

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CORBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2020

PRESENT Councillor W Clouston, Chair of the Council together with Councillors: Mrs E S Buckley, C G Curry, N M Oliver, Mrs M V Kemp, M J Stone and M F Griffin.

0220.01 **RESIDENTS** present raised a number of matters and where relevant they are listed together with the actions that will be taken, if required. In due course, if necessary, reports will be made back to the Council.

a) **VE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY.** David Burnett attended the meeting to give an update on the RBL Corbridge Branch's plans for VE Day. Unfortunately, RBL Corbridge do not have enough funds to install the memorial bench in time for VE Day. It is hoped this will be in place by November 2020. On Friday 8th May 2020 there will be a Thanksgiving Service in St Andrews Church at 2.15pm. Boards will be erected in the church for residents to display memories. There will be a piper playing in Corbridge at 3pm when pipers from all over the world will be playing. On Saturday 9th May, RBL Corbridge will be holding a family bring your own picnic in Corstopitum Club. There will be small attractions for the children, a blind raffle and 2 local singers playing in the evening. Bunting will be hung outside the club and it is hoped that businesses in Corbridge will display bunting. A final programme of events will be published in Corbridge Matters.

It was reported that the damaged perspex on the Lych Gate had been removed but was still to be replaced.

b) **SPEEDING.** Concerns were expressed over the speed of traffic through the village, in particular cars travelling north along Stagshaw Road. The latest speed data had been downloaded from the vehicle activated signs and the 85th percentile speeds do not exceed 34 mph in any of the locations. Police will act if the 85th percentile speeds exceed 35pmh. Cllr N M Oliver will write to the Police and Crème Commissioner after the election in May expressing concerns over speeding. The Parish Council will also contact the police.

c) **RURAL POLICING.** A 3rd year student from Newcastle University, studying Rural Studies attended the meeting as part of her dissertation. As part of her studies she is conducting research surrounding crime and policing Rural Northumberland. She asked several questions and a discussion took place surrounding crime in the area and the Parish Council's views on the police.

220.02 **TO RECEIVE LEE ROGERS DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE.** Lee Rogers gave and signed his declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of the Clerk to the Council.

220.03 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Apologies received and approved from Cllrs L Stenhouse and S Ahmed.

220.04 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - Cllr N M Oliver declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item as a member of Northumberland County Council's Planning Committees.

220.05 **MINUTES.** It was proposed by Cllr M J Stone, seconded by Cllr Mrs E S Buckley and AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on **22 January 2020** having been circulated, be signed as a true record.

220.06 **ACTIONS FOLLOWING THE MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2020.**

a) **MILKWELL/LEAZES LANE.** Minute 0120.06a refers. It was noted that the signs erected by Bellway Homes directing traffic along Milkwell Lane had been removed.

b) **CASHPOINT MACHINE.** Minute 0120.06b refers. The installation of a cashpoint machine has been deferred until a site is identified.

c) **RESIDENTS PARKING – PRINCES STREET.** Minute 0120.01a refers. Cllr N M Oliver had met with Richard McKenzie to look at the parking. Unfortunately, this will be an expensive process to extend the parking even by a few metres.

d) **DOG FOULING.** Minute 0120.01b refers. The clerk had contacted NCC who are to refresh the stencils around the village. Malcolm Barrass, the dog warden is to carry out enforcement in Corbridge. NCC is to arrange an awareness raising session, through their Green Dog Walker Scheme in the village car park. Cllr W Clouston will mention this in his report in the next edition of Corbridge Matters.

220.07 **MINUTES.** It was proposed by Cllr M J Stone, seconded by Cllr Mrs E S Buckley and AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on **22 January 202**, having been circulated, be signed as a true record.

220.08 **FINANCE**

a) **Accounts for payment.** Payments were reviewed and it was AGREED to approve the items of expenditure on the list, previously circulated.

b) **Bank Reconciliation up to 31 January 2020.** It was AGREED to accept and approve the bank reconciliation which shows the balances as at 31 January 2020 as £159,362.45.

c) **To receive and approve the budget report for the period ended 31 January 2020.** It was AGREED to approve the Accounts and budget report for the period ended 31 January 2020.

d) To consider request from St Andrews Church for contribution towards fitting an automatic winding system to the church. It was AGREED in principle that the Parish Council would make a contribution should the need arise in the future.

e) **To consider quotes for repairs to the Cemetery Lodge.** Quotes had been received to replace the lead valleys on the front elevation at the Cemetery Lodge. It was AGREED to accept the quote from Chris Dixon.

- 220.09 **PLANNING DECISIONS.** It was proposed by Cllr W Clouston, seconded by Cllr Mrs E S Buckley and AGREED that the Council receive the details of the Planning Decisions made by Northumberland County Council, in accordance with the list circulated.
- 220.10 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS.** It was proposed by Cllr W Clouston, seconded by Cllr Mrs E S Buckley and AGREED to accept the decisions of the Planning Advisory Group in accordance with the list circulated.
- 220.11 **CORRESPONDENCE.** Correspondence and information items received since the January meeting had been listed on the agenda and were noted. Most items had already been circulated by email. No action was needed on the items received.
- **CORBRIDGE YOUTH INITIATIVE.** An email was received from Gillian Wood, Project Co-ordinator, Corbridge Youth Initiative thanking the Parish Council for their continued support of the project. Following a recent visit by Cllr M F Griffin to the Youth Centre, Parish Councillors were reminded that if they wished to visit they would need to arrange a mutually convenient time with Gillian who would be happy to meet with them. The Centre is a drop in centre for young people however all other visitors need to make an appointment.
 - **PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER – ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION ORDER.** NCC has a number of PSPO in force under the provision of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which deal with the consumption of alcohol in certain areas. The current orders were for a period of 3 years and took effect from October 2017. NCC is requesting views on whether it is considered necessary to extend the existing PSPS for a further period of 3 years. After discussion it was AGREED to contact NCC to request that the existing PSPO is extended for a further period of 3 years.
 - **CORCHESTER FIELD.** Hadrian's Wall Community Archaeology Project is to undertake another 2 weeks digging in July. Paul Frodsham, Community Archaeologist is to give a public lecture about their work in the Parish Hall later in the year. They are happy to offer guided tours of the excavations while they are in progress. The finds from last year have now been looked at by experts and the report should be complete within the next few weeks.
- 220.12 **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING/LIAISON GROUPS AND UPDATE FROM CHAIRMAN AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR**
- a) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.** Cllr W Clouston gave his verbal report which included;
- **Update on the gas works by NGN in the village.** It was noted that the Wheatsheaf corner will be closed for 3 weeks in March however a signed diversion will be introduced. Cllr N M Oliver had emailed NGN to ensure that the school bus companies are aware of this closure. It was noted that the community drop in events will no longer take place due to the limited enquires.
 - **Neighbourhood Plan.** A meeting is to be held on 28 February to agree a timescale for the Neighbourhood Plan. Unfortunately, the consultation which took place in March 2019 is no longer valid and will need to be repeated.
 - **Parish Hall Extension.** Cllrs W Clouston and N M Oliver had met with NCC planning officers to discuss the planning and design of the proposed extension. The general view was that the planners were quite resistant to an extension on the Parish Hall due to the symmetrical nature of the building. A report from NCC will follow.
 - **Railings outside the Co-op.** Following the NCC Liaison meeting, NCC would be able to install the new railings on behalf of the Parish Council. Once a design has been agreed the plans will be sent to NCC for them to provide a quote for installation.
 - **Corchester Field.** It was noted that the fencing along the roadside needs to be repaired/replaced. The clerk will obtain a quote for the repairs.
 - **Pavilion, Corchester Field.** It was noted that the Pavilion on Corchester Field was part of Corchester Towers. Cllr W Clouston had spoken with an architect who will draw up some plans to potentially open up the building and refurbish. This will be an agenda item at a future meeting.
- b) **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.** Cllr N M Oliver gave his verbal report on matters relating to Northumberland County Council and other matters relating to Corbridge Parish Council.
- **Community Led Housing.** It was noted that the contracts have now been exchanged on the 4 properties on the Milkwell Development. It is thought that Corbridge Parish Council is the first Parish Council in the country to take on such a project. NCC is looking into this.
 - **Parking.** Negotiations between the landowner and NCC had halted until the issue with the allotment land had been resolved. Legal advice is being sought and a letter of engagement with Ward Hadaway should be received shortly.
 - **Tree works.** Cllr N M Oliver had walked around with NCC tree officer and agreed works which need to be carried out. Cllr L Rogers had identified trees needing attention on Appletree Lane and the footpath through to Aydon Avenue which are dying or have had large branches fall due to the recent high winds.
 - **Local Transport Plan 19/20.** It was noted that Newcastle Road was still in the programme for NCC to come up with options and recommendations in 2019/20. Although the Parish Council had requested Aydon Road to be included in the 2020/21 priorities, this had been brought forward to 2019/20 and will be dealt with after Newcastle Road. It was noted that the bus stop heading up Newcastle Road had been agreed by NCC and would be installed in due course. **Local Transport Plan 2020/21.** NCC is to undertake a study on the Farnley footpath and NCC has agreed to resurface Appletree Lane. Confirmation is awaited as to whether the footpath is to be removed.
 - **Parking and Highways improvements.** Cllr N M Oliver had walked around Corbridge with Richard McKenzie, NCC and the following are to be actioned;

- **White Lines.** To be installed at the junction from The Potteries to Cragside; Slow on the road at the end of Middle Street.
- **Yellow Lines.** To be installed on Trinity Terrace/Town Barns; Corner of Appletree Lane to allow access for driveway.
- **Watling Street/St Helen's Street corner.** No action to be taken.
- **Golden Lion/Town Hall Buildings Corner.** The Parish Council had agreed option 1. No HGVs turning left from Hill Street to Princes Street.
- **Cycling Fund.** Cllr N M Oliver had been contacted by Corbridge First School. British Cycling are appealing to encourage children to cycle. Funding is available to any organisation to develop cycling activity in their community. The funding can be used for equipment, storage or small-scale facilities. Cllr N M Oliver is to discuss further with the First School and report back to the Parish Council.

c) TO CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR B6529 STATION ROAD/TINKLERS BANK JUNCTION

IMPROVEMENT SCHEME. After discussion, it was AGREED to recommend Option 1 for NCC to implement. The residents of Station Road do not support Options 2-4. Option 1 prohibits vehicles from turning left out of or right into the side street. Traffic would be directed to the nearby roundabout in order to turn around safely and travel in the desired direction. Advance warning by way of signs would be installed on Tinkler's Bank. Additional signage would be placed at the junction.

- d) TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE CHAINS PUBLIC OPEN SPACE.** Cllr M J Stone gave a verbal update on the situation between Persimmon Homes and Northumberland Estates. Representatives from Northumberland Estates and Persimmon Homes are to meet next month to try and resolve their issues. It was noted that when the properties were built there was to be a £250 maintenance charge per property for the upkeep of the open spaces. This was only claimed in the first year. The Parish Council has discussed the potential to take over the maintenance of the area once all the issues had been resolved. This will be revisited at a future date.
- e) UPDATE ON PARISH HALL AND POTENTIAL RENEWABLE ENERGY.** This is to be discussed in more details with the relevant organisations. The fund is looking for more than one building and it may be that other Parish Council properties could be included in the proposal i.e. Community Housing, Parish Hall, Library building, Cemetery Lodge. Any grant would be used to work with an environmental consultant to look at whether a renewable energy project would be workable in terms of technology, planning, finance, legal issues, community group capacity and expertise and that the local community supports the proposed project. Cllr N M Oliver and Cllr M J Stone to take forward.
- f) TO DISCUSS ISSUES SURROUNDING PATH AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION ON THE CHAINS AND STREET/GULLEY CLEANING.** Cllr M J Stone to discuss further with Cllr N M Oliver.
- g) USE OF PUBLIC NOTICE BOARDS.** There are 3 notice boards by the Coigns Corner; 1 locked for Parish Council use, 1 Parish Council notice board open for public notices and 1 belonging to the Village Trust. The Village Trust has removed their notice board to be refurbished and a lock installed. After discussion, it was agreed to monitor the use of the noticeboards and for all councillors to remove any obsolete notices when they are passing.
- h) TO DISCUSS PROPOSED VE DAY 75TH MEMORIAL TREE PLANTING.** It was agreed to purchase a 6-8 feet tree with memorial plaque to commemorate the VE 75th Anniversary. Various locations were discussed however it was agreed that the open space on the Chains behind the Parish Hall would be the most suitable. Cllr N M Oliver to discuss species and location with NCC Arborist.
- i) TO DISCUSS PROPOSED GREENING CORBRIDGE ACTION PLAN BY CLLR M F GRIFFIN.** Cllr M F Griffin circulated a document which would involve various projects including tree, hedge and flower planting, creation of a pocket park, renewable energy opportunities, community space creation and improvement to name a few. The contents of the document were noted, and it was suggested that these initiatives could be suggested during the Neighbourhood Planning consultation process.

220.13 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA AND ISSUES TO REPORT.

- **THE CHAINS PUBLIC OPEN SPACE.** Cllr M J Stone to provide a further update.
- **REPORTS.** Cllr Mrs E S Buckley asked that if any Parish Councillor wished to add an item to the agenda, a report be circulated prior to the meeting for consideration.
- **FLOOD DEBRIS.** It was noted that there is a lot of debris on the path from Wellbank Green to the Mill House following the recent floods. NCC will clear this however it will take some time as it is not a priority.
- **BUS SHELTER.** It was noted that there is a broken panel on the Hill Street bus shelter.
- **PAVEMENT OBSTRUCTION.** It was noted that cars are parking on the pavement outside the petrol station and causing an obstruction. Cllr N M Oliver requested that photos are taken of any instances and forwarded to him. He will report to Public Protection and the police for action.

220.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Wednesday 25th March at 7pm** in Room One of the Parish Hall.