

## CORBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2023

**PRESENT:** Cllr W Clouston, Chairman of the Council together with Cllrs N M Oliver, C G Curry, M J Stone, L Rogers, S Ahmed and Ms C Burns.

- 623.01 **RESIDENTS** present raised the following 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) **St Helen's Street.** A resident requested that the resurfacing of St Helen's Street be included in the LTP 2024/25. Cllr N M Oliver advised that this did not need to be included in the LTP as there is a separate maintenance budget. He advised that Highways are aware of the state of the road. He also advised the resident to report the issue on 'Fix My Street'.
  - b) **Handyman.** It had been noted, the Parish Council handyman had swept the area outside the Golden Lion. This is obviously not the Parish Council's responsibility however as the Golden Lion is now closed it was felt that the mess needed to be cleaned up. The pub had been contacted in the past and asked to clear up the mess outside however this had rarely happened.
  - c) **Newcastle Road.** Residents are concerned over the speed of traffic travelling along Newcastle Road and in particular need to Howden Dene. It was noted, the footpaths are overgrown with vegetation, brambles and overhanging trees making it dangerous for pedestrians who are having to step out into the road. There is also an issue with blocked gulleys which a resident has cleared on several occasions and also a 'Beware cyclists' sign which is blocking the view of the pedestrians crossing the road. Cllr N M Oliver is to contact David Hunt regarding the overgrown footpaths and the Parish Council will consider the speeding issues through the LTP programme. Cllr N M Oliver asked Councillors to advise him of any blocked gulleys and he will report them.
- 623.02 **TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** from Cllr Mrs J Neal.
- 623.03 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTEREST.** Cllr N M Oliver declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 0623.08 as a member of Northumberland County Council's Planning Committees.
- 623.04 **TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION TO FILL ONE VACANCY.** Following the application from Mr R Tipping to be considered for co-option, it was proposed by Cllr S Ahmed, seconded by Cllr Ms C Burns and AGREED to the co-option of Mr Tipping. Mr Tipping signed his declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of the Clerk and took his seat at the table.
- 623.05 **TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 MAY 2023.** It was AGREED to approve and sign the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 May 2023 with an addition to add a paragraph under Cllr Oliver's report regarding the discuss regarding a potential 3G pitch at Corbridge Middle School.
- 623.06 **ACTIONS TAKEN FOLLOWING THE MEETING HELD ON 24 MAY 2023.**
- a) **Barriers behind the Co-op.** It was noted, the barriers are still lying behind the Co-op and do not appear to have any identification as to who they belong to. Further investigations will be made.
  - b) **Footpath alongside the Co-op.** Minute 0523.16b refers. Cllr N M Oliver continues to pursue this.
  - c) **Giant Hogweed spraying.** Minute 523.16 refers. It was confirmed the spraying of the Hogweed had been carried out on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023.
- 623.07 **FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION**
- a) **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.** It was AGREED to approve the items of expenditure on the lists, previously circulated. (Appendix A).
- 623.08 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS.** It was AGREED to accept the decisions of the Planning Advisory Group in accordance with the list circulated. (Appendix B).
- 623.09 **PLANNING DECISIONS.** It was AGREED that the Council receive the details of the Planning Decisions made by Northumberland County Council, in accordance with the list circulated. (Appendix C).
- 623.10 **TO RECEIVE REPORTS, IF APPROPRIATE FROM WORKING/LIAISON GROUPS WITH ENCLOSED MINUTES, IF APPLICABLE INCLUDING REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR.**
- a) **Chairman's Report.** Cllr Clouston gave his verbal report on outstanding matters and updates on various projects.

## CORBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

- **Community Led Housing Project.** The NCC Accreditation Inspection has been completed and the houses will be advertised on Northumberland Homefinder from 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
  - **Corchester Field.** A meeting had been held with the contractor and architect to discuss next steps. Additional Heras fencing has been ordered and a skip will be provided. It will take several months to complete the project and there may be additional costs once the work starts.
  - **Corbridge Youth Initiative Premises.** Cllrs W Clouston and N Oliver had met with the Trustees of the Youth Initiative to discuss their current situation with the top floor of the library building. Their 10-year lease expired in February 2022 and the rent for the new lease is considerably higher. The trustees are asking the Parish Council to consider a Community Asset Transfer of the building from Northumberland County Council to secure their future in the current building. Unfortunately, the building needs some considerable maintenance as there is water ingress from the roof. If the Parish Council were to take on the building, there would need to be conditions attached including complete repair at £0 cost to the Parish Council; flexibility for the downstairs area with no restrictions and the building would need to be in good condition. Corbridge Youth Initiative is waiting for a structural survey report and once this is received a meeting will be arranged with members of the Parish Council, youth Initiative, Northumberland County Council, Children's Services. Cllr N M Oliver had contacted Richard Wearmouth who is the Deputy Leader of NCC and the portfolio holder for Estates. Another option for the Youth Initiative is to secure a space in the new Community Hub however considerable work would need to be carried out in order for the Youth Initiative to have their own dedicated space.
  - **South Side Car Park.** The application has not yet been submitted however a plan has been prepared showing the precise areas on the allotment site. To allow for the car park extension, plot 1 of the allotments would be lost however this would be replaced by utilising an unused area within the allotment site which is larger and therefore would be a net gain of allotments.
  - **Market Place Consultation Results.** Cllr W Clouston had analysed the results from the consultation and the report was circulated to all councillors. There were 104 responses of which 62 were in support, 17 were against and 26 were neither in support or against. With support of over 59% it was AGREED in principle to take the scheme forward incorporating many of the suggestions from the consultation responses. Commonly raised issues were problems with parking, provision of residents' parking and several that were against the planting of trees within the scheme. Several responses would like to see the restoration of the Market Cross. There were some very useful detailed suggestions which the Parish Council will try to address within the scheme. Cllr W Clouston is to report back to Robinson Design with the suggestions to incorporate within the design. Once this has been completed a planning application will be submitted outlining the basis highway/kerb design.
- b) **County Councillor's Report.** Cllr N M Oliver gave his verbal report on matters related to Corbridge Parish and the wider County area.
- **Corchester Field.** It is pleasing to hear that the number of people using Corchester Field has increased since the installation of the new goal posts and marking out of the pitch. Unfortunately, a section of fence had been removed and not replaced. Arrangements will be made to replace the fencing. It was AGREED to purchase 2 large bins as the current bins are inadequate.
  - **Cycle Route from Corbridge to Hexham.** Discussions continue.
  - **Princes Street Pant.** Several attempts to clear the drain at the pant have failed including the handyman, Northumberland County Council and Dynarod. Northumbrian Water had been out twice to investigate and taken samples however cannot find any reason for the increase in water coming from the lion's head. Northumberland County Council have confirmed that as this is not in the public highway, it is not their responsibility. The Parish Council will arrange for a camera investigation of the drainage.
  - **Gulleys/Dropped Kerbs.** Cllr Oliver had walked around the village centre with Andy Olive, Northumberland County Council and identified the various issues including bent lamp posts, blocked gulleys etc. Cllrs Olive and Clouston will walk around the village centre and identify the blocked gulleys. Councillors are asked to identify any areas that would benefit from a dropped kerb. Once these are identified a bid will be put in to install the dropped kerbs.

## CORBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

- **Fix My Street.** Residents and councillors are encouraged to use the 'Fix My Street' website or app to report issues to Northumberland County Council. This is the best way to report issues as the reporter can see what has already been reported, action taken and updates.
- **Corbridge Middle School.** A meeting has been arranged in July to discuss the possibility of a 3G pitch on the Middle School site.
- **Barclays ATM.** Cllr Oliver had spoken to representatives of Barclays regarding the installation of an ATM in Corbridge. This is no longer possible. The process to apply through Link is confusing however Cllr Oliver is to speak to Guy Opperman's office as they have experience of this process.
- **Farnley Footpath.** The footpath in Farnley will be installed this Summer. A decision needs to be agreed regarding the installation of the gateway signs. Cllr Oliver will discuss this with the Clerk.

c) **To receive reports on any village/highway issues.**

- **Public footpaths.** It was reported that a public footpath around Aydon is completely blocked due to thick vegetation. Cllr Oliver took the details and will report to Tim Fish, Public Footpaths Officer, NCC. The footpath from the bridge on the north side of the river along to Wellbank is very overgrown. This footpath should be strimmed once per month as part of the Parish Council's contract with Northumberland County Council. This had not been done recently and had been chased up with NCC.
- **Potholes.** Crofts Avenue has potholes in the middle of the road. Cllr Oliver to report.
- **Public toilets.** A visitor had reported that the toilets were an 'absolute disgrace'. The ladies toilets were reported as ok however it is not clear how often/when the toilets are cleaned. Enquiries will be made.

623.11 **ANNUAL GOVERNMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2022-2023.**

- a) **To consider and agree any actions arising from the Internal Auditor's Report.** As there were no actions arising to consider it was AGREED to accept the Internal Auditor's Report.
- b) **To approve the Annual Governance Statement.** It was AGREED to approve the Annual Governance Statement.
- c) **To approve the draft annual accounts, bank reconciliation, Asset Register.** It was AGREED to approve the draft annual accounts, bank reconciliation and Asset Register.
- d) **To approve the Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances.** It was AGREED to approve the Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances.

623.12 **TO CONSIDER PRIORITIES FOR INCLUSION IN THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME 2024-2025.** The Parish Council had submitted and agreed with NCC, traffic calming measures on Newcastle Road and Aydon Road in previous years. After discussions with NCC, it was AGREED, 2 years ago, to roll these requests and a 20mph zone for the village into one request. NCC is now proposing a tighter 20mph zone which does not take into account any of these areas and no measures have been taken on Newcastle Road or Aydon Road. It was AGREED to establish what exactly NCC is prepared to do before the priorities are submitted for 2024-2025. Newcastle Road has been included in the LTP for 3 years. Depending on what NCC is prepared to carry out, the following will be submitted;

1. Traffic calming measures on Newcastle Road.
2. 20mph extended zone in the village.
3. Traffic calming measures on Aydon Road.
4. Traffic calming measures on Stagshaw Road
5. Build out on Hill Street outside Co-op to prevent fly parking.

623.13 **OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO COMMENT ON ANY ISSUE RAISED.** Corbridge in Bloom asked the Parish Council to consider the planters when finalising the Market Place scheme. It was AGREED to consult Corbridge in Bloom when the time comes for discussion on the placing of the planters and any planting scheme.

623.14 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting will be of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 19:00 in Room One of Corbridge Parish Hall.

Signed .....Chairman

## CORBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

### APPENDIX B

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR CONSIDERATION ON 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2023

REFERENCE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS
23/01742/FUL	Rear lean-to extension	25 Siskin Drive, Corbridge
23/01874/FUL	Construction of single storey rear extension	42 Friesian Drive, Corbridge
23/01852/FELTPO	Tree Preservation Order application to Improve imbalance to east of both trees. Tag no. 1363 - Horse Chestnut (reduce length of branch at 5m by 3-3.5m and upper branch at 10m by 2-2.5m also crown thin by 15 - 20% to reduce overall density) and Tag no. 1366 - Lime (remove branch at 8m East, 16cm diameter, branch at 11m NE, 17cm diameter and end section of branch at 10m SE, 14cm diameter) by 3-4m. All branches to be pruned to convenient growth points	Primlea Court, Aydon Road, Corbridge
23/01735/FUL	Construction of new dwelling with associated landscaping and quarry remediation scheme	Thornbrough Quarry, Newcastle Road, Corbridge
23/02033/VARYCO	Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) on approved application 19/00514/FUL in order to make minor amendments to plans and elevations	Brocksbushes Tea Rooms, Brocksbushes Farm, Stocksfield
23/02035/FUL	Demolition of two timber sheds and the construction of a stone built outhouse	Glentool, Aydon Road, Corbridge

### APPENDIX C

#### PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED ON 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2022

REFERENCE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	DECISION
23/01253/FUL	Erection of single storey flat roof rear extension and associated small balcony area (providing stepped access to rear garden), refurbishment of existing garage roof to form rooftop terrace, insertion of 1no double glazed window and enlargement of 2no existing windows to side elevations plus minor internal refurbishment works 8 Cliffe House, Tinklers Bank, Corbridge	GRANTED
23/01135/FUL	Construction of rear extension to form enlarged kitchen; associated internal alterations. 6 Aydon Way, Corbridge	GRANTED
23/00940/LBC	Listed Building Consent for erection of building within existing ruined cottage for use as a holiday let and ancillary annexe. The Barn, The Old Pottery Milkwell Lane, Corbridge	WITHDRAWN
23/01587/VARYCO	Removal of condition – 10 (entrance gate) pursuant to planning approval 22/04136/VARYCO Aydon South Farm, Corbridge	GRANTED