

## Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017

At The Bay Horse, West Woodburn at 7.30pm

Present: - **Councillors:** C. Hamilton (Chair), D. Carrington (Vice Chair), P. Bilton, C. Currie, A. Harding **Clerk:** K. Traill **Members of the Public:** Carol Hawman **County Councillor:** J. Riddle

- 1) Apologies for absence: - Cllr G. Scott
- 2) Declarations of interest: - Cllr D. Carrington in respect of the Ridsdale Juniors & Seniors, Cllrs A. Harding & C. Currie in respect of The Corsenside Leek & Vegetable Society & Cllr P. Bilton in respect of the Mission Hall Trust
- 3) Opportunities for members of the public to raise issues: None raised.
- 4) Minutes of the Corsenside Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017: Signed as a true & accurate record.
- 5) Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda: - None.
- 6) Councillor Vacancy:- Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that CPC had been given the all clear from NCC to co-opt a new member to fill the vacancy & that Carol Hawman was interested in the position. Carol was asked to introduce herself to councillors and she explained who she was, her background, talked about her career & why she wanted to become a Cllr. CPC discussed the vacancy & were all happy to offer the position to Carol. KT provided Carol with the necessary forms to complete in order to register as a Cllr.
- 7) County Councillors Report: - County Councillor J. Riddle discussed the Bright Tribe decision to back out of Haydon Bridge High School. JR stated that Haydon Bridge is running at a huge deficit, is over staffed & not enough pupils with very few choosing to attend in September. NCC are having to pick up the bill as no other academy will take over. NCC are starting a consultation process to examine the options. Hexham QE has capacity & is one of the top schools for GCSE grades in the County however QE is looking at changing to 11-18 yrs which in turn would have implications for middle & first schools.  
County Cllr J. Riddle went on to discuss the Northumberland Development Company (previously Arch), which operate within the County only. There is a push for more affordable housing which if it was built through NCC it would qualify within the 'right to buy' scheme.  
Cllr C. Hamilton asked County Cllr JR about the street lighting project & whether a new contractor had been sourced as there were still a number of lights in the parish that needed replacing. JR informed all that a new contractor had been appointed however they would be working throughout the County as there were a lot of unfinished areas.  
County Cllr JR stated that he had been working with local fire stations looking at ways to save money & improve the service. JR discussed how ground source heat & solar panels were being installed to reduce the running costs of the stations. They were also hoping to enhance retained fire services so that these stations could be available at all times for emergencies. The fire appliances are on-site 24/7 however more retained personnel were needed and new levels of commitment were being investigated.  
KT enquired as to whether the roads used by school buses were priority roads for gritting as the school bus had been stuck for 1.5 hours last Friday awaiting a gritter. JR stated that yes the school roads should be priority & informed KT that all gritters were fitted with a tracking device. KT to contact K. Westerby who will be able to look at data & say when the West Woodburn – Bellingham road was gritted.
- 14) West Woodburn First School: - As County Cllr J. Riddle was present to discuss the above point Cllr C.

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Hamilton requested that we reorganise the agenda slightly to discuss point 14 before County Cllr JR left. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that he & Cllr D. Carrington had attended a meeting at WWFS at the request of the Head of School Mrs V. Rutherford. At the meeting Mrs Rutherford explained that A. Johnson Director of Children Services at NCC, had called a meeting of all local head teachers from west Northumberland schools. A. Johnson had explained the issues regarding Haydon Bridge High School & the possible effects this would cause for the feeder schools including first schools. WWFS is concerned about the possible impact of a 2-tier system on small rural schools including the effects the loss of a school would have within the village of West Woodburn & the wider community within the parish in which it serves. WWFS are asking for the support of CPC & the local community for the continuance of the school. Cllrs discussed this & felt that for our area, a 3-tier system worked best. It was felt that children were too young at 4-9 years (first school) & 9-11 years (middle school) to be put on a bus for long journey's in order to get to school. There was also concern on the impact closure of the school could have on people's desire to move to the parish and subsequently on house prices. Cllrs discussed what options may be proposed. Proposals included WWFS becoming a member of a multi academy where individual schools would continue to run however be a part of a bigger academy. The local authority could become the sponsor of an academy trust or there could be a potential academisation with the Ponteland cluster. County Cllr J. Riddle stated that he was a County Councillor for the whole area & therefore had to do what was best for all. JR however did state that he had raised concerns about the impact the loss of WWFS, a school, which literally was the centre of the community, would have on the village. All felt that WWFS is a special case by nature of its location a lone & Cllrs felt that it needed safe guarding. County Cllr JR explained that if the proposal of a multi academy trust was the way forward then this should safe guard WWFS. Cllrs agreed that CPC will support WWFS & will make representations to NCC during the consultation process.

8) Notification of any other business for discussion, at the chairman's discretion, under item 22 below; - KT had matters to discuss.

9) Update on adopting & signing of new policies, regulations & risk assessments: - None

10) Action point list: - 80. Armstrong St & Whitearce - KT to contact NCC regarding the repairs & give way lines at the top of Armstrong Street. 91 Traffic calming measures West Woodburn – KT explained that she had spoken with N. Snowdon of NCC requesting an update. NS stated that they were still waiting for the amendments to be made by the design team. County Cllr J. Riddle needed to see & agree with the plans also. KT asked if we were still on schedule for works to be completed by the end of the financial year. NS said that work would definitely start by the end of the financial year.

11) Parish Hall: - Cllr C. Hamilton explained that J. Clyde the Chair of the Parish Hall Committee had informed him that the Parish Council representative on the Parish Hall Committee did not necessarily have to be a Parish Councillor. The CPC representative could be a member of the public who was willing to attend the meetings on their behalf and report back to CPC. All Cllrs to think about people who may be interested in this role.

12) Play Area – West Woodburn: - Cllr C. Hamilton stated that inspections were being carried out every 2-3 weeks now as he was no longer at the school on a daily basis. Cllr CH informed all that the play area was in good condition & that he would continue to replace caps etc when needed. C. Mowatt has corrected the trip hazard around the baby swings.

13) Wind Power Stations - Cllr A. Harding explained that the steering group were still no further forward. The Vatten-Fall representative at the meetings does not appear to be of sufficient status within the organisation to make the decisions required to progress matters therefore this is adding to the delay. The steering group

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are hoping that the £100K per annum to be managed initially by the Community Foundation may be up & running soon so that smaller applications can begin to be made.

14) See above.

15) Getabout Transport: - KT explained that J. Plinton had stated that the questionnaire response rate was in line with the average responses expected for surveys. KT informed all that she had been in contact with J. Chisholm of NCC & that the Friday taxi service to Bellingham would continue for the foreseeable future.

16) Revitalising Redesdale – update: Cllr C. Hamilton explained that he had received an email from L. Speakman informing all that the Heritage Lottery bid of 1.7 million to revitalise Redesdale had been successful & that delivery of the programme would start in January 2018.

17) Weeds & Shaw Lonnen Update- KT explained that the weeds on the path up to Woodburn Park had now all been removed by NCC which made the path much wider as well as look better. KT also informed all that she had received no word from either quarry with regards to her request for them to fund passing spaces on Shaw Lonnen. KT went on to discuss how she had inform K. Westerby of NCC again of the issues regarding the road landslide on the site of the old railway bridge supports. KW has informed KT that this work had been carried out, he believed by Network Rail & that he had now made the issue known to them.

18) Panto: KT passed on A. Pender's request of help with regards to the selling of refreshments on the night of the panto. Cllrs C. Hamilton & C. Currie both offered to help, KT to inform AP. KT to ask A. Pender about flyers to hand out. KT also informed all that A. Pender hoped to pass on the responsibility of the organising of future pantos to someone else. Cllrs discussed this & it was suggested that if there were no volunteers then maybe it could be part of KT's role.

19) Planning Matters: a) For decision – i. Planning ref: 17/03903/FUL Conversion of existing attached barn to provide additional living accommodation for the farm house, with demolition of existing redundant farm buildings. Stiddle Hill C195 Ridsdale junction to district boundary. Cllrs discussed the plans & application & wish to submit a comment of – 'No Objection'. ii. Planning Application 17/00938/OUT Outline application for construction of one dwelling (amended description) Corsenside Tynedale District footpath 014 – Appeal against NCC decision. CPC had previously submitted a comment of 'No Objection'. No further action from CPC. b) Decisions from NCC – None at time of print.

20) Other Correspondence: – i. GNAA thank you letter, ii. War Memorial Trust Bulletin – info made available to Cllrs, iii. Information regarding local NCC & Parish Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> of December given out.

21) Finances: - a) Invoices for Payment – i. Clerks wages £145.04 & expenses £31.99 (stamps & computer system mechanic purchase), ii. C. Mowatt £216, iii. Tynedale at Hospice grant £50 (Chq from November's meeting needed amending) iv. Parish Hall rent for panto -£25.

b) Bank Balance - £ 14,386.51

c) Monies Received – None

d) Requests for Assistance – NTC & Tynedale Sports – to be discussed in March

e) Precept 2018-2019 – Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that Cllr D. Carrington, KT & himself met to discuss & draw up the budget for 2018-2019. Budget information was handed out and discussed & Cllr C. Hamilton explained that it was proposed the precept stay at £7750 for another year. All agreed, KT to complete & send the form to NCC.

22) Matters for discussion at the Chairman's discretion: - KT wanted to thank Cllr P. Bilton for his hard work & time spent fixing the Parish Clerk's computer, it was greatly appreciated. KT informed all that Cllr G. Scott had asked her to mention the letter sent to all residents from the Church. Cllrs discussed this & wished the church

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well but felt that matters of religion and church attendance were matters for the individual and outside the remit of CPC.

23) Next Meeting: - Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> January, The Bay Horse, West Woodburn.

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