

CORNSAY PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of Cornsay Parish Council held on Wednesday, 27th June, 2018, at 7.00pm, in Hamsteels Community Centre, Western Avenue, Esh Winning.

Present: Councillor B Armstrong (in the Chair)
and Councillors D Bottoms, K Duggan, E Manning, R Makepeace, L McKendrick and D Robb
and County Councillors D Bell and J Chaplow

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors M McGaun, A Simpson and M Wilson

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

33. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS

Following the election in May, 2017, a number of seats had not been filled. The Council was able to fill these seats through the co-option process and expressions of interest had been sought from people who were interested in the role.

Resolved: *That Barbara Reid of 18 Station View, Esh Winning be co-opted as a member of the Council.*

34. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillors reported on the following items:

- The County Durham Plan Preferred Options giving the vision for the county had been presented to Cabinet. A consultation would run from 22nd June to 3rd August, 2018 with presentations being given to AAPs and over 50 consultation events taking place.
- The final stage of Universal Credit had been completed in County Durham. The service replaced claims for various means tested benefits and tax credits.
- From September, 2018, the Durham Federation's two sites at Fyndoune and Ushaw Moor would become centres for educational excellence and inclusion. The changes would see those studying for vocational qualifications study at Sacriston while the Ushaw Moor site would focus on academic courses.
- A range of outdoor theatre performances would be taking place in Wharton Park over the summer starting with Alice's Adventures in Wonderland on 6th July. Tickets were £16.00 for adults and £10.00 for children.
- The visitor centre at Binchester Roman Fort had now re-opened following a refurbishment programme.
- Tickets for the 2018 pantomime at the Gala Theatre were now on sale. Snow White and the Seven Dwarves would be on from 22nd November.

Items brought to the attention of County Councillors' included:

- The ditches alongside roads around Cornsay including Cornsay Lane and Wells Bank were in a dangerous condition.
- Tankers travelling to the anaerobic digester were using Cornsay Colliery as a shortcut. The vehicles were travelling down the bank at high speed but crawling up with the potential for a serious accident to be caused.

Resolved: *That the report be noted.*

35. MID DURHAM AAP - VILLAGE ACTION PLANS

Andy Coulthard, AAP Co-ordinator, was in attendance to discuss progress on the issues identified in the village action plans which had been prepared following public consultations last year.

Key points were:

Draw Well

The question of ownership still remained despite numerous attempts to resolve it over many years. Andy Coulthard would make enquiries of the County Council's Conservation Team to see whether any assistance could be provided.

Litter/Flytipping

The Parish Council had previously contributed towards the cost of purchasing additional fly tipping enforcement cameras. The issue was still occurring and Andy Coulthard would contact the Civic Pride team for an update.

Community centre/shops parking

Councillor Armstrong advised she had arranged a meeting with the Asset Transfer team at the County Council to see if there was a possibility of the site being transferred to the parish council.

The clerk would discuss with Andy Coulthard the s106 bid to develop parking spaces on parish council owned land in the meantime.

Cornsay Colliery - speeding

Councillor Armstrong advised that this was an ongoing problem and Durham Constabulary had recently been contacted in this regard.

Andy Coulthard would contact the Police for a further update.

Youth Club

A funding application by the Community Hall Association last year towards the cost of running a youth club had been unsuccessful. It was noted that youth activities were delivered from Woodland Hall at present and there were a number of sessions on in the community centre which were suitable for children and young people.

Health & Leisure Services

There were a number of sessions on in the community centre however it had been felt that the Community Hall Association did not promote these effectively. Councillor Makepeace detailed the steps the Association takes to market and promote activities and highlighted the sessions currently on offer to meet this need.

36. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30th May, 2018, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

37. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

38. FINANCIAL REPORT

(a) Agreement was given for the payment of:

- (i) £249.08 to Mr D Walker in respect of Clerk's wages for June.
- (ii) £73.22 to HMRC in respect of PAYE for May.
- (iii) £738.93 in respect of staff wages for June.
- (iv) Durham County Council in respect of the cleaning contract for the community centre.
- (v) Makepeace Landscapes in respect of grounds maintenance, play areas and planters.

(b) Cheques issued:

(i)	30 th May 2018	£	253.56	Clerk's wages	No.1037
(ii)	30 th May 2018	£	70.75	HMRC	No.1038
(iii)	30 th May 2018	£	727.74	Staff wages	No.1039
(iv)	30 th May 2018	£	780.00	DCC (broadband)	No.1040
(v)	30 th May 2018	£	277.26	DCC (cleaning)	No.1041
(vi)	30 th May 2018	£	90.25	MG Ackroyd	No.1042
(vii)	30 th May 2018	£	146.34	CDALC	No.1043
(viii)	30 th May 2018	£	97.20	Petty Cash	No.1044

(c) Receipts

A cheque in the sum of £200.00 had been received from TRACC, being the Association's contribution towards the cost of replacement of the planters in Cornsay Colliery.

39. CORRESPONDENCE

Durham County Council - Details received in relation to the County Durham Plan Preferred Options.

Resolved: *That the Clerk circulate details to Members if they wish to take part in the consultation.*

40. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

R Suddes Land east of The Byre Construction of 4 dwellings
Cornsay Lane
Cornsay

Resolved: *That the Council has no objection to the principle of residential development in this location.*

T Bates Biggin Farm Construction of 2No. pig finishing buildings
New Brancepeth for 2000 pigs and 4No feed silos
Retention of extension to existing
agricultural building to house pigs

Resolved: *That the Council re-iterates it's comments in relation to the previous similar application for this site.*

41. CAR PARKING – FORMER GARAGE SITE, WESTERN AVENUE

The Clerk reported that the County Council had now offered to lease the former garage site to the Parish Council at a cost of £500.00 per annum. Legal fees would also need to be paid.

The County Council had indicated a wish to lease the entire site to the Parish Council including the larger area to the rear of the houses on Deerness Grove/Newhouse Road in addition to the area requested to the rear of the shops.

The Clerk had enquired whether the County Council would be prepared to proceed on the basis of the requested smaller area however the County Council had advised that their preference was for the Parish Council to take on the whole site with the larger area potentially being fenced off to prevent access while remaining the Parish Council's responsibility.

The Chairman reported that she had arranged a meeting with an Officer at the County Council who dealt with community asset transfer to see whether this could offer an alternative way forward. She would report back following the meeting.

In the meantime, the Clerk would liaise with the AAP Co-ordinator in relation to a s106 bid towards the cost of providing parking on the Parish Council owned land to the front and side of the building.

Various quotes had been received and forwarded to the AAP Co-ordinator to commence the process however the choice of surfacing ie grass or gravel would need to be agreed and the existing beech hedge would also require relocating.

Resolved: *(i) That the report be noted.*

(ii) That a gravel surface be agreed for the parking area.

(iii) That Makepeace Landscapes be requested to quote for the relocation of the hedge.

42. HAMSTEELS COMMUNITY CENTRE

(a) Update Report

As the summer holiday approached, a number of groups would be taking a break and the number of sessions would be reduced. It was suggested that groups be asked to pay a small retainer when on holiday as this had been the case in the old building.

A number of people had requested a tai chi session and enquiries had been made to find an instructor. The sessions would commence in September if enough people were interested.

A ceilidh was being planned for later in the year and a coach trip to Whitby was planned for the summer holidays.

Resolved: *That the report be noted.*

(b) Lease of building to Hamsteels Community Hall Association

At the time of the community centre being rebuilt, it had been agreed to enter into a lease with the Hamsteels Community Hall Association.

At that time, the Association had been working with Durham Community Action on updating its governance structure and, pending the outcome of that piece of work, rather than entering into a lease, a tenancy at will had been agreed. The tenancy at will had continued in place from that stage.

The Association had almost completed the update of governance arrangements and, accordingly, was now in a position to enter into a formal lease for occupation of the building.

Resolved: *That the Clerk obtain quotes from local solicitors for the drafting of a lease on the same terms as the lease of the former building.*

(c) Alterations to Room 2

Room 2 was a multi-purpose room at the rear of the building and it was felt that it was not being used to its full potential as many people found it had limited daylight and it also lacked a fire exit door.

Additionally, as the number of groups using the centre had increased, so had the need for storage space for equipment. Room 2 was therefore being used to store various items of equipment which had to be moved around the building as the room was required.

The Community Hall Association had successfully obtained funding to undertake works to the room to provide a fire exit door, increase the amount of natural light and provide storage space however the Council's permission was required for any alterations.

Councillor Makepeace advised that she had chaired the meeting in March when the idea was discussed, however the matter had been mentioned at the end of the meeting. As it had not been discussed as an agenda item and minuted, the Council's formal permission had not yet been granted however the funding application had been submitted. Councillor Makepeace apologised for this oversight.

In discussion, it was queried whether the building was compliant with regulations in respect of fire escape from the room. The Clerk advised that building regulations approval had been granted when the building was constructed. Escape from the room was possible via the window, although a

number of members commented that this was impractical due to its height and unsuitable for wheelchair users. The consensus was therefore that the alterations proposed for the room would be of benefit to the building.

In response to a query, the Clerk confirmed that advise had been sought from the Big Lottery who had indicated that provided any changes to the building improve it as a facility they saw no difficulty with the proposal. The Clerk had requested confirmation of this view which would be sought on the return from annual leave of the relevant officer.

Resolved: *That permission be granted for alterations to be made to the window of Room 2 and the addition of a fire door and provision of storage.*

The Meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Signed as a correct record:

Chairperson	Date
Clerk	Date

