

## Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2021

Corsenside Parish Hall at 7.30pm

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

- 1) Apologies for absence: - None
- 2) Councillor Vacancy: - Cllr C. Hamilton explained that there had been an expression of interest from an East Woodburn parishioner, KT will keep in contact and hopefully they can attend our next parish meeting.
- 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 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2021: Cllr C. Hawman pointed out a typo under point 14 Revitalising Redesdale, which should have read 'constellation' not 'consolation', Cllr C. Hamilton has made the correction. Signed as a true and accurate record.
- 6) Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda: None
- 7) Notification of any other business for discussion, at the chairman's discretion, under item 20 below: - Cllr C. Hamilton had one point to raise.
- 8) County Councillors Report: - None
- 9) Action point list: - 91. Traffic calming measures West Woodburn A68 – Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that he had now reviewed all the information KT had collected regarding the speed signs. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that there had been three companies who had responded to our requests and that the cheapest came in at £14,784 ex VAT and the most expensive at £20,360 ex VAT. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that SWARCO had included a 'Gold Maintenance' package which covered the signs for 3 years, within the quote they had stated that cover would start once the signs were installed. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that KT had queried how this worked alongside the free first year warranty. SWARCO had stated that CPC could opt to purchase the gold maintenance package after the first year and would be given a price then. If CPC opted to take out the gold package straight away it would include a free maintenance check-up and response time for a call out would be three working days as opposed to five working days. SWARCO's price also included the installation of one pole. KT pointed out that SWARCO will demonstrate how to install the sign onto the pole however then expect CPC to install the remaining signs. TWM Traffic offered 2 years free cover with one additional further year for the price of £200 /sign/year maximum of 5 years. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that Wescotec were the most expensive however they offered 6 years free cover as standard. Cllrs asked KT to produce a spreadsheet showing the cost of all companies when comparing up to 6 years of cover. KT to also ask the companies whether they will come out to site to discuss the signs, pole specifications and the locations in advance and whether we can purchase a package where they install all signs rather than merely demonstrate installation. KT to request that SWARCO guarantee a price in advance if CPC were to opt for the gold maintenance package after the free warranty expires and seek a revised price if the Gold package isn't included but is to be purchased at the end of the 1 year free warranty period.

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95. Goal Posts & Nets West Woodburn – KT explained that the goal posts had now been collected by C. Mowatt and were due to be installed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October.
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 – KT informed all that she had passed their comments on from the last meeting which included a request that no current parking areas be blocked and whether speed humps would cause noise disturbance. KT read out R. McKenzies response which stated that speed humps would produce some traffic noise and that leaving the parking area completely clear would allow vehicles to bypass the traffic calming measures. RM suggested that NCC consult with Ridsdale residents which would help the decision-making process and then if residents were in favour, we could discuss the most suitable traffic calming measures, then. All agreed that the next step should be the canvassing of Armstrong Street residents by NCC. KT stated that she had received a response from C. Mead, Highways Development Manager of NCC regarding an enquiry CPC had made for future parking ideas on Armstrong Street. C. Mead stated that NCC would consider any design solution in the future although suggest that CPC submit a pre-application which would give more information for NCC to consider. Cllrs discussed this and felt it was not practical at present but maybe something to consider again in the future.
- 10) Play Area – West Woodburn: - Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that he carried out an inspection (and had submitted a report to councillors prior to the meeting). Cllr C. Hamilton stated that the cracks highlighted within the ROSPA report were nowhere near the 8mm limit and if anything, they appeared smaller than earlier in the year. Cllr C. Hamilton informed all, that two protective screw caps were missing and that he had replaced one and would replace the other asap. Cllr S. Smith enquired about the issue regarding the strimmer damage on the base of some equipment. Councillors once again discussed this issue and requested that KT ask C. Mowatt to produce a solution to the problem. Cllrs were frustrated that this continued to be an issue and felt that CM could easily solve this by using some kind of guard around the timber equipment.
- 11) Volunteers & Community Spending: - Nothing to report.
- 12) Wind Power Stations & BANTR update: - In his Ray Wind Fund September report Cllr A. Harding stated that the CIC Board continues to try and recruit another member. Cllr A. Harding stated that Superfast Broadband has been a high priority for the CIC from inception, driven by local opinion. Progress has been slow and hampered by COVID-19, and low interest by residents. Cllr A. Harding informed all that B4RN were now able to start laying fibre at Barrasford, however they are acutely short of cash. Thankfully, the voucher scheme was not cancelled on 24th September 2021 although that only forms part of the issue. B4RN have approached the CIC to help with the financial shortfall. Cllr A. Harding explained that the CIC cannot resolve this matter without consulting Vattenfall. Vattenfall have been informed about the situation and at the time of writing, had not responded. Cllr A. Harding stated that should Vattenfall show willing, there were various options open to the CIC. Should they not, the Broadband project will most probably fail. Cllr A. Harding stated that the main problem was that Barrasford lies outside the six parishes and Vattenfall are therefore reluctant to get involved. However, fibre will not get to Kirkwhelpington and Corsenside (both of which are within the six parishes) unless it first goes through Barrasford. Cllr A. Harding informed all that depending upon how this is resolved, it

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could influence how the CIC allocates its grants.

Lastly Cllr A. Harding stated that the CIC is in the process of commissioning a new survey of the six parishes to gauge opinion regarding future areas to spend the fund. This survey will be carried out by a professional body that will be engaged in the near future. Cllr A. Harding encouraged all to complete this survey and have their say. Cllr S. Smith queried the results of the meeting held early in 2020, asking what the Ray Wind Fund had done about the ideas put forward by the community then and how this new survey was any different. Cllr A. Harding assured all that the ideas put forward by the community in 2020 had been taken onboard although most everything had been put on hold over the past 18 months with the main emphasis of funding being allocated to helping parishioners and businesses survive Covid. Cllr A. Harding stated that the new survey was something which would be carried out by Community Action Northumberland (CAN) who had previously carried out a survey regarding Ray Wind Funds, 5 years ago. The community meetings are held by the Ray Wind Fund as local consultation is a major part of the funding process and of Vatten Falls objectives. Cllrs stated that the flow of information needs to go both ways and that they felt the community would like more information from the Ray Wind Fund in response to all the ideas put forward at previous meetings. Cllr A. Harding to feed this back to the Ray Wind Fund.

13) Parish Hall: - Nothing to report.

14) Revitalising Redesdale & Heritage Fund update: - In Cllr C. Hawman report she stated that so far CPC were the only ones to have provided comprehensive feedback on the new interpretation boards and that RR were acting on our feedback. Cllr C. Hawman stated that she had approached a local volunteer to check the content of the toposcope which will be located in the Gun car park.

Cllr C. Hawman informed all that Sue Manson has just been appointed to spend more time engaging the local community in RR's work. Karen Collins will continue to lead on heritage projects (involving local volunteers in archaeology and history projects) and Jennifer Care will continue to lead on environmental projects (such as supporting the volunteers who manage the St Cuthbert's hay meadow). Cllr C. Hawman explained that Sue's role will be more about building on what the community wants and making connections between existing and potential projects, Cllr C. Hawman stated that they had already brainstormed a number of ideas (such as Star Cairns social events), which Sue may seek to take forward.

Cllr C. Hawman explained that one of RR's remits was to develop walking and cycling routes across Redesdale, building on, and linking to existing rights of way. Following a summer-long survey of 120km of rights of way, they will develop 14 walking routes across the area. This includes restoring stiles/gates, waymarking and creating leaflets. The aim is to promote them to locals and visitors and add value to local businesses, e.g., accommodation providers, pubs etc. Cllr C. Hawman informed all that five of the walks would be in Corsenside, although some of these do overlap with our already waymarked/published Corsenside Walks developed by two Corsenside parishioners. The proposed walks/cycle routes in Corsenside would incorporate West Woodburn, Corsenside Church (St Cuthbert's), Low Cleughs Bastle House, Ridsdale Ironworks, East Woodburn, Dyke Nook and the Blakelaw Farm loop. Cllr C. Hawman informed all that KT had agreed to meet up with S. Manson to show her the proposed Corsenside Location for the star cairn.

15) West Woodburn First School: - Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that KT had received an email stating that

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WWFS would now be placed on the market for sale however the sale would exclude the fenced playing field, CPC were therefore invited to complete an application for a Community Asset Transfer. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that KT had already put a request out via The Corsenside Clarion asking for people to submit their photos of the village green being used by the community to help back up our application. KT to work on the application and submit it to NCC.

16) Planning Matters: - a) For decision – None.

b) Decisions from NCC – None

17) Clerk: Cllr C. Hamilton informed all KT had been in contact with a local lady enquiring about the position however, currently CPC had received nothing further. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that KT had received a quote of £147+VAT to put an advert in the Hexham Courant, this was the cheapest option of adverts. All agreed that if KT did not receive any further interest in the clerk's position by the end of the week, that KT should instruct the Hexham Courant to run an advert. Cllr C. Hamilton asked KT to, once again, enquire of Steven Ricketts at NALC what the situation is should CPC have no one coming forward to take the clerk's position.

18) Other correspondence: - None

19) Finances: - a) Invoices for payment – i. C. Mowatt 2 cuts @ £108 ii. K. Traill wages £220.32 & expenses £56.93, iii. Charlton & Hutton – Timber for seats £20.74

b) Bank Balance – £14,444.78

c) Monies Received – None

d) requests for Assistance – i. GNAA – Cllrs discussed this request and felt that as CPC already donated £200, in 2020 to the GNAA, that this request could once again be viewed at the end of the financial year. ii. Corsenside Parochial Church Council – Grass Cutting – councillors discussed this request for help towards the churchyard grass cutting costs and all agreed to make the usual donation of £300.

20) Matters for discussion at the Chairman's discretion: - Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that CPC have a responsibility to hold an Annual Parish Meeting once a year and that CPC usually held theirs in May. For obvious reasons there was no APM in 2020. Cllr C. Hamilton asked councillors their views on holding an AGM in November, just before the usual monthly meeting. Councillors discussed this and felt that the AGM could go ahead in November and that CPC could state that attendance this year was not necessary and that groups/organisations could submit a written report to be read out. KT to send out the relevant invites.

21) Next Meeting: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> of November APM 7pm, CPC meeting 7.30pm. CPC will continue to monitor advice and guidance from the Government and the Northumberland Association of Local Councils.

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