

CORNSAY PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of Cornsay Parish Council held on Wednesday, 5th April, 2017, at 7.00pm, in Hamsteels Community Centre, Western Avenue, Esh Winning.

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

127. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

128. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Councillor R Makepeace declared an interest in Minute No. 136 – Grounds Maintenance and Planters – and withdrew from the meeting during consideration thereof.

129. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillors reported on the following items:

- The Teaching Assistants working group was close to coming up with a proposal in relation to terms and conditions.
- Residents in Durham City had voted in favour of establishing a parish council to cover the City area. The matter would be considered by Durham County Council in June.
- The Area Action Partnership village drop in sessions were again being arranged for May and June. Feedback obtained at the sessions would be used to produce updated village action plans.

Items brought to County Councillors' attention included:

- Residents in Cornsay were pleased with the 'slow' signs and installed rumble strips.
- It had been reported that a resident in Cornsay was parking on the Village Green.

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

(ii) *That the Clerk provide details of the boundary of the Village Green to establish whether the vehicle in question was being parked on the Green.*

130. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22nd February, 2017, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

131. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 121 - The Planning Enforcement Officer had advised that the fencing and associated material had now been removed from the site and, accordingly, she was closing her file on this matter.

132. FINANCIAL REPORT

(a) Agreement was given for the payment of:

- (i) £233.30 to Mr D Walker in respect of Clerk's wages for March.
- (ii) £1,218.78 in respect of staff wages.
- (iii) £225.94 to HMRC in respect of PAYE for March.
- (iv) £108.00 to Wicksteed Leisure in respect of annual play area inspections.

- (v) £100.00 to Cornsay Village Residents Association in respect of contribution towards cost of lawnmower fuel.

(b) Cheques issued:

(i)	22 nd Feb 2017	£	233.30	Clerk's wages	No. 930
(ii)	22 nd Feb 2017	£	225.94	HMRC	No. 931
(iii)	22 nd Feb 2017	£	270.20	Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council	No. 932

133. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Citizens Advice County Durham - Request for donation.
Resolved: *That no donation be made on this occasion.*
- (b) Durham County Council - Election of Parish Councillors - Statement of Persons Nominated
Resolved: *That the information be noted.*
- (c) Mid Durham AAP - Information received in relation to Village drop-in sessions.
Resolved: *That the Clerk contact the AAP Co-ordinator in relation to the arrangements.*

134. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

C Dent Land to the south of South Terrace, Cornsay Colliery Outline application for 2 dwellings

Resolved: *That the Council has no observations on this application.*

135. ANNUAL PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS

The annual play area inspection reported had been received from Wicksteed Leisure.

It had been highlighted in the report that there were a number of deep ruts across Cornsay Village Green. These were being attended to by the farmer.

Resolved: *That the report be noted.*

136. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & PLANTERS

Consideration was given to the arrangements for grounds maintenance and planting of planters for the forthcoming year.

Makepeace Landscapes had indicated their willingness to continue to provide these services at the same price as last year. Additionally, the price to cut the grass and maintain the planted borders at the Community Centre would be £37.00 per fortnight during the season.

Resolved: *That in view of the excellent service received from Makepeace Landscapes, Standing Orders be waived and the quotation accepted.*

137. CLEANING – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Since the start of the year, Durham County Council had been providing a cleaning service at the Community Centre.

In order to formalise the arrangement, it was necessary to enter into a Service Level Agreement. Copies of the draft SLA had been circulated.

Resolved: *That the Service Level be agreed and entered into and signed on behalf of the Council.*

138. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

It was necessary to appoint an internal auditor to undertake internal audit of the Council's accounts for the year 2016/2017.

Resolved: *That Mike Ackroyd be requested to undertake the Council's internal audit*

139. HAMSTEELS COMMUNITY CENTRE

(a) Update

Classes were being well attended, with a Zumba session having started at the beginning of March. The arts & crafts taster sessions had now ended, however those attending were keen to continue the sessions and were organising the activity themselves to allow it to continue.

The art event had been very impressive and positive comments received from those who had attended.

The Community Association's Easter Fair was to be held on 10th April and everyone was welcome.

A local resident had been in contact about volunteering and it was hoped he could work on offering advice sessions to the local community.

A recent visit by the Environmental Health Officer had lead to a score of 5 on the Scores on the Doors scheme which was excellent news. In order to develop what was on offer, the Community Association was working on a grant application to Awards for All which would include some new catering equipment.

Since the clocks had changed, it had been commented at a recent evening event that it was extremely light in the main hall during the event. This would also cause an issue if films shows were to begin. Provided there was sufficient funding available, it was hoped it may be possible to purchase some suitable curtains.

(b) Report of Marketing & Development Officers

The Facebook page continued to attract followers and was proving a useful source of marketing. Twitter was not being as well used but was continuing to be used to post updates and link with partner organisations.

Derwentside Homes had been contacted in relation to arranging a further hand-held devices session following a request from a resident. The session would be held once there was sufficient interest.

The art event had been attended by over 50 people. There had also been interest in another event which could be organised later in the year.

Interest had been expressed in Spanish lessons, while a messy play session was due to start this month.

A number of funding applications had been submitted, with an application to the Co-op for funding to continue the Bingo and Lingo sessions having been successful.

Resolved: *That the report be noted.*

The Meeting closed at 7.55 pm

Signed as a correct record:

Chairperson Date

Clerk Date

