

Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th of September 2020
at The Gun in Ridsdale at 8pm

Present: - **Councillors:** C. Hamilton (Chair), C. Hawman, R. Robson, C. Currie, Gillian Scott & A. Wilson, **Clerk:** K. Traill **Members of the Public:** One Parishioner

- 1) Apologies for absence: - Cllr A. Harding
- 2) Declarations of interest: - Cllr C. Hamilton in respect of The Gun at Ridsdale, Cllr C. Hawman in respect of Revitalising Redesdale, North Tyne Youth and The Gun at Ridsdale & Cllr C. Currie in respect of The Corsenside Parish Show.
- 3) New Councillor: Cllr C. Hamilton introduced Andrew Wilson, CPC newly co-opted Councillor, to all. KT to forward all relevant paperwork to Northumberland County Council.
- 4) Opportunities for members of the public to raise issues: A parishioner discussed the continued issue of speeding traffic throughout West Woodburn stating that he had also witnessed speeding of Tarmac and timber wagons. They stated that they believed the problem would get worse at the north end of the village as two Hillcrest properties would soon have newly constructed driveways, meaning there would be no cars parked on the road and therefore no natural barrier to slow traffic down. The parishioner explained that two families with young children had already moved out of West Woodburn because of speeding traffic. Cllr C. Hamilton thanked them for attending the meeting and once again raising the issue. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that NCC had carried out the promised speed survey and as with any data the results can be interpreted in different ways. Cllr Hamilton believed that the analysis of the data he had undertaken did show there to be an issue of speeding within the village and that this had been communicated to NCC at the time. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that CPC would continue to pursue the matter and push for build out features to create a natural barrier to force vehicles to slow down as it now appeared clear that signage directing vehicles to do so was not having the desired effect.
The parishioner also requested that CPC investigate the blasting procedures of the quarries located in East Woodburn as he believed they should display red flags and sound sirens while blasting, which was not currently happening. KT to enquire about what procedures the quarries adhere to.
- 5) Minutes of the Corsenside Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 22nd June 2020: Signed as a true and accurate record.
- 6) Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda: Cllr C. Hawman discussed the goal post issue that had previously been brought up. KT stated that she had added this to the action list. Cllr C. Hawman will research what rules and regulations are in place regarding goal posts and nets and public land.
- 7) Notification of any other business for discussion, at the chairman's discretion, under item 24 below: - Cllrs R. Robson & G. Scott & KT had matters to discuss.
- 8) County Councillors Report: - None
- 9) Update on adopting & signing of new policies, regulations & risk assessments: - Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that he had met with KT to review CPC website and its compliance with the new Web-site Accessibility regulation which comes into force on the 23rd of September. Cllr C. Hamilton explained the new regulations recognise that professional compliance checking could place an excessive financial burden on a small organisation with typical charges being £1300 per day. If this was the case organisations could claim that this

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Date:

presented a Disproportionate Burden and carry out the compliance checks themselves. CPC had therefore taken on the responsibility to check the website met as many standards as possible by taking a sample of the website and checking it matched the criteria. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that CPC would then need to display an Accessibility Statement on the website stating if we were compliant, partially compliant, or non-compliant. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that as we use a free website our package was extremely basic and therefore CPC could only make low key changes. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that he had created a document detailing the checks needed and what CPC's website was compliant with. Cllr C. Hamilton also explained that he had added a new web-site accessibility page and that CPC would continually review the process.

10) Action point list: - KT explained that a letter had been sent out following on from a complaint noted in June's minutes regarding an increase in works vehicles through Whiteacres. CPC had requested that the business remind all drivers and deliveries to use the Lonnen rather than Whiteacres. KT explained that the company had responded requesting that parishioners take down dates, times and registration numbers of vehicles believed to be theirs which could be tracked and investigated. KT also stated that the company had asked CPC to liaise with NCC regarding the disrepair of the Lonnen and the dangerous exit onto the A68. KT explained that after discussions with Cllr C. Hamilton she had initially contacted NCC requesting this road be repaired and included photos of the worst patches. KT had informed the local business and agreed to bring it to the attention of all Cllrs at our September meeting. All Cllrs agreed that the road did need extensive repair work and that the small patch repair NCC had made to one pothole, was completely inadequate. All agreed to add this to our action list and to discuss adding it to our Local Transport Priorities for 2021 under point 19.

11) Play Area – West Woodburn: - Cllr C. Hamilton explained that the play area was opened at the start of the summer holidays however the large swings and part of the timber walk had had to be cordoned off. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that a couple of days after the new refurbishments were completed our annual ROSPA inspection was carried out which identified a new issue with part of the old timber walk and also that the large swings would now need raising due to the fact the safety surface had been raised. Both pieces of equipment were covered in red and white tape, warning signs were attached, and the swings were wrapped up so they could not be used. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that twice some children had taken it upon themselves to take the swings down and tear down the signs hence making the play area unsafe for other users. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that the swings were now padlocked up making them impossible to use. CPC await a date from Playdale as to when these additional works will take place however it is believed to be sometime in September.

Cllr C. Currie stated that the new safety surface was very rough and therefore could cause grazing if a child tripped and that the surface in places was springy. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that the safety surface is designed so that it is not slippery and therefore it should not cause the same issues as the previous surface. Cllr C. Hamilton also informed all that both himself and KT had noticed the spring and had sought advice from Playdale. Playdale had investigated and were happy that this would settle however reassured CPC that the surfaces were covered by a 5-year warranty should there be any issues.

12) West Woodburn First School Closure- KT read out information received from NCC regarding certain aspects of the closure. KT informed all that with regards to the schools fenced grassed area, CPC had requested that it be transferred to CPC as a community asset transfer. NCC had stated they were undertaking an assessment to see if the property would be required to deliver any other council services. If the property was not needed,

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Date:

then NCC would have to go through an approval process with the Department of Education before the site could be considered for sale. If the school were marketed for sale there would then be an opportunity for CPC to express an interest in a community asset transfer. NCC would inform CPC prior to the official marketing of the site.

KT informed all that CPC had requested that the 2 new flashing speed signs be left in place to help reduce the continuing issue of speeding within West Woodburn. KT explained that NCC had replied stating that the signs would be removed as the traffic regulation order would not allow the signs to remain as they are directly associated with the school. Cllrs discussed this issue and felt that the signs could continue to play a role in helping to reduce the speed of traffic and could be altered to flash 30mph. Cllrs discussed the fact that although the school had closed, children continued to be at risk while waiting for school transport. KT to bring this to the attention of NCC and ask once again that the signs remain in place.

KT informed all that NCC would not cover the cost of relocating the defibrillator however could assist CPC in applying for a grant should CPC have insufficient funds. KT to continue to liaise with The Bay Horse who have kindly agreed to rehome the defibrillator and the electrician.

13) Wind Power Stations & BANTR update- KT read out information sent by Cllr A. Harding in his absence. KT informed all that the Ray Wind Farm Fund held their annual general meeting on the 28th of August and the board of Directors was re-elected for a further 3 years. KT stated that there was currently room for a further 2-3 additional Directors and that the board were keen to recruit some younger people which would help make the board more representative of the general population. If anyone would be interested in joining the board of Director's, please contact CPC's clerk who will pass their information on to Cllr A. Harding. KT explained that Cllr A. Harding had stated that parish council members such as himself, were restricted to three consecutive terms of three years and that Cllr A. Harding was currently serving his second term and would be prepared to stand for a third however after that another CPC representative would have to replace Cllr A. Harding. KT informed all that Corsenside parishes lay member of the committee, had indicated that they did not wish to serve a third term and that when they stood down another parish lay member would need to be sought. Lastly KT informed all that the next financial meeting will be held on the 9th of September 2020.

KT informed all that P. Scott had stepped down as the parish BANTR representative and that D. Longcake had now taken on this role, (for any enquiries please email D. Longcake on dglongcake@sky.com with your name, contact phone number and your enquiry). Cllrs discussed the issues people encountered when signing up to the BANTR scheme. Parishioners had stated that they felt they had to agree to sign up to the vouchers without first knowing what exactly they were signing up for. Parishioners were also unsure as to how underground connections would be made to their property and the costs this would incur especially when a shared back lane was involved.

14) Parish Hall: - KT informed all that currently due to the Covid situation, the Parish Hall would remain closed until further notice.

15) Six Parishes Youth Engagement Project: - Cllr C. Hawman informed all that throughout lockdown she had been liaising with G. Nixon of North Tyne Youth regarding taking the feasibility study to the next step and inviting children to attend an event in order to gain their views and ideas. Cllr C. Hawman explained that they

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Date:

hoped to use Ridsdale as a pilot scheme in August however there had been a delay as G. Nixon of NTY would be leaving to start a new job and therefore a replacement youth worker would first have to be found. Cllr C. Hawman explained that NTY were currently in the process of interviewing candidates and were hopeful to have a replacement in position soon and would then be able to restart the study. Cllr C. Hawman informed all that the grant awarded by The Ray Wind Fund for the feasibility study had been extended, initially due to the Covid crisis and would hopefully be extended again. Cllr C. Hawman explained that the grant was awarded to the R.T.C sport centre rather than NTY as initially it was the RTC who set up the youth adventure.

16) Community Volunteers & Spending: - KT stated that Covid had really put a stop to any spring/summer plans and that certain jobs could not have safely proceeded. KT said that she would contact some volunteers to see if they would be happy to do certain jobs where it be easy to achieve social distancing or carried out individually such as planters and sanding benches in the play area.

Cllr C. Hawman discussed whether more copies of the leaflet created by the Redesdale Ramblers of local walks within the parish were needed and if more were needed, if that would be something CPC could fund, all agreed CPC could support this, KT to enquire with the Redesdale Ramblers. Cllr C. Hawman stated that during lockdown she had been able to enjoy more local walks and had noticed a lot of footpath signs needed attention as many were no longer stable enough and pointing in the correct direction. KT to contact NCC and direct this to the correct department.

Cllr C. Currie stated that perhaps the grass edging that ran down the length of footpath from The Gun at Ridsdale, would benefit from being re-edged as in parts it had started to grow onto the path. KT to see if this is something NCC are responsible for.

KT informed all that the West Woodburn defibrillator needed new pads and a new battery which would total approximately £150. Cllrs all agreed, KT to organise replacements.

17) Revitalising Redesdale & Heritage Fund update: - Cllr C. Hawman informed all that there had been some queries regarding the new stepping-stones at Smoutel Ford. Cllr C. Hawman stated that she had spoken with Revitalising Redesdale who had explained that this crossing would never be a continuously dry crossing and was only meant to be used when the river was at a low flow. Cllr C. Hawman explained that the stepping-stones had to be set low so as not to act as a natural barrier and therefore disturb the natural flow. Cllr C. Hawman stated that although walkers may expect to be able to cross on a dry day, that actually the level of the river might be at peak flow from previous wet conditions and that this was therefore something that needed to be considered. Cllr C. Hawman stated that an alternative route should be included on any literature involving this walk.

Cllr C. Hawman informed all that a Revitalising Redesdale grant had been awarded to The Gun at Ridsdale to go towards the outdoor tables.

18) The Gun Inn update: - Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that the new name was now The Gun at Ridsdale. Cllr C. Hamilton also stated that he had spoken on behalf of CPC at the opening of The Gun. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that he had thanked the committee for all their continued hard work which has resulted in the successful purchase, transformation, and reopening of The Gun. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that there had been some 2500 hours of volunteer time which involved stripping back walls, rebuilds, electrics, decoration etc however the results speak for themselves. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that phase 2 involved the relocation of the kitchen and toilets with the addition of a small extension. Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that in keeping with previous measures put in place to future protect both public houses in the parish, he suggested that CPC reapply to NCC to have The Gun once again listed as an 'Asset of the Community'. All agreed, KT to make an application.

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Date:

19) Local Transport Priorities: - KT informed Councillors that it was time to submit CPC's Local Transport Priorities for 2021. KT read out the information sent by NCC regarding our submissions for 2020. NCC stated that our request to make improvements to the drainage outside Low House on the A68 in Ridsdale had been rejected stating that it would be considered for future planned maintenance programmes and would be monitored. NCC also rejected CPC's request for build out features on the A68 in West Woodburn's 30mph zone stating that these would be of little effect given the need to accommodate large vehicles. Lastly KT informed all that our request to resurface the road from Armstrong Street to Hindhaugh had been addressed and the work carried out by NCC in mid-August but noted with disappointment that passing places had not been included, as requested by CPC.

Councillors were disappointed at the rejection of 2 of CPC's priorities. Councillors discussed what 3 priorities to submit for 2021. Cllr G. Scott discussed the poor condition of the road leading down to St Cuthbert's and the road that leads to the Beacon. Cllr G. Scott informed all that she had been told by an NCC representative that the road to St Cuthbert's was scheduled to be re-patched, KT to contact NCC and find out when this is due. Cllrs discussed the Beacon road and felt that this would not meet the criteria for the Local Transport Priorities. All agreed that the drainage issue outside Low House should once again be added as Councillors felt that flooding of the road in this location on a bend posed a significant hazard. Councillors also wished to resubmit CPC's request for build out features on the A68 in West Woodburn as they felt it was the only measure which would reduce speeding. Lastly Councillors felt that repairs and safety issues on the Lonnen in West Woodburn needed addressing and therefore all agreed to add this to the 2021 list. KT to submit CPC's requests.

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

b) Decisions from NCC – i. The Gun at Ridsdale - Planning ref: 20/01734/FUL – minor alterations and single storey extension to the rear and side to create a new accessible toilet - GRANTED

21) Other correspondence: - None

22) Finances: - a) Invoices for payment i. KT £16 padlocks, ii. Noticeboards Online - £1438.56 (to be split in 2 payments) – Grant excluding the VAT awarded by Revitalising Redesdale.

b) Bank Balance - £15,370.94

c) Monies received – i. NCC precept September - £3,875

d) Budget Report – Budget sent out to all Cllrs before the meeting. Cllrs were happy with the information. Cllr C. Hawman suggested that a separate section to show the grant money spending for the play area be created so that it would give a truer representation. KT to implement.

e) new banking signatories – KT informed all that The Unity Trust Bank had new procedures in place for removing and adding new signatories and that it was mostly all done on-line. KT to proceed with this and have Cllr A. Wilson added on as a signatory and on-line banking user. Cllr C. Hamilton also asked Cllr A. Wilson, considering his financial experience, if he would be willing to step into the role of checking over CPC's accounts at points throughout the year. Cllr A. Wilson is happy to take on this role, KT to drop accounts off with Cllr A. Wilson.

f) Requests for assistance – Tynedale Sports Cllrs discussed this request and felt that this organisation did not directly benefit parishioners. Cllrs discussed other organisations and again decided to donate £200 to The Great North Air Ambulance. KT also requested permission to order the Poppy Wreath and make the usual donation of £25 – all agreed.

23) Matters for discussion at the Chairman's discretion: Councillor R. Robson informed all that the trees and shrubs along the East Woodburn road, especially on the church corner, were overgrown making the road

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Date:

dangerous to walkers and drivers and did not allow room for 2 cars to pass. Cllr R. Robson also stated that weeds and shrubs needed addressing on the road that ran behind the back of The Bay Horse and Lowlands. KT to report these to NCC. KT informed all that she had been in contact with the Northumberland Theatre Company regarding the Christmas performance and was advised that a decision as to whether performances would go ahead this year, would be made soon and if so CPC could confirm a date then. Cllr C. Hamilton raised the poor performance issues of the Clerks laptop and suggested it is checked over by the computer repair shop in Hexham with a view to them restoring it to full speed and good health. All agreed and KT to organise this at a convenient time.

24) Next Meeting: - 2nd November 2020 – CPC will continue to monitor advice and guidance from the Government and the Association of Local Councils and decide nearer the time as to the location/type of meeting to hold.

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