1) Apologies for absence: - County Councillor J. Riddle

2) Declarations of interest: - C. Hamilton in respect of West Woodburn First School, P. Saunders in respect of the Parish Hall.

3) Opportunities for members of the public to raise issues:- None raised

4) Minutes of the Corsenside Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6th of July 2015:- All minutes signed as a true & accurate record.

5) Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda:- K. Traill explained that she had contacted NCC regarding the grass verges having not been cut, K. Traill had been told that NCC would now only be cutting grass verges that were in sight lines and that this would only happen once a year. However it has been noted that around 3 weeks ago all grass verges on the A68 were cut. Cllr P. Bilton stated that none in East Woodburn had been cut. K. Traill also mentioned that she had enquired about moving the litter bin located at the bridge end to the other side of the road. Unfortunately the bin is concreted into the ground.

6) County Councillor's Report:- None

7) Notification of any other business for discussion, at the Chairman's discretion, under item 23 below:- K. Traill & Cllr C. Currie had items to discuss.

8) Cllr A. Pender's resignation – Councillor Vacancy – Election of Vice Chair:- K. Traill read out A. Pender's letter of resignation and Cllr's once again expressed their thanks to Anne for her many years of hard work. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that a replacement of Vice Chair was now needed. Cllr C. Currie proposed Cllr D. Carrington and Cllr P. Bilton seconded the proposal. Cllr D. Carrington accepted the position. The Councillor vacancy was discussed K. Traill will inform NCC and Cllr's will discuss in more detail at Octobers meeting.

9) Action point list:-

28. Jubilee Stones – Cllr D. Carrington explained that Steve Boam had tracked down the stones eventually. Unfortunately when they were cut unsightly water marks were revealed. The remedy he suggested was that they cut this part off which would make the stones smaller but they will still be a decent size. S. Boam is currently arranging for this to be done. Cllr D Carrington explained how she managed to come across a sculptor who would love to do the work as he knows Darney Quarry and the area well. Cllr D. Carrington showed Cllrs images of his work. Cllr D. Carrington talked through the prices and all Cllrs agreed to opt for the full wording at a total cost of £420 plus travel costs. Cllr D. Carrington will contact the sculptor and make the arrangements.

53. Defects on Road at Little Ridsdale – Work completed. Cllr C. Currie explained that a manhole at Little Ridsdale had been tarred over. M. Roe from NCC was now aware of this and work to rectify this would be carried out. Action completed.

74. Sharp bend at Sarelaw – Cllr C. Hamilton explained the meeting himself, Cllr D. Carrington and K. Traill had had with N. Snowdon of NCC. N. Snowdon agreed to put in plans immediately for extra road markings, signage warning of the sharp bend and the removal or trimming of a bush on the verge to improve sight lines. He has assured us that this can happen fairly quickly but in any event before the

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dark nights of winter arrive. N. Snowden updated K. Traill on the 18/08/15 stating that new building access has been provided on bend therefore they are unable to introduce a chevron sign. Alternative proposals include provision of bend warning sign and Reduce Speed Now supplementary plate, provision of SLOW road marking next to new sign assembly, increasing mounting height of advanced give way sign and plate, overlaying of existing hazard warning line from new bend warning sign. K. Traill & Cllr C. Hamilton have been unable to get in touch with N. Snowden for a further update before this meeting.

78. Overflowing Drain at East Woodburn - Cllr P. Bilton reported that work had been carried out at the end of July however this was not ideal. The verges had not been cut beforehand therefore limiting the digger drivers view. Earth dug out has just been piled at the top therefore causing other flooding issues. The NCC worker informed Cllr P. Bilton that he believed some of the problems were down to 2 permanent channels at each side of the road caused by tyres from heavy vehicles. K. Traill to contact K. Westerby of NCC.

80. Armstrong St & Whitearce – Cllr C. Hamilton updated all regarding the meeting himself and Cllr P. Bilton had with K. Westerby on the 15/07/15. K Westerby said that he would look into the resurfacing of Armstrong Street in Ridsdale and the road from the end of Armstrong Street down to Hindhaugh Farm. They discussed the fact that this has been on our LTP 'wish list' for a number of years now and that preparatory drainage work had been carried out some 18 months, or so, ago. Cllr C. Hamilton also mentioned that he had been led to believe, some time ago, from discussions with Michael Rowe, that the resurfacing work was due to be carried out in the near future and we are now passed that point in time. Cllr C. Hamilton stressed the importance of this work given that the road surface is very uneven on Armstrong Street due to a combination of pot holes, and poor repair work in the form of patch repairs, patches on top of patches and patches with potholes. This uneven surface causes a lot of noise and inconvenience to residents as the road is used frequently by heavy agricultural machinery which bounces and rattles up and down the street. CPC to add this issue, once again, to the Local Transport Priority list.

86. Community Asset Transfer, The Green, West Woodburn – K. Traill explained that on the 14/07/15, John Marshall (NCC Senior Surveyor), e-mailed stating that he was pleased to advise he was in the process of instructing Legal Services to proceed with the transfer of land at West Woodburn to Corsenside Parish Council and would be grateful if we could provide him with contact details for the solicitor acting on behalf of the Parish Council. K. Traill enquired if it would be possible to have it recorded in a legal document that should the school ever close in the future, the school field would automatically be offered to the Parish Council. J. Marshall replied stating he regretted that it would not be possible to include a commitment in the transfer document that the school field would be offered to only the Parish Council in the event of the school closing. The County Council cannot restrict the future use of the site as the nature of future events and changes are not known however, he expected the Parish Council would be able to apply for transfer of the school playing field and its interest will be considered along with any other potential options for the land. He was not aware of anything that would suggest the school will not remain at West Woodburn for the foreseeable future. On the 04/09/15 K. Traill met with Cllrs C. Hamilton, D. Carrington & A. Pender to discuss the letter received from the solicitor. KT spoke with P. Venn regarding the nature of the paperwork which appeared to be for the purchase of property. New terms & conditions were e-mailed out today. K. Traill to ask for minor changes to be made to this document before it is signed by CPC.

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Date:

87. Whiteacre and Westmacott Street signs – K. Traill informed all that both signs were now in place – Action completed.

88. Ridsdale Speed Signs – Cllr C. Hamilton explained the meeting held between N. Snowdon, himself, Cllr D. Carrington & K. Traill on the 17/07/15. Possible locations for flashing speed signs for Ridsdale were looked at and Cllr D. Carrington explained the problems regarding location. There were several options and N. Snowdon would take advice from the sign manufacturers on best locations to optimise their effectiveness. N. Snowdon is also going to provide us with costings for a variety of different types of speed warning sign, the most popular and seemingly most effective at the moment being the type which give you a reading of your actual speed. Cllr C. Hamilton suggested the possibility of one of the new signs that flashed up ‘Thank You’ to cars driving within the limit. Speed surveys were also discussed on the 17th and we agreed a location for this just north of the turn in to Rendle Terrace. K. Traill also enquired of him, what the extra measures which were promised as a result of a speed survey in West Woodburn, were and when they were likely to happen. N. Snowdon suggested that it would be more regular visits from the camera van and that he would speak to the police to find out what was happening. On the 18/08/15 N. Snowdon stated that he was awaiting estimates. He will pass these on again, it is likely that the manufacturer will require a site investigation but an estimate would help in the short term. A speed survey has been put in place in Ridsdale now also. With regards to the West Woodburn speed survey, enforcement isn’t possible at present due to a missing 30mph sign on the Kielder Road. N. Snowdon has asked the area office to arrange for a sign to be erected asap.

89 Children Playing signs, East Woodburn – Cllr C. Hamilton updated all with regards to a meeting he and Cllr P. Bilton had had with K. Westerby on the 15/07/15. They discussed signage to warn road users of children playing in East Woodburn. Cllr C. Hamilton suggested that the pragmatic approach adopted by Stefan Bell in the past by using signs to warn of pedestrians in the roadway would also be appreciated on this occasion. K. Westerby said that he couldn't see why this approach would be a problem but that it should also be raised with N. Snowdon. On the 17/07/15 Cllrs C. Hamilton & D. Carrington & K. Traill met with N. Snowdon. Whilst specific ‘Children Playing’ signs are no longer authorised for use N. Snowdon was quite happy to supply signs warning of pedestrians in the roadway. N. Snowdon said he will have plans for this approach at East Woodburn drawn up to cover the three ‘major’ entrances to the village. N. Snowdon looked into this and informed us that the existing sign travelling west for West Woodburn can be taken down and re-located on U5017 approaching East Woodburn travelling northbound into the village. A new sign can also be provided on C193 travelling south into East Woodburn. Following discussions with a local resident, there does not seem to be a need for a sign on the U5017 travelling eastbound into East Woodburn as this is a No Through Road.

90 Gullies on Lonnen – On the 12/08/15 Cllr C. Currie had been approached by a local resident who stated that the gullies at the bottom of the Lonnen, get blocked up and after a period of heavy rain, water floods out onto the road. On the 14/08/15 K. Traill e-mailed K. Westerby requesting his help on the matter and attaching a location map. K. Westerby replied stating that they would try to look at the gullies on the 14th. K. Traill e-mailed to ask if someone had been out and what the result was however has not yet had a reply, K. Traill to call K. Westerby.

10) Local Transport Plan Priorities :- Cllrs discussed what transport priorities to submit to NCC. It was agreed that the total resurfacing of Armstrong Street from the A68 – Hindhaugh would be submitted again. Cllrs also agreed upon layby’s/parking for East Woodburn so that residents could park and also create room for farm vehicles as well as other large vehicles to safely pass by. Total resurfacing of the road from the A68 down

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Date:

to Corsenside Church would also be submitted.

11) Adopting & signing of new policies & regulations – Financial Regulation & Information Security Policy :- K. Traill explained D. Francis's (NALC) advice on point 17.1 of the Financial Regulation Policy and read out to Cllrs what change had been made. All Cllrs agreed to adopt the policy as of 07/03/15. K. Traill explained the problems she had had locating a model Information Security Policy. K. Traill discussed the conversation with J. Haines of SLCC around data protection and what measures we may need to have in place. K. Traill to look further into this and contact other local parish councils for advice.

12) Parish Hall :- Cllr P. Saunders stated that he had still not received any information from M. Parr and that he was very concerned that if matters were not sorted out soon, that the parish hall may be unable to operate. Cllr P. Saunders asked Cllr C. Hamilton and K. Traill to attempt contact with M. Parr once more before he sought advice from external agencies.

13) Play Area – West Woodburn :- Cllr C. Hamilton stated that he had recently checked the play area and everything was as it should be. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that he intended to hopefully complete work on raising the matting under the small swings next week. C. Mowatt will also work on raising the grass verge around the small swings next week therefore eliminating the trip hazard.

14) Wind Power Stations- Ray Wind Farm & Appointing a Representative :- K. Traill made available the pamphlet sent out regarding the Ray Estate and read out the e-mail received regarding appointing a Community Liaison Representative. Cllr P. Bilton volunteered to represent CPC, K. Traill to inform J. Hutchinson of Vattenfall Wind Power UK.

15) Sheep Dog Memorial – Unveiling Ceremony 8th September 2pm :- Cllr P. Bilton & K. Traill updated the Cllrs on the progress regarding the Adam Telfer & Old Hemp memorial. Cllr P. Bilton has mowed the area and replaced the old wooden bench and rubbed down PC J. Carroll's bench. Cllr C. Hamilton explained his conversation with C. Chater and agreed that just a few cars were allowed on the Jubilee Green for people with very poor mobility. Cllr's discussed the ceremony due to take place. K. Traill to ask C. Chater for a letter in writing stating that they have 'gifted' the memorial to the Parish of Corsenside so that we can officially add it to our Asset Register and notify our insurance.

16) Bus Service Update :- Cllr D. Carrington updated Cllr's on what had been happening with regards to the bus service and the proposed changes. Changes included the Tuesday direct bus to Hexham being replaced with a Friday bus collecting people and taking them to Bellingham where they would wait for the connection bus to Hexham. Cllr D. Carrington discussed points raised at the Otterburn meeting held by K. Francis of NCC, and the new 'direct' route proposed for Monday's & Friday's. Cllr D. Carrington explained that those who attended quite clearly just wanted the direct Tuesday bus back. Cllr D. Carrington stated that NCC had since announced that they would reinstate the Tuesday direct bus, however the journey time would be increased as it made more stops on-route. Cllr D. Carrington to contact K. Francis to enquire about the size of bus and what date the changes will be put in place.

17) Defibrillators :- Cllr D. Carrington updated Cllrs on the defibrillator located in Ridsdale. It is in place and connected to the electricity and is just awaiting a code via the emergency services. K. Traill explained where we were with regards to the West Woodburn defibrillator. The Stephen Carey Fund has all contact details for K. Traill as well as the school. K. Traill and Mrs J Bilton (school secretary), will act as community guardians, testing the defibrillator on a fortnightly basis. K. Traill is still waiting to hear back regarding dates for training sessions however confirmed that these will be open to all.

18) CPC Web-site & Facebook :- K. Traill updated Cllrs where we were with regards to updating the web-site. It was a slow process as K. Traill has little experience with web-site planning. K. Traill explained that she had

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Date:

received help from S. Thouret who had kindly donated her time to give advice and help which was greatly appreciated. K. Traill explained the constraints of the Spanglefish package. K. Traill explained that we could change the layout, have more options and advertise ourselves if we updated to Spanglefish Gold at a cost of £25 per year. Cllrs were in agreement and K. Traill to look into this. K. Traill also explained some of the benefits of using Face Book to keep people updated, a new form of media which some Parish Councils have chosen to use. Cllrs still felt that this was not an avenue they wanted to get into.

19) Reed Family Commemoration :- Cllr C. Hamilton explained that the Reed family would soon be leaving the area after a 400 year family history around these parts. It was felt that the family had done a lot for the area and people of Corsenside and that a commemorative plaque on the newly refurbished bench at Jubilee Triangle, may be appropriate as a mark of our thanks. Cllr D. Carrington to approach Mr Reed to ask his permission.

20) Planning Matters:- a) For Decisions – Planning Ref: 15/02464/VARYCO, Variation of condition 2, Land West of Armadale (submission date passed), documents made available for information only purposes.

b) Decisions from Northumberland - i. Planning Ref: 15/01805/VARYCO Shawm House – GRANTED. ii. Planning Ref: 15/01796/FELTPO, Former West Woodburn

Service Station, tree removal – GRANTED. iii. Planning Ref: 14/02974/LBC, Cherry Trees - GRANTED

21) Other Correspondence :-

a) NCC Consultation survey – The survey was read out to Cllrs and an answer of ‘Unsatisfactory’ is to be submitted by K. Traill.

22) Finances :-

a) Invoices for Payment

i. Clerks wages - £386.78 (July & August)

ii. C. Mowatt - £320

iii. Cllr P. Bilton – reimbursement for seat wood & materials - £40.47

b) Bank Balance - £10219.81

c) Monies Received - None

d) Requests for Assistance – Tynedale Hospice – to be discussed at Octobers meeting.

e) Audit (2014-2015) Results – Read out to Cllr’s. K. Traill to write an action plan regarding minor issues.

f) Financial Sub Committee Meeting July 2015 i.e. Clerks wages – Cllr C. Hamilton talked Cllr’s through the Financial Sub Committee’s meeting back in July and the process used to decide upon a yearly pay scale for the clerk.

g) Solicitors fees Community Asset Transfer (as under point 9, action list) – Fee’s estimate - £500, VAT £100, Land Registry £40

e) Removal of Banking Signatory – Cllr’s signed paperwork to remove A. Pender from the banking signatories.

23) Matters for discussion at the Chairman’s discretion:- Cllr C. Currie informed all that she had been approached by a local resident complaining about the dog mess a long Braeside Rd, passed Cherry Trees, down to Town Head and up the Lonnen. K. Traill to contact dog warden. Cllr C. Hamilton to write an article for newsletters. If matters do not improve perhaps a leaflet drop is needed. K. Traill updated Cllr’s regarding what had been done in order to acquire funding to purchase various litter and dog fouling bins. As of yet K. Traill had had no luck.

24) Next Meeting:- Monday the 5th of October 2015, 7.30pm at The Parish Hall West Woodburn.