

Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday the 12th March 2018

At The Bay Horse, West Woodburn at 7.30pm

Present: - **Councillors:** C. Hamilton (Chair), D. Carrington (Vice Chair), C. Currie, A. Harding, G. Scott, P. Bilton & C. Hawman **Clerk:** K. Traill

1) Apologies for absence: - None

2) Declarations of interest: - Cllrs D. Carrington in respect of the Ridsdale Juniors & Seniors & The Green Rig Wind Farm Steering Group, Cllrs A. Harding & C. Currie in respect of The Corsenside Leek & Vegetable Society, Cllr A. Harding in respect of the Ray Windfarm Steering Group & 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 5th February 2018: Cllr C. Currie pointed out a typo under point 4, 'work' should read 'word' & the date of the next meeting should read 5th of March.

5) Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda: - Church Questionnaire - Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that he had collated Cllrs responses to the questions asked & passed these onto T. Pender. In general Cllrs felt that there was not enough information provided for Parishioners to choose which church they would prefer to save. Councillors also felt that it was not appropriate for CPC to ask residents about their willingness to make financial contributions to fund the church. TP thanked CPC & would seek another way to ask the questions & circulate the questionnaire.

6) County Councillors Report: - None

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

8) Update on adopting & signing of new policies, regulations & risk assessments: - KT informed all that she had reviewed CPC's Standing Order, Code of Conduct & Financial Regulations. KT explained that she had made a small adjustment to point 4.8 of the Financial Regulations to state that the Responsible Financial Officer would give quarterly budget reports. KT also stated that she had updated the Banking Mandate & confirmed that all Councillors were still in agreement that 2 Councillors could authorise a payment up to £500 without consulting the full Parish Council body. Any authorised spends would be reported to the full Parish Council body at the next meeting. All Councillors agreed. KT reminded all Councillors to be aware of updating Declarations of Interest should their circumstances change. KT also reminded Councillors that some policies could be found on Corsenside Parish Council web-site & others could be printed off or emailed by the clerk.

09) Action point list: - 80. Armstrong St & Whitearce - KT informed all that she had emailed A. Olive of NCC asking if NCC were still on track to repair the road at the junction of Armstrong Street & the A68 in March. AO replied stating that yes it would be repaired, weather permitting. 91. West Woodburn Traffic Calming Measures – Cllr C. Hamilton discussed the emails & calls between himself, County Councillor J. Riddle & N. Snowdon of NCC. Cllr CH explained that he had informed both JR & NS of CPC's disappointment & frustration at the removal of the build out features which had been the suggestion of NCC safety officer & having been on the plan from the start. Cllr C. Hamilton asked for the reasons behind the decision & requested reassurances that if speeding continued to be a problem once all other measures were in place, then build out areas would once again be considered. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that after various emails & conversations back & forth he

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had been informed that logging companies had raised concerns about the build out features on the A696 in Otterburn. Neil Snowdon informed Cllr Hamilton by e-mail that on further consideration there was concern that the build out features could be more of a danger than a safety measure as if other vehicles failed to give way then HGV's may be unable to stop in time and if introduced as proposed, would require these vehicles to stop on a hill, which may cause a further road safety problem rather than improve safety. Vehicles could attempt to speed up through this feature rather than stop to give way as required. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that he has had reassurances from N. Snowdon that enforcement of the speed limit would be carried out & if speeding continued to be a problem then build out features would be reconsidered. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that County Councillor J. Riddle had informed him that if there was any evidence of logging wagons speeding then sanctions against them could be issued. Cllrs were unsure how evidence could be collected by members of the public. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that our disappointment and frustration at the loss of these features from the plan should not overshadow the rest of the traffic calming measures & that CPC would continue to liaise with NCC to get monitoring in place. All Cllrs agreed to give the revised traffic calming measures their full support as it was felt that to question the matter further would cause significant delays to the rest of the measures. KT explained she had spoken with N. Snowdon who had informed her enforcement had viewed the stretch of road & felt that there was only one suitable location for the enforcement van, however this area would need ground hardening. N. Snowdon had therefore passed this part onto K. Westerby to see if this was possible. KT asked NS when works would likely start, NS stated that it would no longer be in this financial year.

92. West Woodburn First School – KT explained that she had received a document regarding the West of Northumberland Education Consultation on the 19th of February & had forwarded on the document. In all 3 options proposed, WWFS would close. On the 23rd of February WWFS invited parents to an evening meeting to discuss the proposals, what it meant for the school & to discuss ideas to save the school etc. WWFS will host an open day for the whole community.

93. Shaw Lonnen Mud Slide –KT explained that she had emailed F. Smith of Highways England on the 6th February stating that Cllrs had discussed the issue & felt that French drains alone would not solve the problem & that the soil initially needed something to hold it in place. KT stated that she had sent various emails & heard nothing back therefore rang FS on the 8th of March to ask why no work had started yet. FS believed that the matter had been resolved, apologised & stated that she would chase it up. KT informed the Cllrs that FS had emailed her to say that the contractor was going to try to arrange a meeting with the adjacent landowner the following week to get things moving. KT has emailed back asking if the contractor was also making good the mudslide as well as replacing the fences as no landowner needed to be consulted with regards to making good the mudslide area.

10) Play Area – West Woodburn: Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that he had carried out a play area inspection on the 9th & all was ok. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that when the weather improved both benches could do with a sand & paint. Cllr PB will put the new sign up stating who to contact if there is an issue with the play area.

11) Wind Power Stations - Cllr A. Harding informed all that as of W/C 5th of March grants of up to £10,000 were available, applications to be sent to The Community Foundation. Any publicity would come via Vatten Fall which has included an advert in the Courant. Information has also been put up on the local Clarion Corsenside Facebook page. Cllr AH explained that they had another meeting scheduled for the 13th of March to discuss the next step.

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12) Parish Hall: Cllr C. Hamilton explained that he had approached another Parishioner with regards to representing the Parish Council on the Parish Hall Committee. The Parishioner had thought about it however felt that they could not fully commit to meetings due to working away from home for periods of time. Councillors & KT to think of any other potential representatives.

13) West Northumberland School Consultation: Councillors discussed at length the proposals put forward by NCC with regards to the West Northumberland School Consultation. All 3 proposals see the closure of West Woodburn First School. Councillors discussed the effect closure would have on children, parents, the community & the parish. If WWFS closed this would see children as young as 4 being transported to Otterburn. Corsenside would lose a school which has been at the heart of the community for over 100 years. The closure of the first school would also influence people moving to the parish & may result in a decrease in house prices. All Councillors agreed that they did not want to see West Woodburn First School close. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that NCC could not make a decision with regards to QE High School or any of the schools who had become academies as these are out of Local Authority control. CPC as a consultee needs to formulate a response. Cllr C. Hawman explained that she had looked at reports from North Yorkshire, an area which has gone through a similar process. Cllr C. Hawman felt that CPC needed strongly to focus on the educational outcomes as well as pastoral ones. Cllrs discussed the consultation document & an appropriate response which would support education remaining in the heart of local communities. All agreed that CPC would ask that the present consultation was abandoned on the grounds that proposals should be developed after consultation which take into account the views, wishes and needs of local people and this has presented proposals without any prior consultation. It was also agreed that Cllr C. Hamilton & Cllr C. Hawman would work together to formulate a response based on the views of all Cllrs & after discussions with V. Rutherford Head of School at WWFS. This formal response will then be circulated to the NCC leader and appropriate elected members as well as appropriate NCC officers, Our MP and the Regional Schools Commissioner.

14) Shaw Lonnen Mud Slide: Discussed under point 9 Action Point List

15) Landscape Tender: Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that the 3-year Landscape tender was due to end on the 31st of March & as a result KT had placed an advert in The Hexham Courant on the 23/02/18 inviting tenders. The maintenance schedule had remained the same as previous years with the addition of 2 yearly algae & jet wash treatments to the play area. Cllr D. Carrington, Cllr C. Hamilton & KT had met prior to the meeting to discuss the tenders. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that one tender was significantly lower in price by well over £1000. As CPC is responsible for the use of public money & always seek best value, Cllrs C. Hamilton & D. Carrington recommended CPC go with the lower tender. All Cllrs agreed that the 3-year landscaping tender should therefore be awarded to C. Mowatt. KT to inform all who submitted a tender & to have C. Mowatt sign the appropriate contracts & produce insurance documents.

16) Planning Matters: a) For decision – i. None. b) Decisions from NCC – Planning ref: 17/04641/FUL Resubmission -Conversion of existing attached barn building to provide additional living accommodation for the farm house, with demolition of existing redundant farm buildings. Stiddle Hill C195 Ridsdale junction to district boundary - GRANTED

17) Other correspondence – i. Kielder Parking Permits – KT informed all that the 2018 parking permits were now available from Leaplish. Local residents would need to take proof of address. KT to put a message on The Clarion Corsenside,

ii. Northumberland Local Plan – KT explained that the new plan was now in the process of being compiled & that developers, land owners & other interested bodies could put forward areas of land for consideration.

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Information is available on NCC web-site,

iii. KT read out an email that she had received from a local parishioner with regards to the Shaw Lonnen & the length of time it took to get a snow plough there to clear it. Shaw Lonnen was impassable for 6 days. Carers were unable to attend to a resident located off Shaw Lonnen for almost a week. The Parishioner stated that there had been worse snow in the past & it had never taken this long to clear. The Parishioner questioned why local farmers were no longer provided with a blade for such severe conditions. Cllrs discussed this & felt although the weather was exceptional & the snow ploughs did an amazing job, there should be some back up plan for such circumstances, the snow was well reported & expected. CPC to make a representation to NCC, iv. KT also read out a letter she had received from a resident asking for the Parish Councils help with regards to the condition of the road down to Hindhaugh. This road has been in a poor state for some years with huge pot holes, crumbling surfaces & flooding. Cllrs discussed how over the years CPC had requested that the entire road from The Gunn Inn to Hindhaugh have a total resurface. CPC had in the past been given assurances that this would be done however works were never completed, with some patching carried out instead. All Cllrs agreed that they were happy to support this. KT to contact both the resident & NCC & request that this is investigated asap. CPC to once again add it to the next LTP,

v. KT read out an email from M. Chilvers the clerk for Otterburn Parish Council. MC asked how CPC felt about submitting both an individual response & a joint response to the West Northumberland School Consultation. Cllrs discussed this & felt that if all the local Parish Councils were of the same opinion then CPC were happy to submit an individual & joint response.

18) Finances: - a) Invoices for Payment – i. KT reimbursed for Hexham Courant advert BACS paid 20/02/18 (£45.36), ii. KT wages £222.74, iii. KT expenses ink cartridges £30.99, iv. Church grass cutting grant £300

b) Bank Balance - £13,237.09

c) Monies Received - £291.95 (money from panto sales)

d) Requests for Assistance – CPCC – Church grass cutting grant for 2017. Cllrs agreed to award a £300 grant.

e) Parish Hall meeting hire – KT informed all that she had received a new Parish Hall Hire Agreement & that it would be £5/hour. Cllrs agreed that KT was ok to book the hall & sign the agreement.

f) New audit procedures – KT explained that she had spoken with S. Rickett of NALC & was up to date with the new audit procedures.

19 Matters for discussion at the Chairman's discretion: Cllr P. Bilton informed all, of the complaints he had received once again from residents complaining about trees encroaching onto the road from a resident's property along the West Woodburn – East Woodburn road. Cllr PB has approached the resident & spoken with NCC. Trees along this route were felled however the resident had asked the driver not to cut them. Vehicles are being scratched by the overhanging trees & visibility is reduced. KT to contact NCC.

KT stated that she believed the dog fouling issue within West Woodburn was the worst it had been & that numerous residents were complaining. Cllrs asked KT to contact the dog warden again & to inform people via The Clarion Corsenside Facebook page that the dog warden would be on patrol & that residents can report offenders.

KT explained the situation regarding the insurance claim for the damaged flashing speed sign in Ridsdale. KT will continue to work with the insurers on the claim.

Cllr C. Hamilton asked if CPC were up-to-date with the new Data Protection laws. KT explained that she had not read the entire document however had emailed NALC for advice. KT stated that CPC were registered with the ICO, had a data protection policy & a data protection risk assessment.

20) Next Meeting: - Monday the 9th of April 7.30pm, Corsenside Parish Hall, West Woodburn.

Page 4 of 4 Karen Traill, Corsenside Parish Clerk, 01434 270 722 corsensideparishclerk@hotmail.com

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