

Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th of September 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: John Riddle, **Clerk:** K. Traill **Members of the Public:** None

1) Apologies for absence: - None

2) Councillor Vacancy: - Cllr C. Hamilton asked Councillors whether they had been approached by anyone showing an interest in becoming a Councillor. Councillors agreed that it would now be appropriate to advertise the vacancy. Ideally it would be good to have East Woodburn represented.

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 A Harding in respect of The Ray Wind Farm C.I.C & Cllr S. Smith in respect of Bellingham Middle School Parents, Teachers and Community Association & the Corsenside Flood Resilience team.

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

5) Minutes of the Corsenside Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5th July 2021: Signed as a true and accurate record.

6) Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda: Councillor C. Hawman stated that under point 10 of July's minutes it stated that she would collate prices of recycled plastic play items for Cllr C. Hamilton to compare to their wooden equivalent. Cllr C. Hawman stated that this could not be carried out until CPC knew what items should be replaced and this would be done as the need to replace any item arises. KT informed all that she had enquired about who to contact within NCC to go about the process of acquiring additional land in the future and if this was a possibility. KT stated that she had just received two names within NCC that may be able to help, KT to make contact.

7) Notification of any other business for discussion, at the chairman's discretion, under item 20 below: - KT had matters to discuss.

8) County Councillors Report: - County Councillor J. Riddle informed all that NCC had begun budget rounds and would assess what needed streamlining and try to trim £12 million off a £800 million budget. NCC will be looking at various areas of the budget and will aim to make cuts without impeding frontline services. C.Cllr J. Riddle informed all that letters had now been sent out to all PC's requesting that they submit their Local Transport Priorities for 2022-2023. C. Cllr J. Riddle discussed the point system applied to each request and how these are scored. PC's are not guaranteed to get anything on their L.T.P's list and in many instances, CPC has been unsuccessful with their requests.

Cllrs discussed road closures and how there appeared to be a several road closures at any one time and that these closures did not allow for parishioners to get to work or give school buses time to transport children. C. Cllr J. Riddle stated that full road closures were necessary under certain schemes to cover all health and safety aspects. C. Cllr JR stated that a national organisation, One.network, oversaw organising and advertising any roadworks. C. Cllr JR stated that anyone could register with One.network, entering the areas they were interested in and would then receive notification of any roadworks which affected that area.

C. Cllr JR informed all that he was still working hard to resolve the school transport issue. C. Cllr JR stated that there was capacity on the current BMS school buses so that this was not the issue. C. Cllr J. Riddle believed it

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was likely that some families would be successful in overturning the decision and would be granted free transport. C. Cllr JR stated that after the adjudicator ruled in favour of BMS remaining open and NCC continuing to change first schools into primaries, they no longer recognised a catchment area for BMS which C. Cllr JR believes to be incorrect. C. Cllr JR informed all that he had the support of the leader of NCC, and that C. Cllr JR had requested an emergency meeting with the Director of Children Services. C. Cllr JR stated that families were suffering because of NCC's decision not to allow free transport to BMS and that he believed this was discriminatory. In the mean-time parents who have enrolled children into BMS years 5 & 6 are having to either transport them there themselves or pay for transport.

9) Action point list: - 91. Traffic calming measures West Woodburn A68 – KT stated that she had collated all relevant information regarding quotes for flashing speed signs. Cllr C. Hamilton will go through this information and aim to narrow down the choice to help find the most suitable signs for our parish. Once the manufacturer and signs have been chosen, CPC will apply for the relevant funding.

Cllr A. Harding attended a meeting on the 25th of August with Martin Chilvers the clerk for Otterburn, Rochester & Byrness and Superintendent Andy Huddleston to discuss the issues of speeding traffic and ANPR cameras which are not permitted by Northumbria Police. Cllr A. Harding reported back on key points he had taken from the meeting. Such points included that according to Superintendent A. Huddleston vehicle registration recognition technology would not stop people from speeding. It will count the number of times a vehicle travelled through the village, but not the speed. Northumbria Police are not keen to deploy this type of technology and advise that it is vulnerable to vandalism. Northumbria Police, however, are keen to help us resolve the problem by re-invigorating the Speed Monitoring Volunteer system (Speed Watch). NP did acknowledge that there were problems with the Speed Watch scheme and recruiting volunteers, however in the meantime NP would aim to increase the presence of police cameras in our area. Cllr A. Harding informed all that they had discussed the specifics of Woodburn\ Ridsdale and the scheme that nearly was i.e., chicanes/build out features. Cllr A. Harding reported that at first Northumbria Police were reluctant to sanction the use of chicanes, but eventually accepted that as a last resort this may be necessary although Cllr A. Harding noted that it was clearly not a priority for them. Cllr A. Harding also stated that NP did not believe these would cause an issue to wagon drivers. Cllr A. Harding informed all that to motivate parishioners, NP had suggested the use of local social media to stimulate regular debate\ discussion about traffic incidents - not just speeding. Northumbria Police believe that this combined with a re-invigorated the volunteer system could go a long way towards curbing the problem. NP stated that there had been an increased volume in traffic due to the holiday season. Visitors are not as aware about restrictions as locals. KT informed all that she had received word from the Otterburn clerk that the Speed Watch Scheme was currently suspended, KT stated that Otterburn PC had found this disappointing considering this had been the main suggestion that had come from the meeting.

95. Goal Posts & Nets West Woodburn – KT explained that the goal posts had been ordered and delivered and she was just awaiting C. Mowatt to install them.

96. Lonnen West Woodburn – Nothing further to report. This was submitted as a Local Transport Priority for 2021-2022 unfortunately it did not meet NCC's criteria for repair.

97. Armstrong Street Speeding Traffic – Cllrs discussed the speeding situation on Armstrong Street. They discussed their disappointment with NCC's chosen location for the speed survey which had been located close to the A68 junction. Cllrs felt that this would not give a true indication of the problem of speeding. A location further down the street would have been much more appropriate and more representative. Cllrs discussed NCC's proposed traffic management design for Armstrong Street. Whilst councillors were happy that NCC had

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created a design, they felt that alterations would be needed before the scheme would be acceptable for this particular location. Cllrs discussed the issue that speed humps could potentially create more noise and the fact that it would not be acceptable that bollards or signs would inhibit any current parking areas given that parking on Armstrong Street was already a major problem. Cllrs also discussed the fact that the 30m.p.h signs would have to be further down to incorporate the new house which is to be built at the bottom of Armstrong Street. Cllrs stated that they did support a traffic calming scheme and were happy to submit it as a Local Transport Priority, however Cllrs felt that the design would need to be changed/adapted for it to be accepted by parishioners, for it not to encroach on parking areas and making it more appropriate for Armstrong Street. KT to contact R. McKenzie of NCC to discuss this further.

10) Play Area – West Woodburn: - Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that he had been unable to carry out an inspection before the meeting as intended, however he would aim to do this as soon as possible. KT stated that the loose spinner had now been fixed by Playdale. CPC to continue to monitor the issues highlighted in the latest ROSPA report.

11) Volunteers & Community Spending: - KT stated that volunteers throughout the parish had restocked the planters which were looking lovely. KT also stated that 2 volunteers had completed work re-staining and repairing all seats throughout the parish. Many thanks go to all volunteers.

12) Wind Power Stations & BANTR update: - In his report Cllr A. Harding stated that The Ray Wind Fund (RWF) had now received a new influx of cash from Vattenfall and that the RWF was taking grant applications across all aspects of the community.

Cllr A Harding informed all that, driven by a recent report commissioned by Vattenfall, the RWF needed to diversify the Community Interest Company (CIC) Board. To that end certain lay members of the Board had resigned, and the RWF has started a campaign to recruit some more, diverse, members of the community. Cllr A. Harding stated that this campaign had been running for nearly twelve months with little, or no, response. Cllr A Harding reported that the RWF are restructuring the campaign and intensifying their efforts. Cllr A Harding informed all that the constitution of the CIC allows for 15 Board members – and at present there are 10 members. From this 15, 6 members are elected\ allocated by the core Parishes (Birtley, Kirkwhelpington, Corsenside, Otterburn, Elsdon and Bavington) the remainder (lay members) are selected from any parish. The numbers show there is room for recruitment, but the question is how to get the right people to satisfy diversity. Cllr A. Harding reported that the commitment was not onerous, but it is voluntary with each Director on average spending between 6 to 8 hours per month on CIC business, and this includes attending up to 3 meetings each month.

Cllr A Harding stated that once restrictions are lifted the RWF will be supporting ADAPT with a pilot bus scheme running from Byrness to Morpeth. This scheme will run for twelve months, and details will be forwarded to each Parish in due course.

The RWF continues to support B4RN\ BANTR with the rollout of superfast broadband. However, at the last Board Meeting there was very little to discuss, and we appear to be no further forward.

13) Parish Hall: - Nothing to report. Cllr C. Hamilton reminded all that CPC should have a representation on the committee and asked Councillors to continue to approach anyone they thought may be interested in representing CPC.

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14) Revitalising Redesdale & Heritage Fund update: - Cllr C. Hawman discussed proposals by RR to locate welcome to Redesdale signs, information boards and Star Cairns within the parish at various locations (information sent out in advance of meeting). Cllrs discussed the proposed location of the welcome sign which would be just before entering Ridsdale from the south, all agreed that this was a suitable location. Cllrs then discussed the proposed location of 2 monolith signs, one being located within The Gun carpark and one within The Bay Horse carpark. Cllrs discussed the positioning and were happy that these signs would only be viewed by visitors who had already stopped and parked up within the carparks rather than causing vehicles to pull over on the side of the A68 to get out and read the information. A toposcope at the Gun Inn car park overlooking the ironworks detailing the view across the valley has also been proposed. All agreed that this was a suitable location. Cllr C. Hawman explained that an interpretive panel for the Ridsdale Ironworks had also been proposed which would be located within the cut away section of the entrance wall to the ironworks. This would be hidden enough so as not to encourage passing vehicles to see it and pull over on the A68, rather it will only be visible to visitors who were already safely parked up and had chosen to walk to the ironworks. All agreed that this was a suitable location. An interpretive information panel is to be located by St Cuthbert's Church, Cllr C. Hawman explained that the land around the church was protected therefore the information panel, if agreed by the landowner, would be located on the other side of the church yard wall. Cllrs were happy with this proposal. Cllr C. Hawman stated that the wording of all the information boards was not yet finalised and that any mistakes would be corrected.

Cllr C. Hawman went on to discuss the proposed interactive star cairns which would be located throughout Redesdale. Initially the cairns were to be situated in areas off the beaten track, however this would make them inaccessible to some and make them harder to access in the dark, which is when the constellation would be visible. It had since been decided that these should be moved and located within local villages or on the outskirts, and ideally where people could drive to them. This would make them more accessible to all. Councillors discussed location options where there was sufficient space for the cairn and to allow safe parking. Councillors agreed that the large layby north of West Woodburn would be the most suitable location allowing space, parking, dark skies, and a good open view.

15) Local Transport Priorities: All PC's each year are requested to send NCC their top three transport priorities for their parish. These are then given a score by NCC based on a set of criteria such as safety and the number of those who would benefit etc. The higher the score the more likely NCC will consider it. Some years one, maybe two priorities will be considered however unfortunately, all three priorities can be rejected. Cllrs discussed what top three transport priorities should be submitted for 2022-2023, discussing the benefits of all and the likelihood of them meeting NCC's strict criteria. Cllrs once again decided to add build out features for the A68 in West Woodburn to the list given the continuous speed issues on this stretch. Cllrs also discussed adding Armstrong Street to the list requesting that traffic calming measures are put in place to help reduce the speed vehicles travel up and down this road. Lastly Cllrs discussed adding Shaw Lonnien to the list requesting a total resurface as nothing much appears to have been done other than the filling of some potholes.

16) Planning Matters: - a) For decision – i. Planning Ref: 21/03158/FUL Proposed single storey rear extension,

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Pinetrees, West Woodburn – Councillors to submit a comment of ‘No Objection’, ii. Planning ref: 21/03268/FUL Part retrospective and part proposed for the completion (retrospective) of the 2-storey rear extension, convert the existing, attached byre, The Heads, East Woodburn – Councillors to submit a comment of ‘No Objection’.

b) Decisions from NCC – Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 – Review of the definitive map & statement of public rights of way Definitive Map Order (No 1)

17) Clerk: Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that he had received a letter of resignation from the clerk with a notice of 3 months. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that the clerk had recently started a new position with more hours and did not feel that she could comfortably and efficiently carry out both jobs. Cllr C. Hamilton wished KT well and thanked her for her work over the last seven years. Councillors discussed finding a replacement and asked KT to contact other local parish clerks and to put a notice out on the local Facebook page. If this was unsuccessful then CPC will place an advert in the Courant.

18) Other correspondence: - i. Peace Poles – KT informed all that she had received a letter from a lady in a neighbouring village. The letter was informing CPC about an event called ‘International Day of Peace’ where on or around the 21st of September each year numerous people around the world get together to celebrate and embrace our differences. The letter had been sent to neighbouring villages to see if they would like to participate by creating a ‘Peace Pole’ which is painted and has ‘May Peace Prevail on Earth’ written in different languages on each side. Councillors discussed this idea and felt that although it was a worthy gesture, it was not something for CPC to consider this time. Councillors felt that, with the creation of various pieces of Revitalising Redesdale street furniture in production, it was not the right time to add more.

19) Finances: - a) Invoices for payment – i. C. Mowatt 3 cuts @ £108 ii. K. Traill wages £146.88 & expenses £30.

b) Bank Balance – £14,963.66

c) Monies Received – £3875 Precept

20) Matters for discussion at the Chairman’s discretion: - KT informed Councillors that it was approaching that time of year when CPC needed to place an order for a poppy wreath. All agreed that KT should order the usual wreath and make the usual donation. KT stated that she still had 3 emergency food boxes in storage. All agreed that the initial threat of people being left hungry, was over and that KT should donate the boxes to the local food bank before the remaining food went out of date. KT stated that she had located dog fouling signs throughout the parish and that she still had 2 remaining signs should anyone have a specific location in mind. KT stated that she had still not heard back from the Northumberland Theatre Company regarding the booking of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland for the 13th of January 2022. KT stated that soon CPC would need to sign a contract. KT asked if CPC were still wanting to go ahead with this booking. All agreed that should such performances be permitted, that CPC should go ahead. Councillors felt that after the last 18 months parishioners would appreciate the opportunity. CPC will assess the situation nearer the time and adjust numbers accordingly.

21) Next Meeting: Monday 4th of October 2021 7.30pm. 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.

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