

CORNSAY PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of Cornsay Parish Council held on Wednesday, 22nd February, 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 Councillor D Bell

117. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K Duggan and County Councillors A Bonner and J Chaplow.

118. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

119. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillors reported on the following items:

- The completion date for improvement works in North Road, Durham had been extended as an old concrete road and a number of coal chutes had been discovered. Works were expected to be completed at the end of May.
- The County Council intended to increase its Council Tax precept of 3.99% including 2% towards social care. This would give a charge of £1,443.89 for a Band D property. The Fire Authority's precept would be £97.89 and the Police and Crime Commissioner's £164.29 together with parish precepts in parished areas.
- The County Council had received 2 awards from Keep Britain Tidy.
- A new gallery displaying items from the DLI collection would open on Palace Green next month.
- The Boundary Committee would be publishing responses to their consultation on parliamentary constituency boundaries. The proposals would reduce the number of constituencies in the north east from 29 to 25.
- Amanda Healey from South Tyneside had recently been appointed to the post of Director of Public Health for County Durham.
- A project team had been established to review the role of teaching assistants to establish whether the current job descriptions adequately described the requirements of the role. The review would be completed as quickly as possible and would consider all options.

Resolved: *That the report be noted.*

120. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25th January, 2017, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

121. MATTERS ARISING

- Minute 100
- The Planning Enforcement Officer had visited the development site between Esh Winning and Cornsay Colliery and had advised the owner that the works were unauthorised. He had until the end of March to remove the works or submit a planning application for their retention.
 - The flytipping in Briardene had now been removed.

122. FINANCIAL REPORT

- (a) Agreement was given for the payment of:

- (i) £233.30 to Mr D Walker in respect of Clerk's wages for February.
- (ii) £1,218.78 in respect of staff wages.
- (iii) £225.94 to HMRC in respect of PAYE for February.
- (iv) £270.68 to Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council in respect of contribution towards cost of flytipping enforcement cameras.

(b) Cheques issued:

(i)	25 th Jan 2017	£	452.50	Hamsteels Comm Association	No. 897
(ii)	25 th Jan 2017	£	195.86	Clerk's wages	No. 926
(iii)	25 th Jan 2017	£	216.54	HMRC	No. 927
(iv)	1 st Feb 2017	£	15,711.88	WJM Quigley	No. 028

(c) Cash at Bank:

Northern Rock	£20,100.52
Barclays	£2,120.00
Barclays (Savings)	£7,254.43

123. CORRESPONDENCE

Durham County Council - Briefing for prospective election candidates.
Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

124. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications requiring the Council's attention.

125. FUNDING APPLICATION

The Chairman reported on a scheme of environmental improvements proposed for Western Avenue to be funded using s106 monies from the housing development on the former school site.

The proposal involved the creation of a parking area on the former garage site which would be beneficial for the local shops and community centre, removal of the pinch points on Western Avenue, the re-instatement of the flower bed on the grassed area to the front of the bungalows and additional planting and signage at the entrance to Western Avenue.

It was more cost effective for the works to be undertaken while contractors were on site working on the development and the total cost of the project was around £5,000 more than was available in s106 monies.

In order to allow the project to go ahead, it had been suggested that the Council applied to the Wind Farm Community Benefits fund for the balance.

Resolved: *That an application be made to the Wind Farm Community Benefits fund towards the cost of the project.*

126. HAMSTEELS COMMUNITY CENTRE

(a) Update

The centre continued to be well used with the Community Association having turned over £1,300 for the month of January. The Main Hall, IT Suite and Room 1 were being well used as the number of activities was increasing week by week, however the Association reported that some difficulties were being experienced in renting Room 2 as potential users had commented that they found it to be cold and there was a lack of natural light. Some use was being made of the room, however some suggestions had been made on how it could be made more welcoming and these would be considered in the future.

(b) Report of Marketing & Development Officers

The timetable was filling up nicely and good networks were being formed with local organisations.

The Google search information had been updated to provide an accurate location and contact information for the Centre and the number of Facebook followers had increased to 226. The number of Twitter followers was growing however it was felt that this was not the best platform for local services and it would be a struggle to gain a high following.

A leaflet was being designed to raise awareness around Esh Winning and a price had been tentatively agreed for an advertisement in Top Banana magazine which had a much wider circulation area.

A youth pizza night was held on 20th January, 2017. This formed part of a consultation exercise to find out what young people would like to see in the Centre. Opportunities for youth work and dance/exercise sessions for young people were being explored.

Exhibitors for the art event were signing up and invitations had been sent to community art groups. A flyer had been designed which would be circulated to raise awareness of the event.

A number of funding applications had been submitted towards the cost of kurling, seated exercise, bingo, youth activities and equipment for babies and toddlers. Members would be advised on progress of these applications in due course.

Resolved: *That the report be noted.*

The Meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Signed as a correct record:

Chairperson	Date
Clerk	Date

