

CORNSAY PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of Cornsay Parish Council held on Wednesday, 28th March, 2018, at 7.00pm, in Hamsteels Community Centre, Western Avenue, Esh Winning.

Present: Councillor R Makepeace (in the Chair)
and Councillors D Bottoms, E Manning and L McKendrick
and County Councillor M McGaun

119. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Armstrong, K Duggan and D Robb and County Councillors D Bell, J Chaplow, A Simpson and M Wilson.

120. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Councillors D Bottoms and R Makepeace declared an interest in Minute No. 128.

121. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillors reported on the following items:

- The County Council had resolved to increase Council Tax by 2.99% which together with the adult social care increase of 2% gave a total increase of 4.99%.
- The Welfare Assistance Scheme was to be retained with a number of changes including the incorporation of a voucher to fund the purchase of nappies and baby milk and a hygiene pack, the value of support for utility costs being based on the composition of the household and a voucher towards travel costs. Replacement white goods and furniture were not covered but low cost loans could be obtained through credit unions.
- A new service had been launched to offer extra peace of mind to relatives of older and vulnerable people in County Durham. 3 rings was a mobile phone and PC app which lets people know when their relative is using an electrical appliance such as a kettle, television or washing machine, the idea is to reassure people that their relative is up and well. The scheme was being offered by Durham County Council through its Care Connect Service.
- Household waste recycling centres across the County would be operating summer opening hours from 1st April, with Annfield Plain and Pity Me being open Monday-Sunday from 9.00am to 6.00pm.
- The County Council had received £1.8m from the Government towards the cost of highways repairs following recent bad weather. The funds would be used for repairs across the County.
- There had been a perception that levels of crims across the area had increased. Local police would be briefing County Councillors shortly to provide information on whether this was actually the case or more perception among local people.

Resolved: *That the report be noted.*

122. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 31st January, 2018, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

123. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

124. FINANCIAL REPORT

(a) Agreement was given for the payment of:

- (i) £245.00 to Mr D Walker in respect of Clerk's wages for February.
- (ii) £65.85 to HMRC in respect of PAYE for February.

- (iii) £695.87 in respect of staff wages for February.
- (iv) £270.40 to Durham County Council in respect of the cleaning contract for the community centre for January.
- (v) £245.00 to Mr D Walker in respect of Clerk's wages for March.
- (vi) £65.85 to HMRC in respect of PAYE for March.
- (vii) £695.87 in respect of staff wages for March.
- (viii) £270.40 to Durham County Council in respect of the cleaning contract for the community centre for February.
- (ix) £270.40 to Durham County Council in respect of the cleaning contract for the community centre March

(b) Cheques issued:

(i)	31 st Jan 2018	£	244.80	Clerk's wages	No.1015
(ii)	31 st Jan 2018	£	205.45	HMRC	No.1016
(iii)	31 st Jan 2018	£	695.88	Staff wages	No.1017
(iv)	31 st Jan 2018	£	811.19	DCC (cleaning)	No.1018
(v)	31 st Jan 2018	£	215.98	Clerk (website)	No.1019
(vi)	31 st Jan 2018	£	262.60	Hamsteels CA (repairs)	No.1020
(vii)	28 th Feb 2018	£	695.78	Staff wages	No.1021
(viii)	5 th March 2018	£	270.40	DCC (cleaning)	No.1022
(ix)	28 th Feb 2018	£	245.00	Clerk's wages	No.1023
(x)	28 th Feb 2018	£	65.85	HMRC	No.1024

125. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence for the Council's attention.

126. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications for consideration.

127. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

(a) Western Avenue

The Clerk reported that, despite further chasing this matter with Durham County Council's Assets Team, there had, as yet, been no further progress.

Resolved: *That the report be noted.*

(b) Commercial Street

The Clerk reported that confirmation was awaited from Durham County Council that the Council could arrange to have the beds planted using a contractor of its choice, rather than funding the cost of the County Council carrying out this work.

Resolved: *That the report be noted.*

128. PLANTERS & GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Makepeace Landscapes had offered to undertake the usual grounds maintenance, planting and play area inspections at the same cost as the previous year.

Members considered the excellent service provided and that when alternative quotations had been sought in previous years, no other company had been able to offer the service for a lower cost.

Resolved: *That Members were minded to accept the offer from Makepeace Landscapes to undertake the works, subject to the Clerk confirming with those Councillors who were not present at the meeting their agreement.*

129. ANNUAL PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS

The Clerk reported that it was necessary to arrange for the annual play area inspections of the sites at Cornsay and Cornsay Colliery carried out.

Wicksteed Leisure which had undertaken the inspections in previous years was able to carry out this work at a cost of £45.00 per play area which was a competitive rate.

Resolved: *That Wicksteed Leisure be requested to undertake the annual play area inspections.*

130. DEFIBRILLATORS

Councillor Robb had been in touch with East Hedleyhope who were very interested in being involved in a joint scheme to provide defibrillators across the area alongside Cornsay Village Residents Association and Hamsteels Community Association.

Responses were awaited from others for further consideration after which point a joint funding application to the Wind Farm Fund could be considered.

Resolved: *That the report be noted*

131. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Council was required to appoint an internal auditor to undertake the internal audit. This work had been undertaken by Mr Mike Ackroyd in previous years.

Resolved: *That Mr Mike Ackroyd be requested to undertake the internal audit.*

132. HAMSTEELS COMMUNITY CENTRE

(a) Update Report

The community centre continued to be well used however bad weather in late February/early March had affected the number of people using the building with many sessions being cancelled which also caused a drop in income.

The Facebook page continued to be successful which provided excellent reach at no cost.

One-off events such as the cabaret night had sold out very quickly and the race night had also been very successful.

Boogie Bounce, a trampoline based fitness session and a quit smoking course now started and were being well attended. The Level 1 Health and Social Care course was about to end and would be replaced with a first aid course which had already generated a lot of interest.

Coffee mornings were now taking place fortnightly together with a bingo session. Events were attended by local PCSOs to discuss any local issues and a number of guest speakers had been identified who could be interested in attending future sessions.

An Easter fair was planned for Monday 2nd April and it was hoped this would repeat the success of last year's event. Various other events were also being planned for later in the year.

It had been suggested that while Facebook was very popular and posters for various events were displayed in the centre and in shops in Esh Winning other ways of marketing and awareness raising should be developed as feedback was still being received that people were unaware of events and activities, particularly those who did not use social media. Targeting of local businesses was suggested another option.

Resolved: *That the report be noted.*

(b) Cleaning Contract

Information had been received from Durham County Council of the increase in the cost of the service effective from 1st April, 2018. The increase was fairly minimal.

Resolved: *That the report be noted.*

(c) Automatic Entrance Doors

Since the completion of the new building, a number of issues had been experienced with the automatic entrance doors. During the defect period, these had been attended to by the builder, however problems continued to occur.

The Community Association had entered into a building services contract with the County Council to ensure that a responsive repairs service was available and also to cover annual servicing of plant and equipment. Problems with the doors had been able to be resolved as they occurred however as ad hoc repairs were not covered by the contract, each call out and repair attracted an additional charge.

In an effort to resolve the issues and following the annual service of the doors by a specialist contractor, the County Council had obtained a quotation for the contractor to carry out various works in an effort to prevent reoccurrence of the issues. These works included replacement of sensors and provision of guard railing to protect users and also prevent damage to the doors. The cost of the works was £712.80.

Councillor McGaun indicated that he would be happy to contribute to the cost from his member's budget and would discuss with Councillor Simpson whether he would be similarly happy to contribute to cover the whole cost and would advise the Clerk accordingly. As the community centre benefitted the whole community, it was a worthwhile cause and would reduce ongoing maintenance liabilities.

Resolved: *That the report be noted.*

133. APRIL MEETING

For the benefit of new Members, the Clerk detailed the requirements for the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which were traditionally held in May each year.

Resolved: *That the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council be held on Wednesday, 2nd May, 2018 with the next ordinary meeting to be held on Wednesday, 30th May, 2018.*

134. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved: *That in view of the confidential nature of the following item of business, and in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw from the meeting.*

135. REVIEW OF STAFF WAGES

The Clerk reported on the current status of the Local Government Pay settlement. As yet, no agreement had been reached between the employers' side and the unions and further details were expected in due course.

Resolved: *(i) That the matter be considered further on receipt of further information in relation to the Local Government Pay Agreement.*

(ii) That no further changes to staff wages or terms were required at present.

The Meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Signed as a correct record:

Chairperson

Date

Clerk

Date

CORNSAY PARISH COUNCIL

2 May 2018

REPORT OF THE CLERK

FINANCIAL REPORT

(a) Accounts for Payment

	<u>Goods/Service</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>VAT</u>
(i)	Clerk's wages	April		
(ii)	HMRC	April		
(iii)	Staff Wages	April		
(iv)	DCC	Cleaning charges		
(v)	Wicksteed Leisure	Annual Play Area Inspections		
(vi)	Makepeace Landscapes	Grounds maintenance		