

Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th of November (postponed from the 1st) 2021

Corsenside Parish Hall at 7.30pm

Present: - **Councillors:** C. Hamilton (Chair), A. Wilson, A. Harding S. Smith, J. Fenwick, & D. Mole **Clerk:** K. Traill & C. Woodcock (New CPC clerk) **Members of the Public:** J. Martin

The clerk confirmed that members of the public were happy to be named.

1) Apologies for absence: - Cllr C. Hawman

2) New Clerk: Cllr C. Hamilton introduced Christine Woodcock as the new CPC clerk. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that CW was well qualified, and he was sure that she would hit the ground running. Cllr C. Hamilton thanked CW and welcomed her onboard. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that in the interest of a smooth transition and handover, all had agreed that CPC would employ and pay both KT & CW for the month of November.

3) Councillor Vacancy: - Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that Dawn Mole, an East Woodburn parishioner, had expressed an interest in filling the vacant position of Councillor. Cllr C. Hamilton asked DM if she would give a brief introduction of herself and state why she was interested in the position. DM introduced herself stating that she had lived in East Woodburn now for two years and had previously worked as a professional librarian for several large organisations. DM explained that she would like to get more involved in the community and help make things better for the parish.

Cllr C. Hamilton explained that CPC had sought advice several times from the Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC), about co-option and they advised CPC that anyone who had wished to stand for the position of councillor, would have done so during the election process in May and that CPC had advertised the position via minutes and The Clarion and are therefore able to co-opt directly. Councillors were happy to co-opt D. Mole and welcome her into the position of Corsenside Parish Councillor. Cllr C. Hamilton explained that CPC had always sought to have representation from all three villages within the parish and that D. Mole was now able to fill the position on behalf of East Woodburn. CPC is now back up to full capacity with seven Councillors.

4) Code of Conduct (Declarations of Interests): - Cllrs C. Hamilton in respect of The Gun at Ridsdale & the Corsenside Flood Resilience team, 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.

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

6) Minutes of the Corsenside Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th of October 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 20 below: - Cllr C. Hamilton and KT had points to raise.

9) County Councillors Report: - None

10) Action point list: - 91. Traffic calming measures West Woodburn A68 – KT had previously emailed a comparison spreadsheet of the three main speed sign companies. The spreadsheet stated the type of sign, its connectibility features, a comparison of 6 years warranty and total costs. KT had also spoken with all three companies and requested that they come to site to view the locations and the pre-existing pole specifications

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rather than this being something CPC were responsible for. KT explained that only one company had been happy to come out to site. Cllrs discussed all speed sign companies and the costs involved. Cllrs asked KT to contact TWM Traffic and ask that they do a site visit.

95. Goal Posts & Nets West Woodburn – KT explained that she had once again spoken with C. Mowatt who had apologised for missing the fixing date and who stated that his diary would free up significantly later in November and that he would be in touch with the clerk then to arrange fitting.

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 Cllrs comments onto R. McKenzie of NCC and requested that NCC take it to the next stage of canvassing Armstrong Street parishioners for their views on proposed traffic calming measures. KT is unsure if this stage must wait until LTP's have been decided upon by NCC.

11) Play Area – West Woodburn: - Cllr C. Hamilton had previously sent a report to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that he had carried out an inspection and everything seemed in good order and no obvious splits in the wood. There was one plastic screw cap still to replace which Cllr C. Hamilton would carry out hopefully in time for the next meeting.

12) Volunteers & Community Spending: - J. Martin a Corsenside parishioner stated that he was happy to be added to the list of volunteers. KT informed all that there was a bin down on the road to East Woodburn and that she would purchase a fence post and arrange for a volunteer to re-erect the bin. KT also stated that the plastic on the EW noticeboard had perished and that it was no longer easy for notices to be viewed clearly. KT stated that she would check to see if it was just a case of the plastic being removed and a new sheet fitted. If so, she would organise the purchase of this.

13) Wind Power Stations & BANTR update: - Cllr A. Harding apologised stating that he had been unable to attend the latest online Ray Wind Fund meeting due to technical issues and that he had requested information from other attendees however as of yet, had not received any information.

14) Parish Hall: - Nothing to report. Cllr C. Hamilton explained to the new CPC Councillor D. Mole, CPC's responsibilities towards the Parish Hall and our responsibility to have a representative on the committee. Cllr D. Mole expressed a willingness to become CPC's representative and would consider this in advance of the next meeting.

15) Revitalising Redesdale & Heritage Fund update: - Cllr C. Hawman sent out a report prior to the meeting. In Cllr C. Hawman report she stated that KT met with Susan Manson – the RR community engagement officer – on the 14th of October to look at our proposed site for the star cairn. KT has since confirmed that C. Carroll is happy for the star cairn to be located adjacent to PC Carroll's memorial. SM is to contact Highways to begin the planning application process. Cllr C. Hawman stated that as the aim is to use local stone for the cairn, KT also signposted SM to the quarry above East Woodburn as a potential source.

Cllr C. Hawman's report went on to discuss the interpretation boards. Cllr C. Hawman stated that the committee has commented on and updated the overall map of Redesdale, which will feature on some of the boards. Within Corsenside, it will include Ridsdale and West Woodburn as interpretation 'stops' (denoted by coloured dots with the village names) and small images to represent the Engine House, East Woodburn bridge and Low Cleugh Bastle House. Cllr C. Hawman informed all that East Woodburn was not signposted and when

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she queried this, was told that the overall consensus was that only the larger villages, (which are also hosting interpretation boards), are to be included on the map so that it is not too crowded.

Cllr C. Hawman stated that RR was hosting an online meeting on the 3rd of November to explore the legacy of RR, i.e., what continues beyond the official end of the project. In addition to the members of the committee, invitations may be extended to other local groups/organisations. Cllr C. Hawman wondered if CPC had any suggestions for local groups who may be interested in exploring the legacy. Due to the postponement of CPC's original scheduled meeting (1st of November), this legacy meeting has now already been held however Cllrs discussed groups within the parish that may be interested which included The Corsenside Show and The Gun at Ridsdale. Cllr C. Hamilton to inform Cllr C. Hawman.

16) West Woodburn First School: - Nothing further to report. KT explained that she had contacted NCC asking how long it would be before NCC made a decision regarding the Community Asset Transfer of the school field. KT informed all that the response was that CPC should have some kind of answer within the next couple of weeks and then it would be passed to the legal department. KT stated that in 2016 the solicitor fees were in the region of £950 and that this cost was something CPC would need to consider again. Cllr S. Smith discussed the previous idea of online conveyancing. Cllr J. Fenwick agreed to investigate this possibility further.

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

~~b) Decisions – Ascendants Monument Cold Law - Cllrs discussed the Inspectors decision to overturn NCC's refusal for planning permission of the proposed monument. Cllrs were very disappointed that this decision had been made and felt that the wishes of local parishioners and many businesses had been completely ignored. Cllr C. Hamilton read out an email sent from a representative of the 'Keep the Wannies Wild' Facebook page, which now has over 2000 members. The email set out what action could be taken which is only by way of a Judicial review of the Inspectors decision, and how the group intended to move forward. Cllrs asked the clerk to contact C. Horncastle who holds the planning portfolio at NCC and express CPC's disappointment that no regard appears to have been given to the wishes of local people, the people who will have to live with this monument daily. CPC to ask C. Horncastle to take any action within NCC's power to fight this decision.~~

18) Other correspondence: - i. C. Mowatt Landscaping Ltd. KT read out the letter she had received from C. Mowatt which stated that the company now qualified for VAT and that this would be added to any further invoices. ii. Letter received from a parishioner – KT explained that a West Woodburn parishioner had given her a letter he had received from the Conservative MP Guy Opperman. The local parishioner had raised the issue of speeding traffic through the village with the MP when he had been visiting West Woodburn. G. Opperman stated that since their conversation he had once again written to National Highways to raise the need for traffic calming measures in West Woodburn. GO informed the parishioner that he had indeed experienced the speed traffic was travelling at, however warned that implementing any measures would not be easy. GO stated that he would be in touch with the parishioner when he received a response from National Highways. CPC wished to thank the parishioner for bringing this issue to GO's attention and for sharing his correspondence with CPC.

19) Finances: - a) Invoices for payment – i. K. Traill wages £287.64 & expenses £37.99, ii. C. Mowatt Landscaping £129.60 iii. Corsenside Parish Hall rent May – Oct £55

b) Bank Balance – £13,630.79

c) Monies Received – None

d) Budget & precept planning – All Cllrs were issued with a November budget update prior to the meeting and

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finances were also discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting. KT informed all that she had received NCC's letter regarding precept for 2022 – 2023 which needs to be submitted by the 28th of January. Cllr C. Hamilton explained to all that usually he met with KT and a second Cllr, in December to discuss the budget for the following year and agree upon the precept. This is then taken to CPC's meeting to be agreed by all Cllrs before being submitted to NCC. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that this year the intent was to hold that budget meeting in November before KT's leaving date so that Cllrs C. Hamilton, A. Wilson and clerks KT & CW could all get together and go over the process therefore allowing for a smoother handover of the clerk's role. All agreed that the precept meeting should be held in November. KT asked Cllr A. Wilson if he would mind carrying out a quarterly check of the finance folder. Cllr A. Wilson agreed to do this.

e) **New Clerks Salary** - Cllr C. Hamilton explained to all that CPC followed pay scales produced by both the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) & the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). Cllr C. Hamilton informed all that these ranged from scale point 7 – 17, 7 being £10.44/hour and 17 being £12.73/hour. Councillors discussed CW's starting salary and given her experience, scale point 10 was agreed by all as an appropriate starting point at £11.08/hour. Cllr C. Hamilton went on to explain that the cost-of-living raise was still subject to a dispute between the Unions and employers with the last offer of an increase of 1.75% having been rejected once again by the unions. Cllr C. Hamilton to monitor the situation.

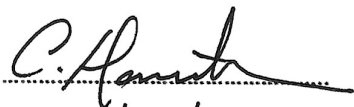
20) **Matters for discussion at the Chairman's discretion:** - KT stated that she had now received the contracts from the Northumberland Theatre Company for the production of Alice in Wonderland. CPC had provisionally booked the performance for Thursday the 13th of January. KT informed all that if CPC decided to go ahead with the show, then these contracts needed to be signed and returned asap. Cllrs discussed in length whether, given the rise in Covid cases throughout the local area, the show should go ahead. Arguments for and against were put forward ending in a vote and show of hands. Cllrs agreed that at this stage CPC should sign the contract and prepare to hold the event. Cllrs discussed measures which could be put in place such as reduced numbers, requests that attendees carry out a lateral flow test prior to the event and that attendee wear face coverings. Cllrs felt that it was a personal decision whether parishioners chose to attend or not and all who do attend, do so fully understanding the situation. Obviously, CPC will continue to monitor the situation and follow Government guidelines.

Cllr C. Hamilton explained to all that some years back, to protect the parishes local facilities, CPC had filed an application, for both public houses within the parish, called a Community Right to Bid application. This meant that if either pub was to be sold for any other purpose, then it had to give the community a chance to form a group, raise the funds and have the right to bid. This is what happened with regards to The Gun at Ridsdale. Cllr C. Hamilton stated that he was not sure of the time scale attached to these applications, all agreed that the clerk should investigate this and if need be, reapply for both pubs once again to be included under the Community Right to Bid scheme.

Cllr C. Hamilton also informed the clerk that the signs for the first & third cattle grids on the road down to Hindhaugh had blown down and that the fence around these cattle grids also needed attention. The clerk to report this to NCC.

21) **Next Meeting:** Monday 6th of December 7.30pm at Corsenside Parish Hall. CPC will continue to monitor advice and guidance from the Government and the Northumberland Association of Local Councils.

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