

Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2020

At Corsenside Parish Hall, West Woodburn at 7.30pm

Present: - **Councillors:** C. Hamilton (Chair), C. Currie, C. Hawman, R. Robson, G. Scott & A. Harding, **Clerk:** K. Traill **County Councillor:** J. Riddle

1) Apologies for absence: - Cllr D. Carrington

2) Declarations of interest: - Cllr C. Currie in respect of The Corsenside Parish Show, Cllr A. Harding in respect of the Ray Wind CIC and Cllr C. Hawman in respect of Revitalising Redesdale and as of the 5th of February a trustee for North Tyne Youth.

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

4) Minutes of the Corsenside Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th January 2020: KT informed all that she had made a small amendment to the draft minutes under point 7 as requested by County Councillor J. Riddle. The sentence now read 'Works would also include road widening limited to a short stretch of highway, (where wagons were going through a stone wall), from Rawfoot Farm entrance towards Bellingham'.

5) Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda: - KT informed all that she had received prices from NCC for providing and installing wheelie bins at lay-bys throughout the parish. KT also stated that she hoped NCC would be providing CPC with around 4 litter pickers to keep should anyone wish to use them. Any litter picking would be in conjunction with NCC rather than taking over this responsibility. Cllrs discussed the issues regarding whether providing bins would help solve the litter issue or create more problems with fly tipping as experienced within other areas. Cllrs all agreed to monitor this and to reassess the situation if the problem persists.

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

7) County Councillors Report: - County Councillor J. Riddle stated that the heightening of the road to Bellingham, which would hopefully make the road passable in flood conditions, would be going ahead this March. Works would also include road widening around the Rawfoot Bank stretch. JR informed all that a road closure notice would be issued soon, and the road closed while road heightening works were taking place. County Councillor J. Riddle had asked NCC if the road heightening works and the road widening works could be carried out at the same time, however he was informed that this would depend on health and safety issues. It is hoped that if the road widening works are carried out at a different time, that this could go ahead without a full road closure.

County Councillor J. Riddle informed all that he had spoken with the education department regarding West Woodburn First School. JR explained that the consultation on the future of WWFS, had now closed. JR stated that he had been informed that there had been no WWFS pupils since Christmas, that there had been little response to the consultation and that no potential parents had turned up to a meeting held regarding the school. Councillors are saddened by the position the school now finds itself in. Councillors discussed how popular WWFS used to be and how parents fought to keep it going. Councillors discussed the events such as shared Headships, NCC's proposed closure of WWFS and the three to two tier education within the area and the effects all these have taken on the school and its attendance. Corsenside Parish Council await NCC's decision on the future of West Woodburn First School.

County Councillor J. Riddle discussed the appeal made to the Secretary of State against Northumberland

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County Councils decision to refuse planning to construct a publicly accessible landmark at Cold Law. JR explained that the appeal had now gone to the Planning Inspectorate and that NCC had requested there be a local public hearing, although JR stated that this was a decision only the Planning Inspector could make. JR informed all that the Planning Inspectorate were based in Bristol and usually the Inspector was not from anywhere local however they would be visiting the site and the surrounding area. JR stated that the Planning Inspectors decision would be final, whether that be to reject the appeal or accept it. Councillors discussed the letters sent out to those who had commented on the original planning application. Councillors stated that not everyone who had commented appeared to have received a letter notifying them of the appeal. County Councillor J. Riddle will take this up with NCC. Councillors discussed the application further, noting that since the appeal there seemed to be more local opposition to the landmark. Councillors discussed what benefits the landmark could bring to local businesses, it was noted that there had been little, if any, support for the landmark from local businesses. Councillors discussed submitting another comment re-iterating the points made in their original response which strongly objected to the landmark. All present were in agreement to do so.

8) Update on adopting & signing of new policies, regulations & risk assessments: - KT explained that she had carried out the annual assets checks. KT stated that there were some minor points for example seats needing re-varnished however these were jobs that she hoped the volunteers would carry out in the summer. KT stated that there appeared to be a problem with one of the bins in East Woodburn and that she would investigate this further. KT also stated that there had been a net attached to one of the goal posts on the village green. The net was not properly fitted and was ripped in places. Cllrs felt that due to health and safety issues CPC would need to remove this net.

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 informing him of the poor communication CPC were experiencing from NCC regarding our comments about the traffic calming measures and the speed survey results. KT stated that we had contacted NCC on four separate occasions asking for a response. KT asked CC G. Sanderson if CPC could receive a response before the 3rd of February. KT explained to Cllrs that CC. G. Sanderson had apologised that communication was not as it should be and that he would ask for a response as soon as possible. KT informed all that she had still not received anything from NCC. Cllr C. Hamilton asked County Councillor J. Riddle what CPC could do about the lack of any response. CC J. Riddle stated that he would make enquiries.

10) Play Area – West Woodburn: - KT informed all that she had received a letter from the Ray Wind Fund C.I.C stating that CPC had been awarded a £20,000 grant in order to carry out the necessary works to the play area. KT stated that this was the amount excluding V.A.T and that CPC would need to pay almost £4000 to cover the V.A.T until it could be claimed back the following year. Cllrs discussed this and all were delighted that the grant application had been successful. Cllrs felt that CPC were able to cover the V.A.T until it could be claimed back. Cllrs also discussed whether the grant could be paid directly to the contractor so that CPC's financial audit process did not change and therefore incur a charge. KT stated that she had not heard back regarding this query however she would chase this up. KT to complete the grant acceptance paperwork and to also contact Playdale to start the process.

11) Wind Power Stations - Cllr A. Harding informed all that he had been unable to attend the last Ray Wind

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Funds meeting however the next meeting would be held at the end of February. Cllr A. Harding stated that all households should have received a letter from BANTR updating parishioners and giving the option to purchase shares. There would be a meeting on the 11th of February at West Woodburn parish hall hosted by the BANTR group. Cllr G. Scott explained that BANTR volunteers had been out and about walking various routes mapping out what they believed to be the most appropriate courses for the laying of cables.

12) Parish Hall: - Nothing further to report other than improvement works appear to be near complete.

13) Six Parishes Youth Engagement Project: - Cllr C. Hawman informed all that she had received word from North Tyne Youth to say that the initial grant application had been successful. Cllr C. Hawman stated that she would be meeting up with G. Nixon of NTY to discuss the project. It is believed that the initial stage will involve the organisation of around 16 meetings throughout the 6 parishes to consult with the youth about barriers to accessing groups and what the youth would like to see on offer in their area. Flyers, publications and activities will help advertise and encourage participation. CPC are delighted that the project has been given the green light and are happy to now hand this over to North Tyne Youth. KT to email the other parishes involved informing them of the successful application and to let them know that NTY will now be taking over the project.

14) Community Volunteers: -KT informed all that two volunteers were looking at replacing the wood to the seat located by the bridge at West Woodburn. KT also had a list of potential summer jobs which could be taken up by the volunteers.

15) Community Spending: - Nothing at present, potentially £1000 on lay-by bins.

16) Revitalising Redesdale & Heritage Fund update: - Cllr C. Hawman informed all that Revitalising Redesdale would like to erect a gateway sculpture to mark the boundary of Redesdale and to make visitors more aware of this area, the journey of the River Rede and the history of the area. The RR symbol is that of a Northumberland goat, and it is this symbol they propose to use. The sculpture would be located by Whitelee's, close to the Carter Bar border and would be slightly taller than a person. RR are keen to get the views and opinions of people within the Redesdale area before going ahead with this project. Cllrs discussed the proposed sculpture. All thought that the idea behind the sculpture was a good one however Cllrs were unsure of the link between Redesdale and the goat symbol. Cllrs discussed something like a leaping trout for example, may be more representative. Cllr C. Hawman to feedback to RR.

Cllr C. Hawman also informed Cllrs that RR had been working on a project with Northumbria Water to create 16 individual sculptures approximately the height of a person, each representing an arch of a viaduct. Cllr C. Hawman stated that Revitalising Redesdale had hoped to use these sculptures somewhere within Redesdale and were consulting on whether to position them as a group of 16 or as individual sculptures along a trail. Cllrs discussed this and felt that the sculptures may be best along a trail and that a trail around Catcleugh would be an appropriate link to the sculptures and would coincide with the opening of the Black House. Cllr C. Hawman to pass this on to RR.

17) The Gun Inn – Community Bid updates: - Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that the Ridsdale Community Group had put out a call the previous week for all pledge monies. Cllr C. Hamilton also stated that the group had completed all registrations necessary regarding the issuing of shares and the banking side of the project.

18) Planning Matters: - a) For decision – i. Planning Application 19/00247/FUL Construction of a publicly accessible landmark, commissioned to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II and the Commonwealth. Land at Cold Law, Kirkwhelpington. – Discussed under point 7.

b) Decisions from NCC – None

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19) Other correspondence: - None

20) Finances: - a) Invoices for Payment – i. Clerks wages £223.28 & expenses £13.50 (black ink cartridge), ii. Corsenside Parochial Church Council £300 for grass cutting (BAC's paid 15/01/20), iii. The Northumberland Theatre Company £474 (BAC's paid 22/01/20)

b) Bank Balance - £12,231.67

c) Monies Received - £217.30 (panto takings)

d) Requests for Assistance - None

e) Panto Costings – KT presented the panto costings to Councillors showing that the total loss to CPC would be £227.70 which was similar to previous years. KT stated that in the end the performance had been well attended and that all those that she had spoken to had enjoyed it. Cllrs discussed whether to book The Northumberland Theatre Company again for the following year and all agreed that the performance was of cultural value enabling theatre and live performance to be accessible within the parish and should therefore be booked for 2021.

21) Matters for discussion at the Chairman's discretion: Cllr R. Robson stated that dog fouling had once again increased everywhere throughout the parish. Cllrs all agreed that dog fouling was a big problem and sadly evident everywhere. Cllrs discussed the many measures that CPC have taken to address this problem already and what more could be done. It was felt that some of the perpetrators were possibly newer residents of the parish who had not received previous flyers and appeals and were unaware of their legal responsibilities. All agreed that Corsenside Parish Council would create and send out another flyer and distribute to all parishioners - Cllr C. Hamilton and the clerk will progress this. CPC urge parishioners to report the problem on Northumberland County Council website. This process takes a matter of minutes and can be done anonymously. The more reports received the more the dog warden can be present to issue fines. Cllr R. Robson also informed all that she had received several complaints regarding the lack of light from a particular lamppost on the road to East Woodburn. Parishioners had stated that the light had been dimmed too much, this combined with badly parked vehicles made this stretch of road dangerous. KT to contact NCC to ask if there is a compromise measure which could be achieved.

KT informed all that she had spoken with A. Olive of NCC regarding over hanging trees on the road to East Woodburn. KT explained that NCC were aware of the issue and were dealing with it and following procedure. KT to enquire if the issue will be dealt with before nesting season starts again.

KT informed all that she had been contacted by a Rochester who is a Community First Responder. The resident stated that he was now looking after the Rochester, Byrness and Otterburn defibrillators and asked if CPC would like him to take over the care of the defibrillators within our parish. KT had stated that at present we had volunteers who checked the defibrillators regularly and that this seemed to be working. KT asked the gentleman to please continue to remind CPC as and when any parts needed replacing and that KT would contact him with any problems. Cllrs would like to thank the gentleman for his kind and generous offer and ask him if we can and keep his offer in mind should anything change with our checks in the future.

KT explained that she had spoken with a Northumbria Water employee regarding the fenced area blocking the permissive path through the field south of Ridsdale. The employee agreed that the fencing should have been removed by now and that he would mention this to the appropriate department.

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

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