

Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of Corsenside Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th July 2019

At The Bay Horse, West Woodburn at 7.30pm

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

1) Apologies for absence: - Councillor C. Hawman

2) Declarations of interest: - Cllrs D. Carrington in respect of the Ridsdale Juniors & Seniors & the Green Rig Wind Farm Steering Group, 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 10th June 2019: Signed as a true and accurate record.

5) Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda: - KT explained to all that she had contacted Park End Electricals to see if they were able to replace the missing bulbs on the Ridsdale speed signs now that CPC were in possession of a sign key. KT stated that she had not heard back and would therefore chase this up.

6) Notification of any other business for discussion, at the chairman's discretion, under item 21 below: - Cllr R. Robson had matters to discuss.

7) County Councillors Report: - County Councillor J. Riddle informed all that NCC had received an application from the River Rede Federation Otterburn & West Woodburn partnership requesting that West Woodburn First School be changed into a primary in line with all the other first schools.

County Councillor J. Riddle also informed all that NCC were looking at reducing the costs of further education. Councillors discussed the issue of why students staying on in further education had to pay for transport and are not classed as priority for transport spaces. Councillors talked about how unfair the system was given that children had to stay on in full time education by law if they did not have a job to go to, therefore why should they have to pay when it is not their choice. Councillors discussed various issues regarding NCC's transport policy stating that some children are transported to school by taxi even though a school bus also runs and has availability. NCC still appear to be calculating transport distances based on 'as the crow flies' rather than actual road distance. County Councillor J. Riddle stated that he had been fighting for the right of children in the Otterburn area to be entitled to free transport to Ponteland. Currently NCC do not view Ponteland as the nearest option for Middle or High school education even though Ponteland is a quicker and more direct route. County Councillor J. Riddle went on to discuss the council's decision to reject the Queen Elizabeth II & Commonwealth landmark monument with 13 to 3 votes objecting. Councillors discussed the consultation process and questioned whether this was flawed based on the lack of consultation letters that apparently were received by residents within the 2.5km radius. County Councillor J. Riddle stated that he had wanted information regarding the landmark monument to be released into the media earlier for public debate, however due to the purdah time throughout various elections, he was unable to pursue this.

County Councillor J. Riddle informed all that he had received no word as to when the road to Bellingham by the bottle bins would be raised to combat the flooding issue. The works were supposed to be carried out in March

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however, there have been delays due to other local road closures taking priority and BT needing to carry out some works before NCC can start.

Councillor C. Hamilton asked if NCC were still intending to carry out resurfacing works to some of the B roads for example at Two Hoots. County Councillor J. Riddle stated that yes NCC still had plans to carry out such works.

8) Update on adopting & signing of new policies, regulations & risk assessments: - KT informed all that she had reviewed CPC's Model Complaints Procedure and Code of Conduct, both of which were still fit for purpose.

9) Action point list: - 80. Armstrong St & Whiteacre – KT informed all that a new drain had been installed by the dropped kerb at the entrance to Chapel Close.

91. West Woodburn Traffic Calming Measures –KT explained that she had emailed A. Olive of NCC asking what times the new 20mph speed signs were set to and whether these could be changed to also include the High and Middle school timings. KT also requested that branches in front of the southern end sign be cut back. AO responded stating that he had passed on the speed sign timings enquiry to N. Snowden and that he would get one of the inspectors to look at the branches in front of the sign. As of yet KT has received no word back from NS regarding the sign timings.

KT informed all that on the 19th of June she had emailed County Councillor G. Sanderson, A. Olive, N. Snowden and County Councillor J. Riddle informing them of the recent collision on the A68 within the 30mph limit and the impact this had had on residents. KT went on to explain that CPC felt the only traffic calming measure which would help combat speeding and which was available to them, was the build out features originally promised. KT stated that CPC would not rest until the build out features were reinstated within the traffic calming design. KT informed all Councillors that she had not received any response and therefore emailed all concerned again on the 8th of July inviting them to give a response to pass on at the meeting. KT explained that she had received an email from A. Olive which stated that N. Snowden would be providing us with an update. KT to chase this up. Cllr C. Hamilton expressed his outrage to County Councillor J. Riddle for the complete lack of communication and respect CPC receive from NCC. Cllr C. Hamilton went on to express the annoyance and frustration felt by CPC at the inability of NCC to listen to CPC and the parishioners of this area. Time after time CPC have fought for traffic calming measures that will have an impact. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that the signs politely request a driver to slow down whereas a build out feature would make them and it was about time NCC listened to the will of the people. County Councillor J. Riddle explained that he was aware no response to KT's email had been sent and acknowledged that this was not good enough. County Councillor J. Riddle stated that he was disappointed when the speed camera legislation changed meaning Corsenside parish just missed out on getting one. JR stated that he believed enforcement was the answer and that he was not in favour of the build out features. County Councillor J. Riddle felt that these were not the answer and that they would cause more complaints from hauliers and residents complaining about the noise due to gear change. Councillor C. Hamilton stated that this simply was not good enough and why were hauliers making the decision for NCC and residents. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that the people who live here want a better solution and NCC are simply ignoring this.

Cllrs discussed the fact that Corsenside needed a speed survey carried out as a matter of urgency. KT to chase this up.

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KT went on to explain that she had also emailed A. Olive requesting an update on the hard-standing area. A. Olive responded stating that they had received the design last week and are currently pricing it up. Once this had been carried out, they would be able to give us a start date.

10) Play Area – West Woodburn – Cllr C. Hamilton explained that CPC had received the annual ROSPA safety inspection report. Cllr C. Hamilton went on to explain that there were a few items highlighted which needed some attention such as the small trip hazard around the toddler swings and the start of wood rot in the wobble log. KT explained that she had contacted the administrator from the Ray Wind Funds regarding a grant application for the renewal of the safety surfaces and the replacement of some of the play equipment. KT explained that she had been advised to apply for a grant which would cover all work needed within the play area over the next 10 years. Cllr C. Hamilton went on to inform all that he and KT had inspected the play area and had drawn up a rough plan of what potentially needed doing, what could be replaced and ideas of items to replace them with. Cllrs discussed including the cost of maintenance within the 10-year programme when applying for the grant. Cllr C. Hamilton went on to inform all that KT had also received a brochure advertising outdoor gym equipment packages which included 8 pieces of equipment and installation. Cllrs discussed the benefits of this equipment and how this would appeal to teenagers and adults alike. The village green seemed like the obvious location for such equipment. All Cllrs were happy with the play area and gym equipment suggestions and for KT to continue to collate the information needed and progress with the application. KT explained that she had received complaints regarding the over-hanging trees within the play area which originate from a neighbouring property. Leaves and berries from the trees made the safety surfaces incredibly slippery and the sap and algae made the play equipment sticky and dirty. KT to write a polite letter asking the landowner to cut back the branches. All agreed if need be KT could instruct F. Charlton to remove branches.

11) Wind Power Stations - Cllr A. Harding informed all that the CIC had now completed the first 12 months and were therefore able to operate to a certain routine. Cllr A. Harding stressed that the CIC wished grant applicants to think about the bigger picture, think bold, think outside the box and perhaps consider working with other applicants when applying for similar grants. Cllr A. Harding also encouraged people to give feedback on their website.

12) B4NTR – Broadband for North Tyne & Redesdale: - Councillors discussed the fact that Corsenside had now reached the 50% 'expressions of interest' threshold needed to move onto the next stage. Thanks to all those involved for their hard work to achieve this.

13) Parish Hall: Councillors noted that Corsenside Parish Hall was currently closed while works were being carried out to install a new wheelchair accessible toilet.

14) Youth anti-social behaviour & feasibility study into provision for youth activities: - Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that Cllr C. Hawman had been working on the grant application for the youth feasibility study and that it was now ready to submit. Cllr C. Hamilton explained the layout of the application and that the initial application would be for £4820. All Cllrs were happy for the application to be submitted. Cllr C. Hamilton offered his thanks to Cllr C. Hawman for the work she had put into the application so far.

15) Community Volunteers: - KT stated that she had spoken with someone from Wark PC who had given her information about how the Wark Monday Club operate. KT also explained that she had contacted NALC and

CPC's insurance company for advice. KT informed all that our insurance would cover all volunteers however recommended that risk assessments were in place and safety equipment provided. KT explained that NALC had also informed her that NCC could loan certain equipment if needed. KT to continue to liaise with interested parishioners.

16) Community Spending: - KT explained that she had now received the picnic bench and 4 red dog fouling bins and would try to organise instalment of these. KT to order the new noticeboard before the next meeting.

17) Revitalising Redesdale: - Cllr G. Scott informed all that she had spoken to a representative from RR who had informed her that they hoped work would start on Smoutel Ford next week and if so, they hoped it would be completed by the end of September. KT informed all that Cllr C. Hawman had provided her with a Revitalising Redesdale update in her absence. KT explained that RR had met on the 12th of June and that mostly they discussed the various projects and funding. Two grants were awarded, and one turned down. It was felt that progress on the projects was positive however there were still funding shortfalls. RR hope to co-ordinate funding with other local groups and PC's. RR report that there is still a shortage in volunteers especially for environmental projects and that they were keen to recruit new volunteers to help with the wildflower verges projects. The wildflower verge locations can only be where there is a layby or on quiet roads as the cutting vehicles cannot block main roads. RR assured Cllr C. Hawman that they have considered clear lines of sight with NCC.

18) Planning Matters: - a) For decision – None

b) Decisions from NCC – i. Planning ref: 19/00247/FUL Construction of landmark to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II and the Commonwealth, land at Cold Law – No formal information received as of yet however as discussed under point 7, Councillors noted that the application had been refused.

19) Other correspondence: Other correspondence – i. NCC Community Right to Bid notice of moratorium – Gun Inn – Ridsdale. KT informed all that she had received a letter from NCC regarding the Community Right to Bid notice placed on the Gun Inn in October 2016. The letter stated that NCC had received word from the owners that the property was being actively marketed for disposal and therefore in line with the Community Right to Bid legislation imposed the initial 6-week moratorium. During this period CPC must confirm whether they wish to proceed with a formal bid in which case a full 6 months moratorium will apply. During this period the owners will be unable to dispose of the property to anyone other than the community organisation who listed the asset. The initial 6-week moratorium is in place. Cllrs discussed this information and felt that more clarification was needed. KT to contact N. Easton of NCC for more information.

20) Finances: - a) Invoices for Payment –i. Unity Trust Bank service charge £18 (30/06/19), ii. Clerks wages £213.53, iii. Chris Mowatt - £302, iv. ROSPA Play Safety (play area inspection) £90.60, v. Hexham Computer Services Ltd (maintenance of clerk's laptop) £80, vi. Came & Company (insurance) £602.87

b) Bank Balance - £13,287.64

c) Monies Received - £1148.49 VAT refund

d) Requests for Assistance – None

e) Clerks annual appraisal and salary review – Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that he had carried out the clerk's annual appraisal. Cllr C. Hamilton went on to explain that in keeping with NALC's recommendations KT needed to calculate the number of hours she had worked between the 1st of April and the 8th of July and multiply this by 27p in keeping with the national increase in living costs. Cllr C. Hamilton also explained that upon considering the clerks standard of work and the role she carried out as the responsible financial officer he was

Please note that these minutes are in draft form and may be subject to change.

recommending that the clerk move up into pay scale 13 as of the 9th of July. All agreed, Cllr C. Hamilton and KT to sign the relevant paperwork.

21) Matters for discussion at the Chairman's discretion: Cllr R. Robson stated that there were several over-hanging trees on the road to East Woodburn especially between the parish hall and the church causing vehicles to have to drive in the centre of the road. KT to inform NCC again so that these are priority areas once nesting season is over.

22) Next Meeting: - Monday 2nd September 2019, 7.30pm – Corsenside Parish Hall, West Woodburn.

Karen Traill, Corsenside Parish Clerk, 01434 270 722 corsensideparishclerk@hotmail.com Page 5 of 5

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