

Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of Corsenside Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th of October 2019

At Corsenside Parish Hall, West Woodburn at 7.30pm

Present: - **Councillors:** C. Hamilton (Chair), A. Harding, C. Hawman & G. Scott **Clerk:** K. Traill **Members of the Public:** Mr D Rogers

- 1) Apologies for absence: - Cllrs C. Currie, D. Carrington & R. Robson.
- 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 & Cllr C. Hawman in respect of Revitalising Redesdale.
- 3) Opportunities for members of the public to raise issues: Mr Rogers the owner of a plot of land west of Armadale, Armstrong Street, Ridsdale came to inform Cllrs of his revised proposed planning application. Mr Rogers stated that he had submitted a planning application in August which had received some negative feedback and has since been withdrawn. Mr Rogers went on to state that he wished to build a suitable family home however he did not want to offend any neighbours in the process. Mr Rogers stated that he had listened to the concerns, taken these on-board and made some relevant adjustments. The proposed planning application would now be for a dormer bungalow with the addition of a porch area to break down the shear face to the front of the property and all materials would be in keeping with the current development east of Armadale. Cllr C. Hamilton thanked Mr Rogers for the information however explained that he believed CPC were unable to comment on unofficial plans/documents and could certainly not offer any planning advice. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that the Parish Council were a statutory consultee in the same way as near neighbours to a proposed development would be and did not have any authority to authorise plans, merely to provide comment for planners' consideration in response to a formal planning application. Further to this, only comments pertinent to the planning regulations would potentially have any bearing on planner's decision.
- 4) Minutes of the Corsenside Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2019: Cllr C. Hawman's declaration of interest for Revitalising Redesdale was added under point 3. 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. Hawman informed all that the community right to bid was progressing. A building survey had been carried out on the Gun Inn and an opinion survey had been sent to Ridsdale residents for their views and input. The Plunkett Foundation has arranged another meeting with The Gun Inn Steering Group to discuss the funding process. A prospectus will be sent out soon to those interested in purchasing shares of the pub should the community right to buy go ahead.
- 6) Notification of any other business for discussion, at the chairman's discretion, under item 21 below: - Cllr C. Hamilton & KT had matters to discuss.
- 7) County Councillors Report: - None
- 8) Update on adopting & signing of new policies, regulations & risk assessments: - KT handed out CPC's policy register which detailed policies CPC had in place, when they were adopted and when they were next due for review. Cllrs noted that all 'Mandatory' policies and some 'Best Practice' were in place and subject to regular review. Cllrs discussed some of the policies which were not in place however were recommended as 'Best Practice'. Cllrs asked KT to look at creating a Planning Register and to find out more information on what a Green Space Audit and a Development Control policy was. Cllrs felt that the other suggested policies were not appropriate for CPC but would keep them under review.

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Date:

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

91. West Woodburn Traffic Calming Measures – KT explained that shortly after the September meeting two speed surveys had been put in place on the A68 in West Woodburn. One was located by the bridge and one outside the school. KT explained that she had requested the results from both these speed surveys and any information gathered by the police enforcement van. KT informed all that she had received the results from the speed survey. Cllrs discussed the results in detail noting the short comings of the locations such as one being located close to the turn off to Bellingham, therefore at a point where vehicles would be slowing down and one outside of the school where once again vehicles slow down due to parked cars. The survey showed that cumulatively 72% of vehicles were exceeding the 30m.ph. limit with 31% exceeding 35m.p.h. The cumulative percentage of vehicles exceeding the speed limit between 08:00 and 10:00hrs and between 14:00 and 16:00 hrs during the period when the school 20m.p.h flashing signs were active was worryingly high with 88% of vehicles exceeding the 20mph limit, with 59% in excess of 10mph over the limit and 25% in excess of 15mph over the limit. KT to contact N. Snowden of NCC stating that given the high percentage of vehicles exceeding the speed limit, CPC felt justified in demanding that the build out features are installed, and reiterate that CPC have stated on numerous occasions that they wished to prevent accidents happening not cure the cause afterwards. KT to ask our local community officer if they could attend our next meeting to discuss the issue of speeding.

10) Play Area – West Woodburn – Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that he had carried out an inspection in September and that all records were up to date. Cllr C. Hamilton went on to state that he had met with the Playdale surveyor on the 20th of September to discuss the design and changes CPC wished to make to the play area. Such changes included the total resurfacing of all safety surfaces to be replaced with a maintenance free alternative, the addition of safety surfacing to the chain bridge, , the replacement of scramble nets, 2 cradle swings, the wobbly log and the addition of 2 new activity boards, a rope weaver and a spinner. KT to meet with the surveyor on the 18th of October to go through the design Playdale have created. KT informed all that she had met with a representative from Sovereign Playgrounds who will also be giving a quote for works. It is hoped CPC can then start the application for funding from the Ray Wind Funds.

11) Ray Wind Fund: - Cllr A. Harding explained the structure of the Ray Wind Funds. The Community Interest Company (C.I.C), is the main body within the Ray Wind Funds with two smaller sub-groups which are the Local Initiative Fund (L.I.F) and the Financial & General Purposes. Grant applications for anything from £500- £10,000 are administered through an external body, The Community Foundation. Any grant application over £10,000 is administered through the C.I.C. Cllr A. Harding stated that it had come to their attention that there was a gap in the funding for anyone wanting to apply for a grant below £500. As a result, the C.I.C have created the Small Small Grants Fund. Cllr A. Harding stated that the Ray Wind Funds were looking at creating a Face Book page to help encourage small business applications.

12) Parish Hall: Councillors noted that the new toilets made a positive impact on the hall and would like to thank the Parish Hall Committee for their hard work. KT informed all that the hall would close for around a month while works were carried out to insulate the supper room and the kitchen. Once these works were complete it should make the area much warmer throughout the colder months.

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13) Youth anti-social behaviour & feasibility study into provision for youth activities: - Cllr C. Hawman informed all that she had submitted a second application to The Community Foundation and should hear something back within 12 weeks. Cllr C. Hawman would like to thank G. Nixon of The North Tyne Youth Group for her input during the application. Cllr C. Hawman discussed changing the title of this point to something more appropriate such as 'The six parishes youth engagement project', all agreed.

14) Community Volunteers: - KT stated that two red dog bins had already been installed and thanks are given to P. Sinclair for this. KT informed the Cllrs that the red dog bin along the East Woodburn road had been removed and relocated. Cllrs were disappointed to hear this. These bins remain the property of the parish council. They have been purchased to try to eliminate the problem of dog fouling and each bin location has been carefully considered so as not to offend anyone, to be in a convenient location for dog walkers and also in agreed locations able to be serviced by the refuse collectors. CPC ask that these bins are left in place, any bin moved without authority to do so is likely not to be emptied. If any parishioner has any issues, they should contact CPC to seek permission before taking it upon themselves to remove or relocate them. Cllrs asked that the relocated bin be restored to its original location and a notice attached stating that it should not be moved without permission. Cllrs discussed where in Ridsdale to install one. It was agreed that it should be installed on the grass verge by the A68 close to the gate to Rendle Terrace.

KT explained that several parishioners had said that they would be happy to volunteer to carry out various jobs around the parish. KT to write up a general risk assessment and to also contact each parishioner to compile a list of the type of jobs they would be happy to help with. Thanks go out to those who have shown an interest in helping, the clerk will be in contact. Please get in touch with the clerk should you wish to add your name to the list. Volunteers can offer as little or as much time as they see fit whether this be a couple of hours a year, month or week. Volunteers will only be asked to do things they are comfortable doing.

15) Community Spending: - KT asked Cllrs if she could purchase some hi-viz vests and some work gloves should any volunteers need safety gear. All agreed KT could do this. KT also enquired as to whether CPC could look at purchasing more planters and perhaps some bulbs. Cllrs asked KT to consult with the volunteers as to what their opinion would be as to what would be best to buy and when.

16) Revitalising Redesdale: - Cllr G. Scott informed all that the works to Smoutel Ford had been suspended now until Spring. Cllr G. Scott went on to state that the ford would also form part of a circular route that went over fells and passed The Brigg and Cold Town. Cllr C. Hawman informed all that she had been unable to attend the last Revitalising Redesdale meeting however the next meeting would be held on the 11th of December. Cllr G. Scott also explained that there would be a RR feedback session in Otterburn on the 9th of October.

17) Panto: - KT informed all that progress with the panto was running as expected. KT explained that the charge for the hire of the hall on the 16th of January would be £50. All agreed this was acceptable. KT asked Cllrs if they were happy to keep the panto ticket prices the same as previous years, that is £6.50 adult, £3.50 concession & £16.50 for a family of 4. All agreed that these prices should remain.

18) Planning Matters: - a) For decision – i. Planning ref: 19/03899/VARYCO Variation of condition 3 (materials) and removal of condition 8 (ecology) pursuant to planning permission 19/01542/FUL to allow a change from slate to tile and to delete reference to bat boxes land west of 63 Armstrong Street, Ridsdale. Cllrs discussed this variation and wish to submit a comment of no objection providing the finished result visually matched surrounding properties.

b) Decisions from NCC – None

21) Other correspondence: Other correspondence – i. Otterburn PC – Police and Crime Commissioner letter and response. Cllr C. Hamilton read out the letter sent by Otterburn PC on behalf of Otterburn, Corsenside,

Elsdon and Rochester with Byrness Parish Councils, to the Police and Crime Commissioner. The letter discussed the increase in crime within our communities, the poor police response time and the lack of references previously made to tackling rural crime. KT read out the Police and Crime Commissioners response which stated that rural communities were high on her agenda and that Northumbria Police continue to work closely with rural communities with some operational success especially with the help of such initiatives as Operation Checkpoint. Cllr McGuinness went on to explain that she had recently joined a local rural crime and wildlife officer and it was clear that more officers needed to be trained in wildlife crime. Cllr McGuinness stated that she was keen to see that all residents report all crimes so that the police have a clear record of what is happening. A meeting will now be arranged between the local parishes and the Police and Crime Commissioner Cllr McGuinness.

ii. NCC Northumberland Local Plan – Affordable Housing Document – made available to Cllrs. KT stated that comments are invited between 25th September – 6th November 2019.

22) Finances: - a) Invoices for Payment –i. Clerks wages - £200.38 ii. C. Mowatt, grass cutting and weeding - £388, iii. F&L Charlton £42 cutting of branches – play area, iv. £18 Unity Trust Bank Service charge.

b) Bank Balance - £15,084.06

c) Monies Received - £3785 second precept instalment.

d) Budget update and internal audit – KT explained that Cllr D. Carrington had carried out an internal audit and all was fine. Thanks are given to Cllr D. Carrington for this. KT handed out budget updates for Cllrs to view. KT explained that CPC were significantly over budget on assets and maintenance however this had been due to purposeful purchases for the benefit of the parish from excess reserves. KT also explained that CPC had claimed back £348 more V.A.T than expected as well as making significant savings on other budget categories. CPC were still therefore reasonably on budget.

e) Requests for Assistance – Cllrs discussed the requests for assistance received and which causes to support. Cllrs decided to award £150 to the Great North Air Ambulance, £100 to the R.T.C in Otterburn and £50 to Community Action Northumberland.

23) Matters for discussion at the Chairman's discretion: KT asked the Cllrs whether the picnic table on the village green should be pinned down. The table itself is quite heavy however can be moved by two people. Cllrs discussed the issue and felt that at present the picnic bench should remain unpinned so that grass cutting can take place without damaging the table.

KT explained to Cllrs that an HGV had clipped CPC's flashing speed sign at the north end of West Woodburn. The sign was now facing the wrong way. KT reminded Cllrs that the sign had stopped working earlier in the year and that Parkend Electricals had advised any repair work may be quite extensive. CPC had agreed to leave any repairs as NCC had just installed their own flashing sign at the north end. Cllrs discussed what should be done with the sign as it had been an expensive piece of equipment. KT to contact County Councillor J. Riddle as funding for the sign came from his Small Grant Schemes.

KT explained that it was now time to order the Poppy Appeal annual wreath. KT informed all that she had details of the local representative should CPC wish to add any additional items to the order. Cllrs discussed this and felt that the 2018 Remembrance Day had been the time when any extra items should have been purchased had we have known the processes to go through. KT to order the usual wreath.

KT informed all that there was a new Saturday rural link bus/taxi service from West Woodburn to Hexham. Information to be displayed on noticeboards and on The Corsenside Clarion.

KT informed Cllrs that the filing boxes she used for CPC files were no longer fit for purpose. Cllrs agreed that KT could source a small filing cabinet on behalf of CPC.

KT stated that she was storing the two original seats from the play area which both needed work. KT explained

that if CPC could not come up with a suitable location that she would be happy to make a donation and keep the seats herself. Cllrs will consider if there are any appropriate location.

Cllr C. Hamilton stated that some of the notices on the Ridsdale noticeboard were faded and needed replacing. KT to look into this.

Cllr C. Hamilton also informed all that the new seat by the first cattle grid beyond Armstrong Street really needed some extra slabs put in before summer next year. The seat currently sits on two slabs however the vegetation is so over-grown around it that it has made sitting there difficult. Extra slabs all around the seat need to be put in place. KT to see if this is a job the community volunteers could take on or if not to employ someone to carry this out.

24) Next Meeting: - Monday 4th November 2019, 7.30pm – The Bay Horse, West Woodburn.

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

Signed:
Date: