

Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of Corsenside Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2019

At Corsenside Parish Hall, West Woodburn at 7.30pm

Present: - **Councillors:** C. Hamilton (Chair), D. Carrington, C. Currie, A. Harding, R. Robson, C. Hawman & G. Scott **Clerk:** K. Traill **Members of the Public:** None

1) Apologies for absence: - None

2) Declarations of interest: - Cllr D. Carrington in respect of the Ridsdale Juniors & Seniors & the Green Rig Wind Farm Steering Group, Cllr C. Currie in respect of The Corsenside Parish Show & Cllr A. Harding in respect of the Ray Wind CIC.

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

4) Minutes of the Corsenside Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th July 2019: Signed as a true and accurate record.

5) Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda: - Community Right to Bid, the Gun Inn – Cllr C. Hamilton explained that he and Cllr D. Carrington had met with N. Easton of Northumberland County Council mid-July to gain a better understanding of the whole process. Cllr C. Hamilton then went on to explain that a short extraordinary meeting of the Cllrs was called to discuss this matter. Cllrs decided that a flyer to appraise the community of the situation should go out to every Ridsdale resident and information displayed on all 3 noticeboards and the local Facebook page. A letter was also sent to the owners of the Gun Inn requesting that a meeting be organised between themselves, CPC and a representative from NCC. Cllr C. Hawman explained that as a result of the flyer various members of the community organised a meeting which was held on the 8th of August. T. Kirsopp of NCC also attended the meeting to explain the Community Right to Bid process and to answer any questions. A following flyer was then put out by members of the community asking residents who felt that they could contribute anything to the process, to respond. Those that did respond attended a meeting on the 27th of August. A Mr N Watson also attended the meeting, had been involved in a successful community right to bid scheme in Slaley where the local community are now responsible for, and run, the Rose & Crown. Cllr C. Hawman explained that Mr Watson had discussed the two possible models for a purchase of the Gun Inn. The first model was a co-operative which would need residents to form an official steering group with a chair and secretary. The group would need a minimum of 3 members or a maximum of 9, confirmation that the sellers are selling and would then contact Northumberland County Council to notify them of an interest to buy. The group could then look for grants or loans to help fund the purchase. The second model would involve the purchase of the pub by the community and then to run it as a tenancy. Cllr C. Hawman explained that the community group would be meeting again soon to discuss the next formal steps in the process.

Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that KT had received a letter last week from the owners of the Gun Inn agreeing to a meeting with CPC and a representative from NCC. Cllrs discussed this and felt that CPC could now take a step back and allow the community group to take things forward and pursue the matter. KT to send a letter to the owners informing them of this.

6) Notification of any other business for discussion, at the chairman's discretion, under item 21 below: - Cllr C. Hawman had a matter to discuss.

7) County Councillors Report: - None

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8) Update on adopting & signing of new policies, regulations & risk assessments: - KT informed all that she had reviewed several policies which are still fit for purpose. Cllr C. Hamilton asked KT if she could bring with her to the next meeting a full list of what policies, regulations and risk assessments CPC currently had in place.

9) Action point list: - 80. Armstrong St & Whiteacre – Nothing further to report.

91. West Woodburn Traffic Calming Measures – KT explained that she had emailed all previous contacts once again stating that we had still received no response to our email dated 19th June. County Councillor J. Riddle responded stating that he had spoken with N. Snowdon of Northumberland County Council who was now aware that the hard-standing area for the camera van was in place and that the interactive signs were operational. JR also stated that he had asked NS for a speed survey so that we could see the speed data and which type of vehicles were speeding. KT informed all that she subsequently emailed NS of NCC several times asking for a date when the speed survey would be in place. KT explained that NS replied stating that the camera van would be deployed soon and that he felt we could probably cancel the speed survey as a result. NS suggested that he could arrange for the communications team to run an article about all the traffic calming measures now in place and how they're trying to tackle excessive speeds with the use of the van. KT explained that she had responded to NS stating that she believed this would not be the response CPC were looking for. KT informed NS that in her email dated 19th June she had stated that CPC still believed that extra measures still needed to be in place and would not stop until the build out features were reinstated. KT informed NS that CPC had been promised a speed survey on various occasions by NS and that CPC would appreciate that being organised as soon as possible. KT explained that NS had responded stating that he anticipated that the police van would be deployed for fairly lengthy periods when they first commenced deployment and believed that the rotation period was every three weeks. He thought that with some publicity and some speeding fines being issued we would hopefully see a reduction in speeds in the village. NS suggested that any further measures CPC requested should go on our local transport priority list for 2020. NS stated that he would organise a speed survey as soon as possible. KT informed all that County Councillor JR had also emailed responding to the question of the speed survey stating that after analysing the results and evidence from the survey a decision would be made about what further actions were necessary. KT went on to explain that she had called NS up again to enquire about a date of when the speed survey would commence. NS stated that we would be able to get some speed survey results from the enforcement van. KT insisted that CPC also wanted a proper speed survey carried out as the enforcement van results would not give a true reflection of the issue. NS said he hoped therefore to have a speed survey in place within the month.

Cllrs discussed the traffic calming measures and the total lack of understanding shown by NCC despite continuous meetings expressing the severity of the situation. Cllrs asked KT to contact NS to express our disappointment that after so many meetings NCC are far from understanding exactly what CPC have stated and what has been discussed and agreed upon. KT to also inform NCC that perhaps once all the results are in from both the enforcement van and the speed survey then maybe CPC would discuss a press release. Cllrs queried the reasons for speed surveys at locations on the A68 on stretches of 60mph miles away from any villages.

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10) Play Area – West Woodburn – Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that no inspections had been carried out over the summer break however he believed all was still ok. KT explained that after the last PC meeting in July she had approached a local resident requesting that they cut back branches which were over-hanging from their property onto the play area. All over-hanging branches have been removed. CPC wish to thank the resident for their speedy response and co-operation. KT also asked Cllrs if she should organise a jet wash of the safety surfaces or hold back until CPC had a date for the proposed removal and replacement of the safety surfaces. Cllrs agreed to hold off on the jet wash until CPC had further information.

KT explained that she had met with a Playdale representative to discuss what CPC would like to replace and what new features could be added. Based on these discussions KT informed all that she had received an estimate from Playdale of £22,067.81 excluding V.A.T. KT also explained that she had asked Playdale to revise the estimate making some changes to what was initially discussed. The following estimate came in at £18,509.61 excluding V.A.T. KT informed all that she had recently spoken with representatives of the Vattenfall Windfarm steering group who had advised her to apply for a grant to cover everything CPC believed the play area needed. Cllrs discussed this and asked KT to continue with an application based on the original items previously discussed. KT explained that the next step was for Playdale to send out their surveyor to check that everything requested could be safely installed on-site before a final quotation could be given. Once CPC had this KT could then start applying for the grant. Councillors also discussed the previously mentioned idea of outdoor gym equipment being installed on the village green. All agreed that this should be applied for separately to the play area. KT asked if she could instruct F. Charlton to cut back branches from the trees located within the play area, all agreed that KT could do this.

11) Wind Power Stations - Cllr A. Harding informed all that the Community Interest Company was now in their second year and had received the second amount of money. Cllr A. Harding explained that the funding dates were slightly out of synchronization with that of The Community Foundation and how the CIC were not entirely happy with the window of opportunity for applications offered by The Community Foundation. Cllr A. Harding explained that originally Vattenfall had insisted that The Community Foundation be involved for the first 3 years. Cllr A. Harding informed all that once the 3 years were up, the CIC may have the option to release The Community Foundation or have The Community Foundation answerable to the CIC.

12) Parish Hall: Councillors noted that works were still being carried out to install a new wheelchair accessible toilet and that all appeared to be going well.

13) Youth anti-social behaviour & feasibility study into provision for youth activities: - Cllr C. Hawman explained to all that initially she had sent a preliminary enquiry to the Ray Windfarm Local Initiative Fund (L.I.F), making it clear that although the application was initially for £4820, that this application would be a two part proposal, totalling more than £10,000. Cllr C. Hawman also stated that we were a parish council applying on behalf of 5 PC's all located within the Ray Windfarm radius. The administrator of the L.I.F replied stating that the application would be suitable to be considered by the L.I.F rather than The Community Foundation. Cllr C. Hawman went on to explain that as a result she then completed a formal application and sent it in to the L.I.F. Cllr C. Hawman informed all that on the 22nd of July she received word that the L.I.F had turned down our application as it was below the £10,000 threshold and that we were a parish council, an application should therefore be made to The Community Foundation. Cllr C. Hawman queried this with the L.I.F as she had made

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it clear we were a parish council and that the initial application would just be the first part of the process. Cllr C. Hawman is now waiting to hear whether the application can be submitted to the L.I.F or whether a new application for the initial feasibility study will have to be sent to The Community Foundation instead. Cllr C. Hawman to chase the L.I.F admin up.

Cllr C. Hawman also explained that there had been some confusion as the North Tyne Youth Group (N.T.Y.G), had also submitted an application which may have looked like CPC were applying for funding for the same project. Cllr C. Hawman contacted the N.T.Y.G who clarified that they had applied for a grant only to fund a youth worker to carry out the sessions already in place at Bellingham, Otterburn and Kirkwhelpington and that this had nothing to do with the joint feasibility study. Cllr C. Hamilton thanked Cllr C. Hawman for the work she had already carried out on the application and for the work she was continuing to carry out.

14) Community Volunteers: - KT stated that she had not made any further progress over the summer holidays. She proposed putting a notice on the local Facebook page and on noticeboards asking people if they would like to volunteer to help with any small jobs within the parish whether this be planting flowers, painting bus shelters or erecting seats. Once we had an idea of numbers KT could purchase any necessary safety equipment and type up some risk assessments. All agreed this was a good idea.

15) Community Spending: - KT explained that the picnic table was now in place on the village green. Our thanks go to Mr Bilton for erecting the table and to Mr Currie & Mr Findler for transporting it to the village green. KT explained that the red dog waste bins still needed putting in place and that she was still trying to source a new suitable noticeboard for Ridsdale.

16) Revitalising Redesdale: - Cllr G. Scott informed all that work had started on Smoutel Ford. Cllr C. Hawman explained that representatives of Revitalising Redesdale would be at Corsenside Parish Show in order to help get the message across about who they are and what they do. Cllrs discussed the idea of public noticeboards with easy access for any organisation, body or individual to use. Cllr C. Hawman explained that the main key actions still being looked at that might affect our parish, were the idea of joint funding between RR and other organisations who are both hoping to achieve similar goals and the Engine House interpretation boards. Lastly Cllr C. Hawman stated that she had been contacted by a gentleman who informed her that he had been looking at a 16th Century study within our area which had shown behavioural issues within the youth sector linked with lack of things to do. The gentleman had wondered if CPC were aware of more recent studies. Cllrs were not aware of any recent studies however suggested that maybe Mr Roberts or The Heritage Centre may be able to help.

17) Recent Flooding – Flood plan proposal – KT informed all that after the recent flooding a parishioner had been in touch to discuss the need for CPC to put a flood plan in place. The parishioner believed that most of the flooding was avoidable and as Councillors representing the Parish, CPC should take charge of the situation. Cllrs discussed this and felt that while they were sympathetic to those affected by the floods, they did not believe that it was a parish council's statutory requirement, nor do they feel it is within CPC's ability or expertise. Cllrs felt that the issue was the responsibility of both The Environmental Agency and Northumberland County Council especially as it is a known, long-term problem. CPC are happy to seek and distribute advice from The Environmental Agency however anything more is outside of CPC's capabilities.

18) Local Transport Priorities 2020- KT informed all that she had received the request for our 2020 Local Transport Priorities. KT read out the 3 priorities which CPC submitted for 2019. These priorities included an extension of the 30mph zone to include the A68 throughout Ridsdale, drainage improvements on the A68 outside Low House in Ridsdale and the resurfacing of the road from Armstrong Street to Hindhaugh. KT explained that none of the priorities for 2019 had been carried out. This was either due to not meeting NCC's

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criteria or because NCC recorded them as a maintenance issue. Cllrs discussed their frustration that very little of what CPC submit as their priorities get resolved. Cllrs discussed what they believed should be the L.T.P's for 2020 based on the criteria set by NCC. KT to submit the following 3 priorities: - i. Drainage issues on the A68 outside Low House in Ridsdale as this area still floods and poses a danger to drivers, ii. total resurfacing of the road from Armstrong Street to Hindhaugh as previously promised by NCC, iii. the installation of build-out features on the A68 within the 30mph zones in West Woodburn.

19) Polling Station Review – KT informed all that she had received an email in July stating that there was going to be a polling station review which included the review of stations facilities for disabled persons. Cllrs discussed this and instructed KT to put the notices on all 3 noticeboards and to make people aware of this via the local Facebook page.

20) Planning Matters: - a) For decision – i. Planning ref: 19/03431/FUL Proposed two storey dwelling land West of Armadale, Ridsdale. Cllrs discussed the application and agreed to submit a comment of 'objection'. Cllrs believe that the proposed property would dominate and entirely change the character of Armstrong Street. A large two storey property in this location was unsuitable and Cllrs felt a bungalow would be more in keeping with the current end of street roofline.

b) Decisions from NCC – i. Planning ref: 19/01542/FUL 2 storey dwelling in place of originally approved dormer bungalow – Land west of 63 Armstrong Street – Granted. ii. Planning ref: 19/00247/FUL Construction of a publicly accessible landmark – land at Cold Law – Refused.

21) Other correspondence: Other correspondence – i. Water resource licensing – KT made Cllrs aware of the information she had received regarding private water supplies. Cllrs discussed the fact that this only applied to those using more than 20 cubic metres which would likely rule out most properties. Information was put up on the local Facebook page, ii. BT proposed closure of phone boxes in West Woodburn & Ridsdale – Cllrs discussed the application by BT to close the 2 phone boxes within our parish. Cllrs discussed how CPC had previously objected based on the fact that our parish was still subject to patchy mobile phone coverage. KT to enquire as to what would happen if the closures went ahead i.e. would the boxes remain and if so, who would be responsible for them, iii. CPRE Newsletter – made available to Cllrs, iv. The Snow Queen contract – KT informed all that she had received the contract to sign for the performance of The Snow Queen which was booked in for the 16th of January 2020. All Cllrs agreed that KT could sign and return the contract, v. B4NTR update – KT informed all that network drawings have been completed for Chollerford and Birtley and that work has started on the drawings for the Corsenside network. West Woodburn appears to be the best cabinet location which is around 3 times the width of a phone box. The enclosed space to the east of the parish hall has been considered as a good location.

22) Finances: - a) Invoices for Payment – i. Clerks wages - £383.58 (July & August), ii. C. Mowatt, grass cutting & weeding - £388

b) Bank Balance - £11,998.64

c) Monies Received - None

d) Budget update – to be discussed at the October meeting

e) Requests for Assistance – None

23) Matters for discussion at the Chairman's discretion: Cllr C. Hawman informed all that a light was out on Robertson Street in Ridsdale. KT has previously been made aware of this and will report it to NCC.

24) Next Meeting: - Monday 7th October 2019, 7.30pm – Corsenside Parish Hall, West Woodburn.

Signed:

Date: