

Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2020

At Corsenside Parish Hall, West Woodburn at 7.30pm

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

1) Apologies for absence: - Cllrs G. Scott & R. Robson

2) Declarations of interest: - Cllrs D. Carrington in respect of the Ridsdale Juniors and Seniors and the Green Rig Wind Farm Steering Group, C. Currie in respect of The Corsenside Parish Show, C. Hawman in respect of Revitalising Redesdale and North Tyne Youth and Cllr A. Harding in respect of the Ray Wind C.I.C.

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

4) Minutes of the Corsenside Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd February: KT explained that an amendment had been made to the first sentence under point 7 so that it now read - 'which would hopefully make the road passable in flood conditions. Signed as a true and accurate record.

5) Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda: None.

6) Notification of any other business for discussion, at the chairman's discretion, under item 23 below: - None.

7) County Councillors Report: - County Councillor J. Riddle informed all that the road heightening works to the Bellingham road were now reprogrammed to take place in August. JR stated that this was due to the road having recently flooded three times meaning NCC have had to adjust their plan. JR explained that he hoped to bring that date forward July. JR informed all that affected residents and landowners had been spoken to regarding the works. JR explained that due to health and safety concerns there would probably be a road closure order put in place, which would likely be affective during working hours. Access would however be given to residents and emergency services.

County Councillor JR informed all that an extra £15 million had been pledged to improve minor roads throughout the county. JR also stated that emergency repairs had been carried out on the road down to Hindhaugh and that money had been set aside to carry out further repairs to this stretch of road.

County Councillor J. Riddle explained that NCC had viewed the small stretch of road on the A68 before the Otterburn crossroad where cars frequently collide with the wall. NCC believe the problem is due to the camber of the road. NCC will build up the road slightly at this location to help eliminate the problem.

County Councillor J. Riddle stated that during flood conditions residents should not obstruct roadways as these must always be kept open to allow access for emergency services. KT enquired as to whether residents who had been flooded would have access to the £500 clean up scheme. JR stated that he had been informed of the scheme and was waiting to hear more information as to whether Corsenside residents were eligible. JR will get in touch with KT when he knows more.

County Councillor J. Riddle stated that the future of West Woodburn First School would no doubt be on the next cabinet agenda and that he would report back when he knew more. JR also stated that NCC were due to review all school transport.

KT informed County Councillor J. Riddle that the Tuesday bus had yet again failed to turn up and that there had been numerous other issues regarding this service. JR asked KT to contact M. Cusack of NCC to inform him of the issues.

8) Update on adopting & signing of new policies, regulations & risk assessments: - KT stated that she was aware that new web-site accessibility regulations were due to be introduced in September 2020 however she

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was still awaiting guidance from Northumberland Association for Local Council's regarding this.

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

91. West Woodburn Traffic Calming Measures – KT explained to Cllrs that she had emailed County Councillor G. Sanderson yet again to inform him that we were still waiting for a reply to our original email sent in October 2019 and subsequent emails since. County Councillor G. Sanderson once again apologised and stated that this department was very stretched. GS stated that he had copied P. Jones the Service Director into the email. Councillor C. Hamilton stated that he had looked back at all the action lists and within a 4-year period CPC had had 105 action points regarding traffic calming in West Woodburn.

10) Play Area – West Woodburn: - KT explained that CPC had now received the grant money from The Ray Wind Fund and that KT could now complete the Playdale order form to start the process of booking in a date for works to start. KT stated that she hoped to contact someone regarding using West Woodburn First School carpark for works vehicles and storage especially as currently the school building was not in use. KT to also clarify with Playdale that Playdale fitters will be on hand to receive the delivery of the new play equipment.

11) Wind Power Stations - Cllr A. Harding informed all that progress was gradually being made. Cllr A. Harding explained that some residents had already signed up and that the Government vouchers would therefore be assigned to BANTR to go towards the works in our parish. BANTR however needs more people to start applying for these vouchers. The Ray Wind Funds C.I.C have also invested money into the project.

Cllr A. Harding also informed all that the C.I.C were looking at other ideas for funding throughout the parishes such as bus and transport links. Cllr A. Harding reminded all of the meeting to be held on the 5th of March at Corsenside Parish Hall which would be a community networking style meeting for people to discuss ideas. Cllrs discussed in detail the barriers both parishioners and the C.I.C faced when applying for funds and the guidelines imposed by Vattenfall. Cllrs discussed how organised and structured groups with bank accounts had to be established in order to apply for funds, which in itself, put many people off. Cllrs discussed the idea of the Ray Wind Fund putting together some guidance on what people needed to do to form a group such as needing a constitution before a bank account could be opened. Cllrs also discussed the potential of creating a general group which would represent the 6 parishes. People could go away, research ideas and once they had gained enough support and evidence, then go to the general group who could apply for funds on their behalf. Cllr A. Harding to give CPC feedback at the next Ray Wind Fund meeting.

12) Parish Hall: - KT informed all that it was time once again for CPC to appoint a Parish Hall Trustee.

Councillors again discussed asking parishioners if they would volunteer to sit on the parish hall committee. Councillors to approach any parishioner they feel may be suitable for the role.

13) Six Parishes Youth Engagement Project: - Cllr C. Hawman explained that she had recently met with G. Nixon of North Tyne Youth to discuss how they would move forward and progress with the feasibility study. Cllr C. Hawman stated that G. Nixon would gather contact details for all parish councils that were involved and enquire as to whether they had a parish Facebook page or newsletter to get the information out there. Cllr C. Hawman discussed how NTY would ask advice on what the best location in each parish would be to hold events and that G. Nixon had started to plan dates with consultations starting from Easter onwards. NTY would put events on such as make your own pizza or bush craft activities to attract the youth in and then consult with them while they attended these events. NTY will ask existing North Tyne Youth Groups to design

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posters and ask for their opinion on what events they think would attract new people. NTY will advertise these events using local Facebook pages, school networks and handing flyers out at school pickup and drop off points. NTY will start off by making use of existing volunteers, then moving on to potential trained youth workers.

14) Community Volunteers & Spending: - KT explained that she had been asked if CPC could provide nets for the goal posts on the village green. Councillors discussed this and felt that CPC needed to ask for advice regarding the health and safety issues surrounding nets such as trip hazards and potential strangulation. Councillor C. Hawman and KT to investigate this further.

KT informed the Councillors that the West Woodburn defibrillator was due for new pads and that there may be a problem with the heater as there was a large amount of condensation and water within the cabinet. KT had received prices for both pads and a new heater. Councillors have asked KT to approach a local qualified electrician to ask if they could use their electrical equipment to check if the heater has any output. Councillors have given KT the go ahead to order a new one if needed.

15) Revitalising Redesdale & Heritage Fund update: - Cllr C. Hawman informed all that the next Revitalising Redesdale meeting would be held next week. Cllr C. Hawman also informed all that the closing date for the next round of RR awards would be the 5th of March. Cllr C. Hawman explained that she had not heard anything further regarding the sculptures however she was expecting to learn more at next weeks meeting. Cllr C. Hawman stated that a RR representative hoped to attend one of CPC's meetings, Cllr C. Hawman to arrange a date for this.

16) The Gun Inn – Community Bid updates: - Cllr C. Hamilton stated that the call for pledges went out on the 31st of January. A reminder for pledges and asking for names of people who were willing to help with the process, also went out mid-February. Cllrs also believed that a solicitor had now been appointed for conveyancing.

17) Meeting with the Police Crime Commissioner - Feedback: - Cllr C. Hamilton attended a meeting in Otterburn organised by M. Chilvers, the parish council clerk for Otterburn, Rochester & Byrness and Elsdon. The meeting was also attended by other local parish council representatives. Kim McGuinness the Police Crime Commissioner, Pam Bridges the Local Community Inspector and the Community Inspector for the north of the county, were in attendance to answer concerns raised. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that after introductions P. Bridges discussed the structural reorganisation within Northumbria Police which now meant that our area had double the officers. This hopefully means we should see more officers around our parish for matters such as traffic calming or anti- social behaviour. Incidents in the local areas were discussed, which were quite low in number. The main incidents seem to involve an upsurge in quad thefts. The inspectors discussed the works carried out by Rural Crime Volunteers who are a group with structured and formal links to the police and who help the fight against rural crime. Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that the police were also keen to promote the Farm Watch Scheme. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that people could sign up via the Northumbria Police website. Once signed up people would receive notification of any suspicious activity within the area to keep an eye out for and to report. The scheme therefore helped combat rural crime by working together.

Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that he had discussed the issues Corsenside Parish Council had experienced more recently regarding anti-social behaviour and how as a result of this issue the Six Parishes Youth Engagement Project had been created. Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that this approach had been well received with the Police Crime Commissioner K. McGuinness stating that they had funding for such projects and Inspector P. Bridges keen to get involved.

Cllr C. Hamilton stated that overall the meeting proved to be very positive and that it would now be the start

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of many more to come. Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that a monthly newsletter was produced by the rural Neighbourhood Constable A. Bruce, which should now also be circulated to CPC for information and updates.

18) Planning Matters: - a) For decision – i. Planning App 20/00480/FUL Construction of two new driveways at 1 & 2 Hillcrest, West Woodburn. Cllrs discussed this application and wish to submit a comment of – ‘No Objection’.

b) Decisions from NCC – None.

19) Other correspondence: - i. Campaign to Protect Rural England newsletter – made available to Councillors, ii. Public Spaces Protection Order – KT discussed the information with Cllrs explaining that it did not currently affect our parish, iii. Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that he had received a letter from the Pension Regulator reminding CPC of their continued duty to review their pension schemes. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that the only employee CPC were responsible for (the clerk), did not earn enough to qualify for CPC to make any contributions to a pension scheme. Cllr C. Hamilton explained however that should the clerk wish to open a private pension account she could request the help of CPC to do this. Cllr C. Hamilton will write a letter to the clerk to explain her rights under the pension scheme.

20) Finances: - a) Invoices for Payment – i. Clerks wages £200.38 & expenses £15 (usb stick) ii. Corsenside Parish hall – Panto Hire £50, (Dec, Jan, Feb & March hire to follow before the end of March), iii. Robson Print – Dog Fouling Leaflet £67 Bac’s paid in February.

b) Bank Balance - £32,027.89

c) Monies Received - £20,000 The Ray Wind Fund – Grant to replace some play equipment, West Woodburn play area.

d) Requests for Assistance – None

21 Matters for discussion at the Chairman’s discretion: None.

22) Next Meeting: - Monday 6th April 7.30pm, Corsenside Parish Hall, West Woodburn, (now postponed until further notice due to Government advice).

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