

Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st March 2021

Via video link at 7.30pm

Present: - **Councillors:** C. Hamilton (Chair), C. Hawman, A. Harding, R. Robson & A. Wilson, **Clerk:** K. Traill

Members of the Public: K. Smith

1) Apologies for absence: - Cllrs C. Currie & G. Scott.

2) Declarations of interest: - Cllrs C. Hamilton & A. Wilson in respect of The Gun at Ridsdale, Cllr C. Hawman in respect of Revitalising Redesdale, North Tyne Youth and The Gun at Ridsdale and Cllr A. Harding in respect of The Ray Wind Fund.

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

4) Minutes of the Corsenside Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th January 2021: Cllr C Hawman stated that under point 9, action 95, it should read 'the Football Foundation gave her a list of approved suppliers' and that Cllr C. Hawman contacted three of those approved. Signed as a true and accurate record with these amendments made.

5) Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda: KT informed all that she had contacted Alex of Forestry England to enquire about any progress regarding works to improve the accessibility at the Fourlaw's Community Forest. KT explained that Alex informed her that some works had been carried out and were being led by a J. Watson who would be in touch with more information. KT stated that J. Watson had emailed an update which included planned works to remount the information board and slightly re-route the trail to avoid the worst of the problem areas. J. Watson also enquired to the location of one of the sculptures. KT stated that she had copied Cllr C. Hamilton into the email as he was much more familiar with the trail and the problems experienced there. Councillor C. Hamilton explained that he had tried calling J. Watson however she was off work that day but would be in the next day and that Cllr C. Hamilton would make contact then. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that he may have some concern if the trail was rerouted as it may give the route a whole different feel. Councillors are very grateful that Forestry England have been so responsive and quick to investigate and resolve their initial requests.

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

7) County Councillors Report: - None

8) Update on adopting & signing of new policies, regulations & risk assessments: - Cllr C. Hamilton stated that KT had previously sent out an up-to-date policy chart which explained what policies CPC had in place, when they were put in place and when they were reviewed. Cllr C. Hamilton thanked KT for her regarding the chart and policies. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that at a meeting in 2015 councillors had discussed whether CPC needed a 'Councillors Allowance Policy'. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that when discussed in 2015 all councillors agreed that there was very little need for such a policy as there was usually little or no expenses to claim for. At the most councillors would be asked to attend the odd training class or county council meeting in Hexham or Morpeth and in 2015 all councillors were happy to absorb travel costs as part of their voluntary role. Councillors once again discussed this and all agreed it was still not necessary to have such a policy in place, all were happy to forfeit any travel costs they may incur, themselves. KT also informed all that she had reviewed all risk assessments.

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9) Action point list: - 91. Traffic calming measures West Woodburn A68 – KT read through the action point notes stating that as instructed she had contacted County Councillor J. Riddle, Constable Bruce and NCC stating that vehicles were still speeding through West Woodburn and at times in excess of 60mph. In the email KT explained that this had been an ongoing issue for many years and that due to the location of the most recent speed survey, the results were not a true reflection of the problem. KT appealed for them to help, to take proactive action and to install traffic calming measures that forced drivers to slow down. KT informed councillors that the only response she had received back was from Constable Bruce who explained that the Community Support Officers had been tasked with attending the area over a weekend in February and that it was a shame the surveys did not highlight the issues as it was the data from these which determined NCC's actions.

KT explained that she had spoken with JR regarding a different matter and had enquired as to whether CPC could apply to his small grants scheme to cover the cost of replacing the school flashing signs once they are removed. JR stated that this would not be possible as all his funds had already been allocated and he has previously funded signs for the parish. KT explained that she had contacted The Ray Wind Farm asking if CPC could apply for funds to cover the cost of flashing speed signs. The administrator responded stating that this was something more suited to The Community Fund when it reopened for applications however CPC would first have to prove that the provision of flashing speed signs was not something that was the responsibility of NCC. KT stated that she had emailed the Highways Programme requesting evidence that it was not NCC's responsibility to provide flashing speed signs, however KT had not received a response. Cllr C. Hawman asked if the previous emails KT had received regarding the removal of the school speed signs could be used as evidence. KT was unsure as these mainly reference why those particular signs could not legally stay in place. KT to chase up.

KT had previously sent councillors an email she had received from Otterburn PC asking if CPC would be interested in sharing a portable ANPR camera with Otterburn and Rochester. This effectively does what the Community Speed Watch volunteers do. It captures the speed, date, time, and number plate. The Police would then write to a driver if the speed limit had been exceeded and would visit repeat offenders to issue a 'warning'. If CPC decided to share a ANPR camera the cost would be split three ways at a cost of £2000 each which would hopefully be grant sourced. Cllrs discussed the benefits of this, and all were in favour. KT to enquire as to whether the speed can be adjusted from 30m.p.h to 40m.p.h so that this can also be used in Ridsdale.

95. Goal Posts & Nets West Woodburn – Cllr C. Hawman stated that she had carried out more research after getting the exact goal measurements and believes she found goalposts which were more appropriate. Cllr C. Hawman further enquired about installation and whether CPC could purchase an extra set of sockets to allow the goal posts to regularly be moved from north & south to east & west to better protect grass wearing. Cllr C. Hawman has chased the company up several times however has still not heard back.

10) Play Area – West Woodburn: - KT informed all that she had contacted Playdale regarding the broken toddler swing requesting that it be replaced as it was fitted new in May 2020. KT reported that when she next visited the play area the swing had been replaced. Councillor C. Hamilton stated that he would carry out a play area inspection before the next meeting.

11) West Woodburn First School Closure- KT informed all that there was nothing further to report. KT did state however that County Councillor J. Riddle had informed her that he had received complaints from parishioners.

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regarding the fact that there was a guardian living in the school building, however KT was unaware of the nature of the complaints and that CPC had received no such complaints. Councillor C. Hamilton asked KT to send another communication to NCC once again to remind them that CPC would like the school field transferred over as a community asset transfer and to ask for a date when things are likely to progress.

12) Wind Power Stations & BANTR update: - Cllr A. Harding unfortunately lost connection during the online PC meeting and was therefore unable to give an update at this time. KT read out a brief update about BANTR which included news regarding an official press release. The update also stated that there are still several E-voucher signups for postcode area NE waiting to be assigned on the B4RN system however the current government voucher scheme is closing at the end of this month.

13) Parish Hall: - Nothing further to report. Cllr C. Hamilton reminded Councillors to approach anyone they felt would be interested in representing CPC on the parish hall committee. Councillors wish to thank the parish hall committee for reconsidering their decision and allowing CPC to store emergency food parcels in the hall.

14) Six Parishes Youth Engagement Project: - Cllr C. Hawman informed all that Lisa from North Tyne Youth has now completed an interim report to update the funding body, however Lisa has set this out in a clear understandable way so that it can also be read by the communities involved. Cllr C. Hawman explained that the consultations took place back in October 2020 after a significant delay caused by Covid. Lisa was able to carry out events at The Bay Horse in West Woodburn, The Gun at Ridsdale and the RTC in Otterburn before the second lockdown came into force. Lisa continued to collect the opinions of young people using online surveys. Cllr C. Hawman stated that the results were limited due to Covid and the lack of being able to hold open events, however the response from those who did attend and those who completed online surveys was positive. Lisa surmised that most of the ideas the young people came up with could fit into two broad categories, 'somewhere to go' and 'something to do'. Lisa reported that the strengths the young people perceived in our area were general positive environmental benefits, they felt safe and found people generally very friendly. The weaknesses young people found in our area included transport and access to it, the length of time travel journeys took to attend events/clubs and the lack of different clubs. Lisa and the North Tyne Youth leaders will put together a plan, some ideas can be incorporated within existing provision and some to be built into future projects. Cllr C. Hawman stated that Lisa had created bullet point solutions within the report and that NTY will continue to work with 11–18-year-olds and address the areas highlighted within the report. Cllr C. Hawman stated that unfortunately Lisa had been unable to make contact with one or two of the original six parishes involved however she would continue to include them. Councillors were pleased with the progress made and hoped the project would help keep young people within the parishes now and in the future, engaged. KT stated that she thought Lisa was incredibly good at engaging with the young people and had put so much effort in to consult and include them.

15) Community Volunteers & Spending: - Nothing to report. It is hoped that volunteers will be able to help out in late Spring, early Summer. KT suggested that extra money could be spent on new planters and plants if volunteers were willing to help out. KT also stated that a new bin may need to be purchased if the one in East Woodburn, which appears to have come unattached at the top, could not be fixed.

16) Revitalising Redesdale & Heritage Fund update: - Cllr C. Hawman informed all that she had attended an RR interactive interpretation session involving a group of graphic designers in which they discussed what and how information could be presented on signposts and information boards throughout Redesdale. Cllr C. Hawman explained that they had discussed what information would go where and the type and amount of information displayed at the boundaries of Redesdale. Cllr C. Hawman stated that some information boards would include

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site specific information such as the ironworks in Ridsdale, while other information boards would act more as a general information hub. Cllr C. Hawman stated that all the designs put forward were well received and beautifully designed. Cllr C. Hawman went on to inform all that the next deadline for the Revitalising Redesdale Community Heritage Fund was the 12th of March and would strongly suggest that groups look to apply for funding if their project matches the criteria.

17) Environment Agency Flood Resilience: - KT updated all on the correspondence she had had with C. Hall of the Environment Agency. KT stated that there were now five volunteers with one now agreeing to fill the position of lead warden. C. Hall is now at the stage where he can liaise with the volunteers to organise training and discuss putting a plan together. KT stated that one of the main issues would be around the flooding of the road to Bellingham. KT informed all that parishioners had enquired as to the provision of flashing warning signs which would flash automatically when the water level reached a certain height, warning vehicles that the road was flooded. KT explained that C. Hall had spoken with NCC who had stated that these were initiatives which were usually funded by parish & town councils. KT stated that she had discussed this with C. Hall and thought that this would be something NCC should be responsible for. KT had stated that usually it was not parishioners that got into trouble when this road flooded and that it was NCC and emergency services who were covering the costs of rescue operations and deploying employees to sit at either end of the flooded areas to warn vehicles not to drive through. KT had thought it would therefore seem reasonable that NCC cover the cost of such signs.

18) Landscaping Tender: - Councillor C. Hamilton informed all that CPC had received two tender submissions for the landscaping tender. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that tenderer 1 had submitted a cost for 16 cuts and 2 weed killer treatments of £3040 excluding the school fenced area and a cost of £3200 to include the fenced school area. Tenderer 2 had submitted a cost for 16 cuts and 2 weed killer treatments of £1868 excluding the fenced school area and a cost of £2188 to include the school fenced area.

Cllr C. Hamilton stated that tenderer 2 had also stated that all health & safety policies, risk assessments, liability insurance and waste carrier licenses and spraying certificates could be viewed as required.

Cllrs discussed the tenderers and felt that the difference in cost was so significantly lower in tender 2, that the prudent course of action was to award the contract to them.

19) Grit & Grit Bins: - KT explained that during the recent snow and ice she had received complaints that some grit bins were not being refilled despite parishioners completing a NCC online request. KT contacted NCC requesting that the bin in East Woodburn be filled. KT was later contacted by NCC who stated that the bin in East Woodburn was a green bin and NCC were not responsible for green bins. NCC insisted that all green bins were PC owned and grit had to be purchased by CPC. NCC stated that all green bins must have been purchased by CPC, despite KT stating that CPC had never purchased any grit bins and had never paid for grit. NCC stated that it had always been policy that PC's pay to have these bins refilled. Cllr C. Hamilton instructed KT to contact the NCC head of department to discuss this as he was certain there must have been a misunderstanding. KT spoke with A. Olive of NCC who reiterated that NCC only provide and refill yellow grit bins and that it has never been policy to fill green grit bins free of charge and if this has been happening in Corsenside parish then it has been a mistake and A. Olive was now investigating this. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that in his 22 years as a councillor for Corsenside Parish Council he has never been aware of CPC purchasing any grit bins or ever having to buy grit and as far as he is aware the green grit bins were provided by NCC. CPC have no financial record of ever purchasing grit bins and has never been charged for grit. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that had this been NCC policy, then CPC would have budgeted for this in December before submitting our precept request in January. Cllr C. Hamilton had requested that KT organise a virtual meeting between himself, KT and A. Olive

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to discuss the matter further. KT has contacted A. Olive twice requesting a date to hold a meeting. Cllr C. Hawman enquired as to what happens within other local parishes. KT stated that she had spoken with Otterburn PC however they do not have any green grit bins just yellow ones and Bellingham PC do things differently and actually employ someone to grit the pavements. Cllrs discussed whether CPC could simply ask NCC to provide more yellow grit bins. KT stated that NCC had to carry out an assessment at the location where a bin was required and if it met the criteria, for example a suitable gradient or junction, then NCC would provide a yellow grit bin. Cllr R. Robson enquired as to whether any of the green bin locations would therefore meet NCC's criteria, this is something CPC will enquire about if NCC insist that they are not responsible for green grit bins. KT and Cllr C. Hamilton to continue to pursue the whole issue with NCC.

20) Planning Matters: - a) For decision – i. Woodland Management Plan Yearhaugh & Halls Hill – Councillors discussed this and had no objections to the plans. Cllr C. Hawman suggested that the owners could perhaps apply to the Revitalising Redesdale Community Heritage Fund for funds up to £2,000 to help with costs towards making the area more accessible to the public.

ii. – Planning ref: 19/00247/FUL Construction of a publicly accessible landmark commissioned to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II and the Commonwealth. Councillor C. Hamilton informed all that he had been approached by the group 'Keep the Wannies Wild' requesting that he speak on behalf of CPC at the Public Inquiry, which was to be held online and begin on the 9th of March putting forward the reasons for CPC's objection to the application. Councillor C. Hamilton asked if all councillors were happy for him to represent CPC and to reiterate the original points previously made. All councillors were in agreement for Cllr C. Hamilton to represent CPC in this way.

b) Decisions from NCC – i. Planning App – 20/03593/FUL Proposed combining of No2 & No 3 Low Park to form one 4-bedroom dwelling, construction of a porch to front elevation – GRANTED

ii. Planning App – 20/01645/FUL Erection of holiday cottage, package treatment plant, car parking and associated works land east of crag cottage, West Woodburn - GRANTED

21) Other correspondence: - i. Plant Swap Bellingham – Information regarding the plant swap has gone out on The Clarion Facebook page and the 3 Kirks Newsletter. K. Smith stated that the plant swap had been a great success within Corsenside. K. Smith stated that it was possible for a volunteer to be nominated within the parish and that they could then make use of any excess plant swap plants, which could then be planted within the parish. Cllr C. Hamilton thanked K. Smith and wished the initiative well, ii. Age UK – KT stated that she had received a poster and information from Age UK which she will display and asked Councillors to remind people of the support Age UK can offer.

22) Finances: - a) Invoices for payment – None at time of meeting although invoices were still being paid during the extended break between meetings.

b) Bank Balance - £9822.75

c) Monies received – None

d) Requests for Assistance – Citizens Advice -to be discussed at the May meeting after the end of year finances.

e) Budget Review – One was held in January, KT will update Councillors at the beginning of April when the end of year accounts are complete.

23) Matters for discussion at the Chairman's discretion: - Cllr C. Hawman stated that there was still an issue with speeding on Armstrong Street in Ridsdale and it had been reported that those speeding consisted of HGV's, delivery vehicles and also some locals. Cllr Hamilton stated that he also had been approached by residents of Armstrong Street to complain about this issue. Cllr C. Hawman enquired as to whether CPC were able to put signs up or whether this was something NCC had to carry out. It is believed that NCC must

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authorise any signs as there is potentially legislation governing the use of such signage. Cllr C. Hamilton suggested that CPC also add this issue to next year's Local Transport Priorities. Cllrs asked KT to raise this once again with NCC as a health and safety risk and ask about the potential for the installation of speed humps even if this is just one at either end of the residential part of Armstrong Street. Cllrs also asked KT to put a reminder on The Clarion Facebook page requesting that people slow down and be mindful that local children frequently play on the street.

Cllr R. Robson informed all that she had received several complaints, once again, regarding dog fouling in the parish. Cllr R. Robson discussed putting more permanent signs at dog fouling hotspots throughout the parish where people typically park and exercise their dog. Cllr R. Robson stated that the dog bins were being well used however there were still those who did not clear up after their dogs. Cllr R. Robson suggested another leaflet drop as there were lots of new people and new dogs within the parish. Cllrs also discussed the issue of dog fouling at local forest walks such as Fourlaw's. KT to enquire with the NCC dog warden to find out if there are any pre-existing dog fouling signs CPC could use and to see if Forestry England have any sign's they could use at Fourlaw's. Cllr C. Hamilton to once again look at dog fouling flyers.

KT informed all that she had requested a NCC inspector inspect Shaw Lonnen as the road was in extremely poor condition. KT also stated that she had reported the Knowsgate road as this also had several large potholes.

KT explained that she had received another batch of Age UK magazine pack's and that she would distribute these. KT informed all that the R.T.C in Otterburn had once again been in touch with P. Scott as they had organised a cooked meal to be dropped into those living alone and perhaps feeling isolated and that they would like to include Corsenside. PS & KT to distribute these when they arrive later this week.

KT stated that back in September, councillors gave KT authority to take the clerks laptop to a computer repair shop as it was running very slow. KT stated that this had not yet happened as not long after the meeting we went into another lockdown. KT asked if Cllrs were happy for KT to do this once we came out of lockdown. All Cllrs were happy for KT to do this.

24) Next Meeting: - Provisionally Monday 10th of May 2021 – Annual Parish Meeting and CPC's Annual General Meeting. This is subject to advice and information from Government sources and Northumberland Association of Local Councils. CPC will continue to monitor this advice and decide nearer the time as to the date/location/type of meeting to hold.

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