

Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th of June 2021

Corsenside Parish Hall at 7.30pm

Present: - **Councillors:** C. Hamilton (Chair), C. Hawman (Vice Chair), A. Wilson, A. Harding S. Smith & J. Fenwick
County Councillor: J. Riddle **Clerk:** K. Traill **Members of the Public:** None

1) Apologies for absence: - None

2) Councillor Vacancy: - Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that unfortunately the parishioner CPC hoped to co-opt to fill the Councillor vacancy was no longer able to commit to the role. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that KT had sought advice from the Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC) and that being so close to the elections we are still able to directly co-opt to fill vacancies as any parishioner who wanted to stand would have done so at the recent elections. Cllr C. Hamilton asked KT to once again contact NALC & NCC to see what procedure CPC now needed to follow. Cllr C. Hamilton asked all Cllrs to think of someone who may be interested in the position, someone ideally located within East Woodburn so that we maintained the current distribution of councillors throughout the parish.

3) Code of Conduct (Declarations of Interests): -Cllrs C. Hamilton in respect of The Gun at Ridsdale & the Corsenside Flood Resilience team, Cllr C. Hawman in respect of Revitalising Redesdale, North Tyne Youth and The Gun at Ridsdale, Cllr A. Wilson in respect of The Gun at Ridsdale & The Green Rigg Steering Group & Cllr S. Smith in respect of Bellingham Middle School Parents, Teachers and Community Association & the Corsenside Flood Resilience team.

4) Format of Future Meetings: - Cllr C Hamilton informed all that after the meeting in May which was exceptionally long due to a variety of factors, Cllr C. Hawman had researched meeting structures and had put forward several suggestions to make meetings, where possible, more comfortable, and shorter in length. Cllr C. Hamilton explained the proposal that any councillor due to make a report at a meeting should submit the report, in writing, to the clerk so that it can be sent out with the minutes for all to read beforehand. At the meeting any discussion will be based upon questions others may have and not the delivery of the report itself other than any additional new information. Cllr C. Hawman also suggested a five-minute comfort break approximately half-way through to allow attendees to move around and stretch. All Councillors agreed to the proposals. KT to send out a reminder for reports before the agenda goes out.

Cllr J. Fenwick suggested that it would be useful if at the end of the draft minutes there was a summary of actions so that people could see instantly what points they agreed to action. All agreed to this suggestion.

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

6) Minutes of the Corsenside Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th of May 2021: Signed as a true and accurate record.

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

8) Notification of any other business for discussion, at the chairman's discretion, under item 19 below: - Cllr C. Hamilton & KT had matters to discuss.

9) County Councillors Report: - Cllr C. Hamilton introduced County Councillor J. Riddle to the new Councillors. County Councillor J. Riddle stated that the Conservatives had now taken full control of Northumberland County Council. C. Cllr J. Riddle informed all that last year they had a £800 million budget, this was the biggest there had ever been, NCC managed to come in £12, million below budget so this money has been used for important services for example the fire service.

Signed:

Date:

C. Cllr J. Riddle explained that after the election he was still a cabinet member however had agreed to leave planning which had now been handed over to County Councillor Colin Horncastle who is very experienced in planning. C. Cllr J. Riddle explained that he was now responsible for the local services portfolio which included things such as all highway functions, street lighting, waste management and recycling, carparks, coastal flood protection, rights of way, country parks, town markets, cycling and healthy living and home to school transport. C. Cllr J. Riddle informed all that home to school transport was free for under 16-year-olds. C. Cllr J. Riddle stated that he was aware of the problem regarding transport to Bellingham Middle School, in that NCC would not provide free transport. C. Cllr J. Riddle stated that he thought this was morally wrong and was trying to do something about this. Cllr C. Hawman asked whether in relation to cycling and healthy living, would there be more focus on sustainable travel. C. Cllr J. Riddle stated that NCC needed to improve the roads and pavement to eliminate the bad surfaces and trip hazards and that there was an extra £4 million to spend on road transport. C. Cllr J. Riddle informed all that NCC had also set aside £50 million to spend on C & U roads, which may be considered as minor roads, however in rural locations these are the main routes. C. Cllr J. Riddle explained that the raising of the Bellingham road to help alleviate the flooding issue, was still with the legal department. C. Cllr J. Riddle did state however that road widening at the Bellingham end would still go ahead. Cllr C. Hamilton informed C. Cllr J. Riddle that the new flood resilience group had met with C. Hall of The Environment Agency and had spoken about the possibility of installing interactive signs located at the Bellingham end which would warn drivers that the road was flooded. It was felt that people currently risked driving through the flood waters as they had already driven most of the way, whereas if drivers were warned earlier on, they could then make the choice to take a different route. Cllrs once again discussed speeding traffic through the parish. C. Cllr J. Riddle discussed the possibility of using a ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) camera however Northumbria Police currently do not permit the use of these within our county. C. Cllr J. Riddle stated that he was challenging this decision. These were used in Durham and other counties throughout the UK therefore why should they not be permitted in Northumberland. Cllr C. Hamilton once again stated that he believed the only thing that would stop speeding vehicles was to make them physically slow down with the use of such features like build outs. Cllr C. Hamilton explained his disappointment that originally the features were included in NCC's designs and then were removed at a later date by NCC, much to CPC's despair. Cllr C. Hamilton informed C. Cllr J. Riddle that resident parking in Ridsdale was becoming even more problematic as households now generally had more than one vehicle. Cllr C. Hamilton asked whether NCC would facilitate any additional car parking. KT stated that she had also been approached by an East Woodburn parishioner regarding the lack of parking in East Woodburn. C. Cllr J. Riddle stated that he could not say there would ever be a budget to purchase additional land although he would enquire, however where NCC own the land they are generally willing to do a community asset transfer however NCC are unlikely to fund the creation of additional parking. Cllr C. Hamilton asked whether CPC had the power to fundraise and to then purchase private land. C. Cllr J. Riddle stated that he was unsure, and that CPC should contact the Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC) for advice. KT asked C. Cllr J. Riddle whether he was aware of what was happening regarding the West Woodburn School building and the school field. KT stated that NCC had said they would keep CPC updated however KT is only ever told that it is still with the legal team. KT explained that CPC had requested from the very start that the school field be transferred to CPC as part of a Community Asset Transfer. KT further explained that CPC were aware of anecdotal evidence suggesting that the school field did not belong to the school but that its use was gifted to the school many years ago by its then owner. C. Cllr J. Riddle stated that he was not aware of what

Signed:

Date:

was happening however asked KT to send him the name of her contact at NCC.

10) Action point list: - 91. Traffic calming measures West Woodburn A68 – KT explained to all that she had discussed the speed sign quotes with Cllr C. Hamilton before the last submission date of The Community Foundation applications. KT and Cllr C. Hamilton discussed the issue and whether CPC should submit a grant application to The Community Foundation (applications up to £10,000) or whether to apply directly to The Ray Windfarm Community Interest Company (CIC) and put a larger application in which would cover all necessary signs and warranties. KT informed all that Cllr C. Hamilton had advised KT to leave the grant application so that it could be discussed, and a decision made by the whole parish council. KT explained that if CPC decided to go for 3 flashing speed signs for West Woodburn, all with extended warranties and all with the Bluetooth facility to record data, then all quotes had exceeded The Community Foundation grant application threshold.

Councillors discussed the matter and considered the possibility of purchasing an additional sign for the north end of Ridsdale and perhaps a ANRP (Automatic Number Recognition Plate) camera to be shared within the parish. Although these cameras are not yet approved within the Northumbria Police Department, it is hoped this decision will be overturned. Cllrs have asked KT to get quotes for everything discussed so that CPC can put in a large application directly to the CIC and see what funding, if any, CPC will be awarded and move forward from there. KT to contact NCC to see if CPC were able to locate a third sign at the north end of Ridsdale. KT and Cllr C. Hamilton to meet up to discuss which packages to go for in order to get an accurate total quotation.

95. Goal Posts & Nets West Woodburn – KT explained that she had received a quote from C. Mowatt for the fixing of the goal posts and the removal of the old posts. KT explained that she was awaiting another quote. KT to go ahead and order the goal posts and book the fixing, once both quotes are in, and it is decided which company to go for. Cllr C. Hawman to forward the details of the goal post manufacturers to KT.

96. Lonnen West Woodburn – Nothing further to report.

97. Armstrong Street Speeding Traffic – KT explained that after the May meeting, she had contacted R. McKenzie of NCC stating that Councillors and parishioners were increasingly concerned about the continued speeding issue on Armstrong Street by all types of vehicles. KT ask if anything could be put in place until the design team had come up with a plan. R. McKenzie stated that there were no 'temporary' traffic calming measures that could be put in, as any measures would still need to be properly designed and consulted on to make sure they comply with the rules therefore would take the same amount of time. R. McKenzie stated that hopefully there will be some options that come out of the work that are relatively quick to install.

Cllr C. Hawman stated that parishioners had suggested that two planters could be located at the bottom of Armstrong Street which would act like a gateway feature and hopefully help reduce some of the speeding. All agreed this was worth trying, KT to purchase 2 barrel planters.

11) Play Area – West Woodburn: - KT informed all that she had received word that the ROSPA inspection would be carried out in June.

12) Volunteers & Community Spending: - KT informed all that a notice had gone up on noticeboards and The Clarion Facebook page stating what small jobs around the parish needed doing along with the clerks contact details. KT explained that she had approached a volunteer who was happy to look at seating around the parish and do what was needed there. Cllr J. Fenwick stated that there was a small group of parishioners keen to help with planters etc throughout the parish. KT to consult with Cllr J. Fenwick regarding what might be needed, and which planters need maintaining.

13) Wind Power Stations & BANTR update: - Cllr A. Harding informed all that the CIC were approaching the end

Signed:

Date:

of the grant year and that this previous year the focus had been Covid related. Cllr A. Harding stated that a new influx of grant funding was due on the 2nd of July. Cllr A. Harding informed all that there would be an annual report for Vatten Fall and once it was safe to do so public road shows would once again resume. Cllr A. Harding stated that the CIC were also hoping to request that The Community Foundation do three funding applications a year rather than just two. Regarding BANTR, Cllr A. Harding stated that both Birtley and Corsenside parishes needed more sign-ups.

14. Parish Hall: - Cllr C. Hamilton asked if any Cllrs felt they could represent CPC on the Parish Hall Committee. Cllrs felt that they were already at capacity with work and various volunteer positions. Cllr C. Hamilton asked all to keep approaching anyone they think would consider joining the committee as our representative.

15) Revitalising Redesdale & Heritage Fund update: - Cllr C. Hawman explained that the May meeting had been postponed to the end of June therefore Cllr C. Hawman had nothing to report.

16) Planning Matters: - a) For decision – Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 – Review of the definitive map & statement of public rights of way informal pre-order consultation – KT informed all that she had received notification that there were two bridleways and two byways within Corsenside up for review. The deadline for comments is the 1st of October. KT to send all relevant documents to Cllrs and to add this to July's agenda.

b) Decisions from NCC – a) – None

17) Other correspondence: - i. NCC Local Planning Strategy – KT informed all that she had received word that there would be a consultation on the main modifications to the Northumberland Local Plan that would run from the 9th of June to the 4th of August. Cllrs could look up this information on the NCC website.

18) Finances: - a) Invoices for payment – i. KT informed all that they were due a ROSPA invoice, ii. KT informed all that she had received notification that our new insurance policy starting at the end of July would be £876.29.

b) Bank Balance – £14,304.80

c) Monies Received – None

d) New banking signatories – KT informed all Cllrs of the details she required to renew the banking signatories. All Cllrs to provide KT with the necessary information so that KT can update all signatories.

19) Matters for discussion at the Chairman's discretion: - KT stated that she had been contacted by the Corsenside Parish Show committee to formally request permission to hold this year's parish show on the village green in West Woodburn. All Councillors agreed that permission could absolutely be granted. KT to inform the committee.

As discussed previously under point 9, Cllr C. Hamilton asked KT to contact NALC to enquire as to whether PC's could purchase land for such purposes as additional parking.

Cllr J. Fenwick asked whether PC's are allowed to fundraise and where PC's get their income from. Cllr C. Hamilton was unsure about fundraising and what PC's would be allowed to fundraise for, usually in the past fundraising had been carried out by sub-committees for such things like the Diamond Jubilee. KT to consult with NALC. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that CPC's income comes from our precept. This is a small percentage of money from each household which is added to the council tax bill. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that each year CPC form a financial sub-committee, around December time, to discuss the predicted budget for the following financial year and what precept CPC would need to apply for. If all Councillors agree on the amount, then CPC apply for that amount of precept which is paid in 2 annual instalments. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that CPC have been mindful over the years to keep the precept to a low amount and to monitor this amount so that in future years there would be less need to adjust it by a large increment. KT stated that as CPC do not own any public

Signed:

Date:

buildings or allotments etc, that we do not gain any income via these means. CPC do not own toilets etc so do not have to budget for these such amenities. Any additional funding needed is applied for via grants. Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that he had been approached by a parishioner stating that it was the Queens Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The parishioner had asked if CPC were planning something similar to the 2012 Diamond Jubilee in which several events were held throughout the parish over the Diamond Jubilee weekend. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that a sub-committee of volunteers would have to be formed for such an event and fundraising organised. Cllr C. Hawman suggested that perhaps North Tyne Youth could get involved to help organise events for younger parishioners. Cllr C. Hamilton asked all to consider the request for discussion at a future meeting.

20) Next Meeting: - Monday 5th July 2021 – CPC will continue to monitor advice and guidance from the Government and the Northumberland Association of Local Councils and decide nearer the time as to the location/type of meeting to hold. Cllr C. Hamilton suggested that CPC look at holding the Annual Parish Meeting in September when hopefully it was safer to do so, all agreed.

Signed:
Date: