

Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th January 2020

At Corsenside Parish Hall, West Woodburn at 7.30pm

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

1) Apologies for absence: - None

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, C. Hawman in respect of Revitalising Redesdale & Cllr A. Harding in respect of the Ray Wind CIC.

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

4) Minutes of the Corsenside Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2019: Signed as a true and accurate record.

5) Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda: - KT informed all that she had reported the state of local lay-bys and had sent pictures to NCC taken by a local resident. KT asked that the lay-by and all local lay-bys be addressed and asked NCC to consider supplying litter bins. KT stated that she had emailed NCC again asking for a response before the 13th of January however had not yet received one. KT explained that two residents had cleared away as much rubbish as possible from a lay-by situated between Ridsdale and West Woodburn and our thanks go to them for this. A Corsenside volunteer had stated that they would be prepared to clear rubbish if CPC could provide litter pickers. KT to request NCC provide these.

6) Notification of any other business for discussion, at the chairman's discretion, under item 23 below: - Cllr C. Hawman & KT had matters to discuss.

7) County Councillors Report: - County Councillor J. Riddle informed all that the road heightening works to the Bellingham road were now scheduled to take place in March. This would hopefully stop the road from flooding between West Woodburn and Little Ridsdale. 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. County Councillor JR informed all that road improvements in general were also on the list of works and that there would be a big push to repair minor roads within the next financial year as well as resurfacing of certain roads.

KT asked County Councillor J. Riddle about what further traffic calming measures could be put in place throughout West Woodburn. JR stated that he was looking into further measures for the north end of the village however discussions would first be needed with NCC officers who would advise what measures if any, would be best.

8) Update on adopting & signing of new policies, regulations & risk assessments: - None.

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 N. Snowden of NCC once again and copied in his manager D. Laux asking for his response to our email dated the 22nd of October, 4th of November and the 24th of November. KT stated that she had still received no response. Cllrs were disappointed that NCC had failed to give any kind of response. Cllrs have asked KT to contact G. Sanderson the County Councillor with the high-ways portfolio, to express our disappointment and to press for a response to the speed survey figures and our request for further traffic calming measures.

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KT informed all that she had received an email from A. Bruce our Constable Neighbourhood Beat Manager. A. Bruce stated that there had been two complaints received regarding speeding. A. Bruce explained that all responsibility for traffic calming measures lie with NCC and that they rely on their own speed surveys etc rather than seek input from the police.

10) Play Area – West Woodburn: - Cllr C. Hamilton stated that he had no checks to report back on however KT had received no complaints regarding play area issues. KT informed all that she had now submitted the play area grant application which would be discussed at the next Ray Windfarm meeting. KT explained that she had also enquired about the possibility of paying the contractors directly should the application be successful rather than the funds coming into CPC's accounts which, due to the large sum, would change our audit process and therefore incur a charge. KT also stated that Playdale did not provide any prepaid maintenance schedules.

11) Wind Power Stations: - Cllr A. Harding informed all that there was very little to report. There would be a Ray Windfarm meeting next week. Cllr A. Harding stated that BANTR were still working away within the parishes.

12) Parish Hall: - Nothing further to report other than the current works are almost complete, and the new toilets and kitchen have made a huge difference.

13) Six Parishes Youth Engagement Project: - Cllr C. Hawman explained that the application had been submitted by the North Tyne Youth Group. Cllr C. Hawman stated that she had spoken with the NTYG the previous week and they had not yet received any word as to whether the application had been successful or not. Cllr C. Hawman will inform KT when she receives word.

14) Community Volunteers: -Nothing to report. See point 5 above.

15) Community Spending: - Nothing to report.

16) Revitalising Redesdale & Heritage Fund update: - Cllr C. Hawman explained that she had been unable to attend the last RR meeting due to work commitments however hoped to attend the March meeting. Cllr C. Hawman did inform all that although RR could not provide any grant funds for The Gun Inn as it did not meet their criteria, RR had been supportive of the Community Bid scheme and had been sending the Ridsdale Community Group information of other grant giving bodies.

17) Panto, 16th January – The Snow Queen: - KT informed all that tickets were selling and that she hoped to reach 60 sales.

18) The Gun Inn – Community Bid updates: - Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that around Christmas time the Ridsdale Community Group reached their target from pledges. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that he believed once the story went national, pledges then came in from all over. The Ridsdale Community Group have put an offer in which has been accepted. Cllr C. Hawman explained that the group were now in the process of waiting for the Plunkett Foundation to get the paperwork drawn up in order to formalise everything.

19) West Woodburn First School Consultation: Councillors discussed the proposals put forward by NCC regarding the future of WWFS. NCC had proposed three options which included i. leaving the school as a first school, ii. turning it into a primary school or iii. closing the school. Councillors discussed the issues West Woodburn First School had faced over the past couple of years and the huge impact this had had on the whole school. Cllrs also discussed the transport issues involved and what the effect these would have. County Councillor J. Riddle stated that the decision was not about money as there was an amount of money set for the school no matter how many children attended. Cllrs all agreed that they would like to see the continuation of an education provision within the parish.

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20) Planning Matters: - a) For decision – i. Planning App. 19/02411/FUL Land to the east of Chesterhope Farm, West Woodburn. Proposal to replace caravan site with 5 camping pods, toilet/shower block. Cllrs discussed the application and felt that such a venture could have a positive impact with visitors hopefully contributing to the local economy by using the shop and public houses. CPC wish to submit a comment of – ‘No Objection’.

b) Decisions from NCC – Planning App. 19/03437/FUL Land west of Armadale, Ridsdale. Proposed dormer bungalow – GRANTED.

20) Other correspondence: - i. letter received regarding the state of the road from Ridsdale to Hindhaugh dated 12/12/19. The letter is addressed to County Councillor J. Riddle with CPC copied in for information. Cllr C. Hamilton read out the letter and reminded all that the person actually resides in the parish of Birtley and that perhaps if they too were to raise the issue with NCC there would be a greater likelihood of positive action. ii. Poppy Appeal thank you letter for CPC’s donation. iii. Briefing on Library Consultation for Town and Parish Councils. Cllrs were made aware of the consultation and the fact that Bellingham library may be at risk. There will be a drop-in information session at Bellingham library between 10am-1pm on the 29th of January. There are paper surveys available from the library to complete or alternatively surveys can be completed at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NCCLibraryConsultation>.

21) Finances: - a) Invoices for Payment – i. Clerks wages £200.38 ii. WEL Medical Ltd Ridsdale Defibrillator pads £44.28 (paid by Bac’s 23/12/19), iii. ICO annual registration £40.

b) Bank Balance - £13,028.75

c) Monies Received - None

d) Requests for Assistance – Corsenside Parochial Church Council – churchyard maintenance. CPC usually considers requests for assistance in April and September. Cllrs however agreed to award a grant of £300 and remind the PCC of the timetable CPC work to.

e) Precept for 2020-2021 – Cllr C. Hamilton explained to all that he had met with Cllr D. Carrington and KT to discuss the 2020-2021 budget. Cllrs looked over the current 2019-2020 budget and the proposed 2020-2021 budget. Cllr C. Hamilton explained where and why changes had been made to the previous budget. Whilst projected likely expenditure has gone up a little from 2019-2020 it was felt that the shortfall could be covered from existing reserves. Cllr C. Hamilton therefore proposed that CPC request a precept of £7750, the same as the previous four years. All agreed, KT to send the precept request off to NCC.

22) Matters for discussion at the Chairman’s discretion: Cllr C. Hawman stated that the fence and barbed wire put in place by Northumbria Water last summer in the field south of Ridsdale, whilst water main improvement works were carried out, were still in place. This is a permissive path and it would be good to have access restored. KT to contact NW once again to request that it is removed.

KT explained that she had now obtained the contact details of the person at NCC responsible for the rural bus contracts. KT stated that there had been some problems regarding the services offered. KT stated that there had also been a letter of complaint published within the Courant. Cllrs felt that as there had been no recent complaints regarding the bus service that it was not necessary for CPC to contact NCC at this stage.

KT informed all that a parishioner had been concerned about the speed vehicles were travelling along the road from Braewell to Townhead. Cllrs discussed this issue however felt there was little that could be done. CPC will arrange for some small signs warning that there may be children and animals about to be displayed.

23) Next Meeting: - Monday 3rd February 7.30pm, Corsenside Parish Hall, West Woodburn.

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