

CORNSAY PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of Cornsay Parish Council held on Wednesday, 31st October, 2018, at 7.00pm, in Hamsteels Community Centre, Western Avenue, Esh Winning.

Present: Councillor B Armstrong (in the Chair)
and Councillors D Bottoms, R Makepeace, L McKendrick, B Reid and D Robb
and County Councillors J Chaplow, M McGaun and A Simpson

74. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Duggan and E Manning and County Councillors A Simpson and M Wilson.

75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Councillor R Makepeace declared an interest in Minute 84.

76. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillors reported on the following items:

- A meeting had been held regarding bus routes and the possibility of introducing a route linking Cornsay, Cornsay Colliery and Esh Winning. It was hoped that a trial service could be introduced to see whether there was sufficient passenger take up on the route.
- A meeting had been held with the Police regarding speeding across the Esh and Witton Gilbert Division. A number of schemes had been proposed to tackle particular problem areas and costings were awaited.
- The County Council was now publishing information on prosecutions for environmental offences including flytipping to raise awareness. One recent case had resulted in a sentence of community service for one offender in addition to which the court had ordered his vehicle to be crushed.
- The County had won a series of awards in Northumbria in Bloom including best small city for Durham.
- A crackdown on illegal money lenders had begun. Durham Savers Project had been launched to help people create their own financial safety net by being able to save and borrow sensibly through their local credit union.
- A respect campaign had been launched to highlight concerns over abuse, violence and reckless driving faced by bin crews. The campaign followed 24 serious incidents in the last year.
- Approximately 2.7% of homes in County Durham were empty and the County Council was working with partners to tackle the problem and help meet local housing need. Financial assistance was available to bring long term empty properties back into use.
- More than 100,000 residents had signed up to Do It Online which enabled customers to report issues online, pay council tax bills and report problems.
- Free snacks had been offered to children in leisure centres during half-term. The initiative was the extension of a successful scheme which has been run during the summer holidays.
- The County Council's Road Safety Team had invited schools to enter a competition to design artwork which would be used to create parking signs for schools to address the problems of school gate parking.
- The County Council had signed the Dying to Work Charter to protect employees with terminal illnesses. This would give those battling terminal conditions the choice of how to spend their final months knowing their job was protected and the financial security of their family was guaranteed.
- Leisure centres across the County were to stop the use of blue overshoes in a bid to reduce plastic waste

Resolved: *That the report be noted.*

77. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26th September, 2018, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

78. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 61 - A number of people had volunteered to take part in community speedwatch and speedwatch had taken place on a number of dates recently. The Police had met with farm management to highlight concerns about agricultural vehicles travelling through the village.

79. FINANCIAL REPORT

(a) Agreement was given for the payment of:

- (i) £249.08 to Mr D Walker in respect of Clerk's wages for October.
- (ii) £62.40 to HMRC in respect of PAYE for October.
- (iii) £487.50 in respect of staff wages for October.
- (iv) £240.00 to Mazars LLP in respect of Audit Fees had been paid during the summer recess as the account had become due.
- (v) £277.26 to Durham County Council in respect of cleaning charges.
- (vi) Cooper Stott Solicitors in respect of drafting of lease.
- (vii) AES in respect of replacement transom closers for doors.
- (viii) £635.00 to Makepeace Landscapes in respect of grounds maintenance and relocation of beech hedging (s106 monies)
- (ix) AA Paving in respect of creation of parking areas (s106 monies)

(b) Cheques issued:

(i)	26 th Sep 2018	£	249.28	Clerk's wages	No.1064
(ii)	26 th Sep 2018	£	69.75	HMRC	No.1065
(iii)	26 th Sep 2018	£	727.74	Staff wages	No.1066
(iv)	26 th Sep 2018	£	200.00	Clerk (work from home)	No.1067
(v)	26 th Sep 2018	£	105.00	Cornsay Village Residents' Assoc	No.1068
(vi)	25 th Jul 2018	£	108.38	Clerk (printer cartridges)	No.1062

80. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence for the Council's attention.

81. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications for consideration.

82. DRAW WELL

The Clerk reported that JABA Architects had indicated that it would take around 5 hours work to prepare the required documents for a planning application. The Clerk, following consultation with the Chair had instructed this work to be undertaken with a view to obtaining quotes from suitable contractors early in the New Year.

Councillor Robb had contacted CDCF in relation to the possibility of applying for funding from the Wind Farm Community Benefits Fund. This would be possible and an application could be submitted when the fund reopened in March/April.

Resolved: *That the report be noted.*

83. CAR PARKING/GARAGE SITE

The Clerk reported that further attempts to progress the matter had been unsuccessful.

The County Council had previously offered to sell the site to the Parish Council or to lease both the requested area and the larger site to the rear of Deerness Grove at a cost of £500 per annum. Community Asset Transfer had been suggested as an alternative however no progress had been made in this regard.

In discussion, it was noted that the cost to purchase the site from the County Council was not affordable to the Parish Council while the terms for a lease of the site were also problematic. Not only would the annual rent be a relatively large sum based on the Council's precept, but taking on the entire site would also bring a maintenance liability. It was highlighted that the site had regularly been the subject of flytipping and the Parish Council would become responsible for the costs of removing this should a lease of the site be entered into.

This matter had been ongoing since July 2017 and, to date, no mutually agreeable arrangement could be achieved. Numerous attempts had been made to progress the matter with the County Council however very limited responses had been received.

In view of the timescales that had elapsed and the fact that no agreement had been possible, the Council considered whether it was worthwhile to pursue the matter any further.

Resolved: *That the matter not be pursued any further and that the County Council be informed accordingly.*

84. HAMSTEELS COMMUNITY CENTRE – LEASE TO HAMSTEELS COMMUNITY HALL ASSOCIATION (Minute 68 refers)

The draft Lease had now been received from the Solicitors, copies of which had been circulated.

The draft Lease was considered by the Council and covered the necessary and appropriate matters.

Resolved: *That the Lease be agreed by the Council.*

85. HAMSTEELS COMMUNITY CENTRE – UPDATE REPORT

A new parent and toddler group had started and was proving very popular.

The Halloween Party on 26th October had been very well attended with over 100 people present. Feedback on the event had been excellent.

The History Group would be holding an event to commemorate 100 years since Armistice. The event would be held on Saturday 3rd November between 11.00am and 3.00pm with an exhibition and light refreshments. All were welcome.

A number of events were planned for Christmas including Christmas Dinner, a family Christmas party and a Christmas Market.

Resolved: *That the report be noted.*

86. DEVELOPMENT OFFICER ROLE

The Clerk reported that the funding application to Reaching Communities for salary costs for the Development Officer role had been unsuccessful. An alternative programme had, however, been suggested and an application submitted. The outcome would be notified in January/February 2019.

It was noted that the Council had extended the contract by 2 months to allow for further funding to be sought, however the Council was not in a position to continue to fund the role for an additional 2/3 months. Accordingly, the contract would end on 30th November as had been previously agreed with the postholder.

It would be necessary to obtain HR advice on how to proceed in the event that the current funding application was successful in terms of filling the post.

Resolved: (i) *That the report be noted.*
(ii) *That the Clerk obtain HR advice as necessary.*

The Meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Signed as a correct record:

Chairperson

Date

Clerk

Date