

Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday the 9th April 2018

At Corsenside Parish Hall, West Woodburn at 7.30pm

Present: - **Councillors:** D. Carrington (Vice Chair), C. Currie, A. Harding, G. Scott & C. Hawman **County Councillor:** J. Riddle **Clerk:** K. Traill

- 1) Apologies for absence: - Councillor C. Hamilton
- 2) Declarations of interest: - Cllrs D. Carrington & C. Hawman in respect of the Ridsdale Juniors & Seniors. Cllr D. Carrington in respect of The Green Rig Wind Farm Steering Group, Cllr C. Currie in respect of The Corsenside Leek & Vegetable Society & Cllr A. Harding in respect of the Ray Windfarm Steering Group.
- 3) Opportunities for members of the public to raise issues: None raised.
- 4) Minutes of the Corsenside Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th March 2018: Signed as a true & accurate record.
- 5) Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda: - None.
- 6) County Councillors Report: - County Councillor J. Riddle explained that he could not speak in too much detail regarding the school consultation. He explained that the issue was down to the fact that there were currently too many school places available for the number of children. JR informed all that the consultation process had now come to an end & that County Councillors awaited the reports & facts that would be collated by officers employed as professionals. JR explained that it was certainly not a done deal & that a lots of scenarios & ideas had been produced as a result of the consultation. The final decision would be made by July. JR informed all that the Head of Planning had resigned. JR stated that this would not cause problems or delay the Local Planning Strategy. JR explained that the Local Plan was now live on the web-site. It called for land owners, developers & residents to nominate areas for potential development & employment. County Cllr JR explained that the new Chief Constable Winton Keenen had now been appointed. JR also explained that he had spoken with A. Bridges the Neighbourhood Inspector for Hexham who stated that more focus would be on rural crime in particular crimes targeting farms. County Cllr JR praised the work carried out by all NCC staff employed within Neighbourhood Services during the extreme weather condition. JR explained that as a thank you they were all given vouchers. JR informed all that there was an on-going police investigation involving Arch regarding finances & spending however he was unable to comment more. Councillors discussed the poor condition that the roads were in especially after the bad weather. County Councillor JR explained that extra Government money had been brought in as well as outside contractors to deal with this issue. The number of pothole complaints had in fact tripled. JR stated that any A-road pot holes reported had to be dealt with within 24 hours of notification no matter what conditions the tarmac was being laid in. JR stated that although there were officer's monitoring pot holes, predominately they relied on the public to notify NCC of any issues. JR also stated that if a member of the public's car was damaged as a result of a pothole, then it was worth putting in a claim as long as there was photographic evidence. Cllrs discussed the closure of Mission Bank the road down to Redesmouth. This was a result of subsidence & the closure was an emergency measure. It was unfortunate that this coincided with the BT works & closure of the road to Wark. NCC had tried to reschedule the BT work however had been unsuccessful. KT queried the issue regarding the snow ploughing especially around Shaw Lonnen & asked the questions

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posed by residents. JR stated that officially NCC had given his company the Birtley – Wark area whereas in the past it had always been Carter Bar, Kielder, Bellingham, Corsenside etc. When the weather conditions got so bad JR's company were the only ones with a snow blower & tractor therefore they were called out to do the major areas & roads. They were intending then to head down to Shaw Lonnen however they had a major breakdown & had to wait for a new part from Germany which delayed them by over 2 days. In the past farmers might have been given blades for some extreme conditions however NCC must now use official contractors only. Cllr C. Currie stated that one of the issues was the fact a contractor had piled all the snow at the entrance to Shaw Lonnen which made any hope of getting tractors through physically impossible, the only way to reach residents was across fields.

7) Notification of any other business for discussion, at the chairman's discretion, under item 19 below: - Cllr GS & KT had matters to discuss.

8) Councillor Resignation: - Cllr D. Carrington informed all that Cllr P. Bilton had handed in his resignation. KT read out an email from Cllr P. Bilton addressed to all Cllrs. Cllr D. Carrington wished to thank P. Bilton on behalf of CPC for his hard work during his time on the Parish Council. KT to inform NCC & start the formal process.

9) Update on adopting & signing of new policies, regulations & risk assessments: - KT informed all that she had now reviewed all policies & updated the web-site to include all documents associated with the transparency code. KT reminded Cllrs that most policies were on the web-site should they need to refresh their knowledge & understanding.

10) Action point list: - 80. Armstrong St & Whiteacre – Works to the junction at Armstrong Street & the A68 were carried out on the 20/03/18. Road to Hindhaugh - KT explained that she had assured the resident that CPC would once again chase this matter up & had also received an email from JR stating that he had reported this to KW & he expected something to be done in the near future. KT stated that she had been in communication with the resident, KW & AO of NCC & a on-site meeting with the resident had been arranged. The Hindhaugh resident emailed KT stating that AO of NCC had been in touch & sounded very positive and assured him that things would happen beginning with sorting out the drainage.

91. West Woodburn Traffic Calming Measures – KT explained that she had rung NS for an update. NS informed KT that he had altered the design & removed the 20mph school signs on the A68 & the measures around Whiteacres. NS felt that NCC should not install these measures until it was clear what would be happening regarding the school closure. NS stated that the money saved there would help fund the ground hardening in the area where the camera van would park (est £12k). NS explained that NCC proposed some new 30mph signs which included a speed camera symbols & yellow background. Every other measure previously discussed, (excluding the build out areas) would go ahead. NS would wait to hear the Cllrs decision.

Cllrs discussed this at the meeting & all agreed this was not good enough. Even if the school did end up closing this is a process that would take some years therefore leaving children at risk until then. County Cllr JR also agreed that this was wrong & pre-empted the decision regarding the school. JR stated that he would contact NS himself to recommend that the school speed signs on the A68 & Whiteacres remain on the plan.

92. West Woodburn First School – KT explained that WWFS had held an open evening for the community to discuss the facts & what could be done to support the school. County Cllr JR also attended & answered questions posed. Teachers & Governors of the school discussed the process so far & what people could do to support the continuation of the school. The message from the school representatives & County Cllr JR was that a decision had not yet been made & that people could fill in the consultation documents stating that they

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wanted the school to stay open. If WWFS was to continue, the 3-tier system needed to stay in place. WWFS also hosted an Easter open morning to celebrate all the good things about the school. Cllrs C. Hamilton & D. Carrington also attended the open morning. Cllr C. Hamilton talked with almost all present to ask their opinion regarding the 2-tier 3-tier debate so that CPC could be sure that in their response to the Consultation, they were representing the views of the majority. The overwhelming majority stated that they did want to see the continuation of the 3-tier system.

93. Shaw Lonnen Mud Slide –KT explained that she had emailed FS of Highways England informing her that still nothing had been done. KT stated that residents had put up with this since October & that Highways England had been aware of it since January. KT requested that FS look into this as a matter of urgency. KT explained that FS had responded apologising & stating that the contractor would go out & start work next week.

11) Play Area – West Woodburn: KT to contact C. Mowatt to request a jet wash.

12) Wind Power Stations - Cllr A. Harding reminded all that the small grants scheme was now open & that the panel would meet on the 22nd May to decide on the application requests. Cllr A. Harding also stated that there was a meeting on the 24th of April to discuss the opening of the large grant scheme. Cllrs discussed if West Woodburn First School would be eligible to apply for grants. WWFS would not be able to apply for grants to fund elements that were curriculum based however they could apply for grants to fund extra-curricular activities. Cllr C. Hawman suggested that perhaps the school could get the children to think of things that they could apply for.

13) Parish Hall: KT read out a reply letter from the Parish Hall Committee regarding the panto hire charges for 2019. Cllrs discussed this & were happy to pay the £25 hire charge. Cllrs suggested that the Parish Hall Committee could apply to one of the windfarms to apply for a grant to cover any further shortcomings the panto may cause.

14) West Northumberland School Consultation: Cllr D. Carrington thanked all Cllrs especially Cllr. C. Hawman on behalf of Cllr C. Hamilton for their input into CPC's response to the consultation. After gathering Cllrs & residents opinions to the proposed closure of WWFS Cllrs C. Hamilton & C. Hawman wrote a letter opposing the closure & any change to the 3-tier system.

15) Insurance Claim - Ridsdale Damaged Speed Sign: - KT updated all with regards to the insurance claim. KT had sent all relevant information required & had been given permission to instruct SWARCO to attend site to assess the damage & to either fix the sign or replace it. KT explained that she had contacted SWARCO twice regarding this however had still not heard back. KT to chase this up.

16) Planning Matters: a) For decision – i. None. b) Decisions from NCC – None

17) Other correspondence – i. Northumberland Local Plan – Cllrs discussed the Local Plan with County Cllr J. Riddle. Cllr C. Hawman stated that she had tried to view the information on-line so that she could establish whether there was something she would like to comment on. Cllr C. Hawman explained that to view the information you first had to register. Cllr C. Hawman felt that it would be more useful to just see & read the plan first without the need to register. Cllrs were unclear as to whether the Local Plan was something the PC should collectively comment on or whether it was an individual process. County Cllr JR explained that it was something anyone could comment on, both as a PC or as an individual. JR stated that people could read paper copies at libraries or one stop shops. JR informed all that they had received a lot of responses from the

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younger population. JR explained that the Government Planning Advisory Service were assisting NCC to help speed up the process & that in fact it should be adopted before the deadline of the original plan.

18) Finances: - a) Invoices for Payment – i. KT wages £264.18, ii. GNAA donation of £50 – at the request of The Bay Horse instead of hire charge owed.

b) Bank Balance - £12,665.36

c) Monies Received - None

d) Requests for Assistance – None

e) Parish Hall Hire – Panto – Discussed under point 13.

f) New audit procedures – KT explained how the new audit process would work. KT will spend time over the next month getting the accounts ready & signed off in order to complete the Annual General Audit Returns. KT explained that as part of the process CPC should review their financial operations. Cllrs & KT discussed how CPC follow all guidelines within the Financial Regulations set out by NALC and that we have a Banking Mandate & measures in place so that 3 people must be involved for any payments to be made. CPC does not have any petty cash or debit/credit cards. The finances are reported at every meeting & internal checks are carried out quarterly with an annual independent check & a formal audit. Budgets are prepared in advance & reported on throughout the year. KT pointed out that due to factors such as less expenditure & more income than budgeted for, CPC had in reserves more than the recommended amount i.e. approximately 1 year's precept. KT asked Cllrs to discuss with residents if they had any suggestions on what CPC could spend some of the money on, ideas that would benefit the Parish.

19 Matters for discussion at the Chairman's discretion: Cllr G. Scott stated that the road down to Corsenside Church was once again in a poor state & needed some areas filled. KT to inform NCC.

KT explained that she had been in touch with NCC regarding overhanging trees & that the matter was being dealt with although it would likely take some time.

20) Next Meeting: - Annual Parish Meeting Monday the 14th May 7.00pm – 7.30pm, CPC AGM 7.30pm Corsenside Parish Hall, West Woodburn.

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