

Corsenside Parish Council Meeting

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

Corsenside Parish Hall, West Woodburn at 7.30pm

Present: **Councillors:** C. Hamilton (Chair), C. Hawman (Vice-chair), A. Wilson, S. Smith & J. Fenwick.

Clerk: C. Woodcock. **Members of the Public:** None

- 1) Apologies for absence: D.Mole, A.Harding.
- 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 7th of February 2022:
Signed as a true and accurate record.
- 5) Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda: CW had information to pass to Cllrs in relation to the plays on offer over the next year from Northumberland Theatre Company, the cost remains the same at £510. Events insurance is available in partnership with the government that is very affordable, with the premium and excess each being limited to 5% of the event cost, but this is only currently in place until 30th September 2022. Other companies are available and an initial quote was given for £56.00. The Cllrs are interested in provisionally booking Wind in the Willows for Christmas time subject to agreeing a date and seeing the full terms.
- 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. CW appraised the council of the latest developments in relation to the parish speed signs. NCC have now ordered two replacement signs directly from TWM that will be installed in West Woodburn in 6 to 8 weeks. The damaged signs in Ridsdale were discussed CW explained that 2 quotes had been found to assess the repair, and enquiries made with Park End, who are too busy to take on the job at the moment. The most expensive quote £680 from SWARCO was dismissed as being unreasonable but TWM's offer to assess the signs when installing the new West Woodburn signs for £300 was considered. It was agreed that unless Park End become available in the meantime to instruct TWM to inspect both Ridsdale signs. CW is also to inform the parishioners of this via the local Facebook group.
95. CW stated that the shed has been ordered as requested with delivery due in 3 to 5 weeks. Cllr C. Hawman suggested that as paint is likely to be stored inside some insulation, or an insulated box, could be beneficial. Cllr J. Fenwick suggested that Kingspan sheets are very cost effective and could be used for the purpose, CW to source.
- 9) Play Area – West Woodburn: Cllr C Hamilton reported that the Play area was inspected on the day of the meeting. Everything appeared in good order other than two missing protective caps on one piece of equipment which did not result in any safety issues. Cllr C. Hamilton to replace these caps asap.
- 10) Volunteers & Community Spending: CW confirmed that the new shed will be delivered to Cllr D. Mole and that a parishioner has agreed to lead the assembly. More volunteers will be needed so a public call for help should be made by CW once details are known about when the help is needed. Cllr C. Hamilton

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advised that the benches in the play area would benefit from a protective coat of paint or stain in the warmer months.

- 11) Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations:** Cllr S. Smith advised that the Jubilee committee has not yet met again but that the main focus is on establishing enough interest within the local community. Cllr D. Mole had sent with her apologies a report that she had reached out to some parishioners with mixed results. The jubilee committee are considering creating a poster to ask for community input and support, without which there may not be any jubilee celebrations in the parish. Cllr C. Hamilton fed back about the idea of creating a Corsenside Plantation at Fourlaws to commemorate the Jubilee. There was enthusiasm for the idea from the Forestry England manager initially contacted but some practical problems were identified by the beat forester because of how busy the workers are following the recent storms. Cllr C. Hamilton felt that in the circumstances an agreement to begin this process of commemoration would be sufficient before June 2022 and the Jubilee tribute could be implemented when FE workload allows.
- 12) Wind Power Stations & BANTR update:** Cllr A. Harding's report was delivered in absentia: "The CIC Board continues to try and recruit another member. The CIC, encouraged by Vattenfall, has commissioned a further survey of the six parishes to research all aspects of the CIC's performance. This survey is ongoing, and the results will be published later this year. Vattenfall has cancelled its arrangement with Community Foundation and from July 2022 the funds previously sent directly to Community Foundation will be instead issued to the CIC. How this £100,000 is distributed will now be in the gift of the CIC. This arrangement will simplify the payment of money to the Ray Wind Funds and align the transfer of cash to the CIC financial year. At present the CIC is in negotiations with Community Foundation whether to extend the existing arrangement for the dispensation of small grants or seek alternative arrangements. Either way the dispensation of small grants will be in abeyance until the next payment from Vattenfall in July. However, the CIC will still be issuing grants in the same manner."
- 13) Parish Hall:** CW reported that the process to introduce Cllr D. Mole to the Parish Hall Committee has begun and it has been decided that Cllr D. Mole will be appointed to that role by the Parish Council, some paperwork is still outstanding but the matter is in hand.
- 14) Revitalising Redesdale & Heritage Fund update:** Nothing new to report.
- 15) West Woodburn First School:**) CW recounted that, as many Councillors and parishioners have noticed, West Woodburn first school is now publicly up for sale. The area for sale includes the former school car park and the short access road leading to it from Whiteacres. The parish council have approached Northumberland County Council and asked that this area be removed from sale and remain in NCC hands for use of the local community, It was pointed out to NCC that the play area serves the whole parish and many locals need to drive and park to access it. There is also grave concern that allowing a third party to own the road, despite the public retaining legal access along it to the play park gate, would leave the parish vulnerable should a subsequent owner fail to maintain the road safely, attempt to deter the public from using it or partially obscure it in some way. Twice Northumberland County Council have refused to amend the plans stating that the maintenance of the road is not something they wish to continue and that the price of the land for sale may be adversely affected. Corsenside Parish Council feel that despite both of those factors this is simply not too much to ask of our county council, given that this parish otherwise receives very little and has against local wishes suffered the closure of the school. County Councillor John Riddle has been approached and will be asked to act on our behalf in this matter and to take the decision to higher levels within NCC.
- Cllr C. Hamilton also pointed out an error in the placement of the boundary line around the school property for sale. The boundary, along the length of the access road is shown on the plans as approximately 2 or 3 metres inside the fence which encloses the field. This needs to be addressed urgently as it could impact upon the fields transfer to CPC.

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CW confirmed to the Councillors that Emmerson's Solicitors have been instructed to act on CPC's behalf during the asset transfer.

16) Planning Matters: a) For decision i. 22/00393/FUL Siting of Timber Living Trailer - Land South of Jubilee Cottages West Woodburn.

Councillors have asked CW to clarify that the property, which shows no plans to join mains electricity, will remain without power as this has not been explicitly stated; it was felt that were a generator to be installed onsite this could be detrimental. Some further confirmation is to be sought over the removal of sewage and refuse on which point the language was ambiguous. Having received appropriate assurances CW is asked to submit a comment of No Objection.

b) Decisions from NCC i. 21/04935/ADE Monolith with graphics- The Gun Inn – GRANTED. ii. 21/04563/ADE Landscape Lectern – Land South of partners room, Ridsdale – GRANTED. iii. 21/04566/ADE Monolith – SE of Bay Horse West Woodburn – GRANTED. iv. 21/04565/ADE Landscape Lectern – SW of St Cuthbert's Corsenside – GRANTED.

17) Storm Arwen: A letter sent from CPC to MP Guy Opperman about concerns over power outages and the subsequent communication problems has received a brief response that CW read aloud to the councillors. G.Opperman intends to speak about these matters to Minister for Digital shortly to discuss this issue as well as the issue of rural broadband and mobile phone masts. Cllrs asked CW to reply with thanks and ask that we are kept informed of developments.


18) Other correspondence: None

19) Finances: a) Invoices for payment – i. CW wages £315.78 (28hrs 30mins), ii. CW expenses £329.99 for Lotus storage Shed,
b) Bank Balance £11,358.59;
c) Monies Received – None.

20) Matters for discussion at the Chairman's discretion: Cllr C. Hawman has been approached by a parishioner about the problem of dog mess that seems to be increasing especially in Ridsdale along Armstrong Street and towards the cattle grid. Cllrs discussed at length possible solutions however frustration was expressed at such mess being left beside a designated dog poo bin, a situation which highlighted how difficult this problem is to solve. Councillors decided to pursue a number of measures to raise awareness CW is to share information online and some posters will be put up, the option to print leaflets to door drop will be saved as a last resort in efforts to reduce unnecessary spending. CW to inform the dog warden about the increased incidents and ask for their vigilance.

21) Next Meeting: Monday 4th of April 7.30pm at Corsenside Village Hall.

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

Signed: 
Date: 04/04/2022