

Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th of February 2022

The Bay Horse, West Woodburn at 7.30pm

Present: - **Councillors:** C Hamilton (Chair), C Hawman (Vice-chair), A Wilson, S Smith, J Fenwick, A Harding & D Mole. **Clerk:** C Woodcock. **Members of the Public:** J Martin

- 1) Apologies for absence: None
- 2) Code of Conduct (Declarations of Interests): Cllr 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.
- 3) Opportunities for members of the public to raise issues: None raised.
- 4) Minutes of the Corsenside Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6th of December 2021:
Signed as a true and accurate record.
- 5) Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda: None Raised.
- 6) Notification of any other business for discussion, at the chairman's discretion, under item 20 below:
Cllr C Hawman had a point to raise.
- 7) County Councillors Report: No report provided
- 8) Action point list: 91. Traffic calming measures West Woodburn A68 – CW advised the council that the Ray Wind Farm Fund have received the initial application for funding to but the new traffic signs and invited a full application. RWFF advised it is unlikely they will fund the full cost and have requested that NCC confirm both that the signs are necessary and that NCC themselves are not liable for their cost. RWFF suggested the parish council could increase their precept, apply to Green Rigg Wind Farm fund or County Councillor John Riddle to get more funding. Cllr C. Hamilton felt that as Green Rigg and C.Cllr J Riddle have contributed to Corsenside speed signs in the past approaching them was unlikely to be successful and should be a last resort. CW advised that the application for funding places importance on there being a local need for the projects it funds, and that being able to prove the level of interest directly from the community would boost the application. Various methods were discussed including beginning a petition and how best to circulate it locally to offer it to most people in the community and especially those who are offline. Cllr J Fenwick felt that it would be important to have somewhere physical to sign as well as an online option. Cllr S Smith mentioned that there may be a door drop of information on behalf of the Jubilee Committee that could potentially be used to share other content too. Cllr C Hamilton commented that the evidence for how big a problem speeding is in the parish can be readily found by looking through previous minutes for 19 years, and the regular correspondence from parishioners. A letter from Guy Opperman to a parishioner about the speeding was read aloud and it was decided to approach GO to ask he lend his support, ideally by offering some money to help pay for the signs and also by writing to confirm they are needed in the parish. CW fed back to the parish council that NCC have confirmed via email that they removed our speed signs in error and that they have offered to replace them, asking us to clarify the type we want. Cllrs asked CW to confirm to NCC that CPC would like to proceed with 2 signs from TWM that were included in our recent quote, this then leaves only 2 signs to seek funding for. Cllr C Hamilton and CW will complete the full application for the remaining 2 signs from RWFF.
95. Goal Posts & Nets West Woodburn – CW issued the Councillors with choices of sheds suitable to store the nets for the goal posts and other items needed by the volunteers. After some discussion of the various

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options it was decided to buy a Metal Lotus shed of 6ft x 5ft. Cllr D Mole kindly offered to take delivery of the shed and alongside J Martin and other local volunteers assist in the assembly. In advance of the shed delivery the clerk has been asked to source the flagstones and sand needed for the base, it was mentioned that there are often flagstones available locally for free and that this may reduce the costs to the council. CW to check whether the current insurance would cover this or need amended.

96. Lonnen, West Woodburn – Nothing further to report.

97. Armstrong Street Speeding Traffic – Nothing further to report. CPC await NCC's canvass of the locals.

9) Play Area – West Woodburn: Nothing to report, Cllr C Hamilton will continue to monitor.

10) Volunteers & Community Spending: CW is to approach some volunteers for help with installing the new shed, which is itself a community purchase.

11) Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: The councillors expressed their gratitude to Cllr S Smith who attended the first meeting of the Jubilee Committee and Cllr D Mole who has offered them her ongoing support. Cllr S Smith summarised the Jubilee meeting and the many ideas they had for ways to celebrate. It was clear there are some fundamental decisions to be made about the size and scope of the celebrations which need to be based upon interest from the community. There was some concern that the first meeting of the Jubilee committee only had small attendance compared to the previous jubilee event. Speaking as local residents, matters were discussed at length including suggestions of other ideas and advice about issues such as first aid and insurance that Cllrs S Smith and D Mole can take back to the jubilee group. Cllr C Hamilton raised an idea for how CPC could orchestrate a commemoration of the Jubilee and suggested approaching a contact at Forestry England and ask that a new section of woodland be dedicated to the residents of Corsenside. The merits of the idea include, among other things, that it is in keeping with The Queen's own request for trees to be planted in her honour. All agreed that this was a good idea and that Cllr C Hamilton should make the request. Cllr C Hawman mentioned the poor state of the bird hide at Fowlaws and wondered if repairs could be made as another option.

12) Wind Power Stations & BANTR update: Cllr A Harding advised that this year the community foundation will be controlled by the Community interest Company. A major focus will be on increasing community engagement including via roadshows around the parishes, a plan originally disrupted by Covid-19. The aim of the funds is to be more flexible in the way they respond.

13) Parish Hall: Nothing to report. Cllr C Hamilton reiterated that the Parish Hall committee would benefit from having a representative of the Parish Council involved and Cllr D Mole volunteered. CW to make suitable introductions.

14) Revitalising Redesdale & Heritage Fund update: Cllr C Hawman gave an update including an invitation to attend the Battle of Otterburn end event on Sunday the 24th April, the Parish Council felt it wasn't appropriate to take a table at the event but Cllr C Hawman plans to be in attendance.

Cllr Hawman explained that the full Toposcope design made by Derek MacDonald, is not going to be able to fit onto the final board but that she hopes a full print may be able to be made to display in The Gun.

15) West Woodburn First School: CW shared details of solicitors and their quotes for handling the asset transfer, matters were discussed at length including the merits of choosing a local or national company and the likelihood of the costs increasing in the event of complications. The final decision was based upon the positive reviews, positive first impression and reasonable cost so the Parish Council asked CW to engage Emmersons Solicitors. It was suggested to ask if there was a way to reduce the cost.

16) Planning Matters: a) For decision - none

b) Decisions from NCC – none

17) Storm Arwen: Cllr C Hamilton reiterated serious concerns about the inability to use landlines in the event of powercuts, a situation that was recently repeated in January. The serious safety risks this caused were

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apparent to all, and it was pointed out that aside from day-to-day problems the increased use of candles and wood burners during power outages as well as extreme weather certainly raised the level of risk. The communication problems have been compounded locally by the lack of any mobile phone signal, questions were raised about how widespread this issue with the cell phone network is with Cllr A Wilson suggesting that the problem may be compounded in rural areas where only one mast provides the service to a large area. Cllr A Harding pointed out a serious flaw in that all of Powergen's correspondence about electricity problems cannot be received when there is no internet nor phone signal leaving locals uninformed. BT have made clear their intention to have a fully digital system within the next few years and aside from very specific situations where registered vulnerable customers may be given limited ability to make calls to 999 there is very little by way of back up provision. It is unclear where the responsibility for provision ultimately lies. Cllrs requested that CW contact both C.Cllr John Riddle and MP Guy Opperman to pass on the concerns and ask what can be done. CW is to reach out to other local parishes, some of whom have also raised this concern, in an effort to unite over this issue and speak with one voice.

The Cllrs discussed in depth the importance on sharing information within the community and especially at times of hardship such as during power outages. This is something that traditionally people in the area are very good at, looking out for one another, and it was felt that it would be great to promote this community spirit being sure to include newcomers to the area who may not yet know their neighbours. It was suggested a 'community watch' campaign may be useful. For non-emergency situations an email mailing list could be used to share local information to parishioners' who are online but not on social media.

CPC cannot take full responsibility for identifying problems in a crisis but the feeling of wanting to help was widespread and it is hoped some systems may be put into place to aid in the sharing of information locally. Data protection laws were acknowledged by the Council but it was suggested that vulnerable members of the community could volunteer their information so that every effort to check on them or share their details with the emergency services would be made. Cllrs were reminded that some of the original funding for The Gun was provided for it to act as a community hub, therefore it is the natural place to encourage the locals to visit to share information, perhaps leave messages and make contact with others; although it was apparent especially vulnerable people may not have the means to do that.

18) Other correspondence: CW read aloud from an email from Northumberland Theatre Company with 2 options of performances during 2022, a winter panto/play, Wind in the willows and an autumn performance of Macbeth. The likelihood of Covid causing problems later this year was raised and it was questioned whether a play earlier in the year where warmer weather allowed for more ventilation would mean a safer environment. Cllr J Fenwick suggested CW look into events insurance. It was requested that CW return to NTC and get details of the prices before a decision could be made.

19) Finances: a) Invoices for payment – i. CW expenses £26.81, ii. CW expenses £40, iii. CW wages £360.10, iv. NTC - £510, v. CW wages - £177.28, vi. Bank charges - £18
b) Bank Balance £12,472.78; c) Monies Received – None; d) Budget & precept planning – Precept has been applied for to NCC.

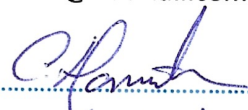
20) Matters for discussion at the Chairman's discretion:

Cllr C Hawman suggested that CPC should consider instigating an official social media policy to oversee the way CPC information is shared online and how the Cllrs use social media privately. CW and Cllr C Hawman to work on some templates for this policy and bring to the group for discussion.

21) Next Meeting: Monday 7th of March 7.30pm at Corsenside Village Hall.

Christine Woodcock, Corsenside Parish Clerk, 07737518867 corsensideparishclerk@hotmail.com

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