

# CORNSAY PARISH COUNCIL

At a Meeting of Cornsay Parish Council held on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2025, at 7.00pm, in Hamsteels Community Centre, Esh Winning.

**Present:** Councillor D Robb (in the Chair)  
and Councillors D Bottoms, R Makepeace, H Pegum and A Scott

## 52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L McKendrick.

## 53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest of requests for dispensations.

## 54. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

There were no County Councillors present at the meeting or reports received.

## 55. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2025, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 56. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

## 57. FINANCIAL REPORT

(a) Agreement was given for the payment of:

- (i) £334.48 in respect of Clerk's wages for the month of October
- (ii) £93.67 to HMRC in respect of PAYE for the month of September and October
- (iii) £859.20 (including VAT of £143.20) to Makepeace Landscapes in respect of grounds maintenance, grass cutting and planters
- (iv) Audit fees to Mazars LLP
- (v) £478.55 (including VAT of £79.76) and £453.55 (including VAT of £75.56) – totalling £931.90 – to Names.co.uk in respect of website, hosting and email for a 2 year period

(b) Cheques issued:

(i)	24 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2025	£	386.48	Clerk's wages	No.1407
(ii)	24 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2025	£	96.00	HMRC	No.1408
(iii)	24 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2025	£	200.00	Clerk (work from home)	No.1409
(iv)	24 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2025	£	1,148.40	Makepeace Landscapes	No.1410

## 58. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Durham Community Action – invitation to 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration

**Resolved:** *That Councillor Pegum attend the event on behalf of the Council*

(b) Wag & Co – update on the charity's activities over the last year following financial support of £50 being provided

**Resolved:** *That a donation of £50 be made under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972*

- (c) NHS Family Peer Support Worker – letter received regarding the Time Together baby & toddler group held in the community centre and request for financial assistance towards the cost of venue hire.

**Resolved:** *That Members be minded to offer a contribution towards the cost of venue hire, the amount to be determined following discussion with Hamsteels Community Hall Association*

- (d) Woodland Trust – information received regarding restoration of Ragpath Wood, Esh Winning.

**Resolved:** *That the correspondence be noted.*

## **59. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

DM/25/02751 – 30A Commercial Street, Cornsay Colliery  
Change of use from a dwellinghouse (C3) to a care home (C2) for three children with external alterations

**Resolved:** *That the Council considers that insufficient information is available to form a view at the present time due to the responses of other consultees not being available.*

## **60. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL - PROPOSALS TO BALANCE BUDGET**

Durham County Council were consulting on proposals to balance their budget, seeking views on how savings could be found and outlining options for raising Council Tax.

Details of the consultation and supporting information had been circulated.

**Resolver:** *That this Council had no comments to make on the consultation*

## **61. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS & FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The NALC Model Standing Orders and Financial Regulations had previously been circulated with a view to adoption by the Council.

The Clerk had populated the relevant sections with information based on the Council's current documents and various queries and suggestions had been made by Members over the summer.

**Resolved:** *That the Standing Orders & Financial Regulations be approved and adopted, subject to the amendments agreed being made.*

## **62. HAMSTEELS COMMUNITY CENTRE**

### **(a) Additional grounds maintenance**

A neighbour had reported that the bushes and shrubs along side the community centre were overgrowing her boundary and asked if they could be cut back to prevent this. A quote had been sought and received from Makepeace Landscapes in the sum of £504 including VAT for these works.

**Resolved:** *That the quote be accepted.*

### **(b) Update report**

A number of events were coming up including the Halloween Disco on 31<sup>st</sup> October and Country & Western night in November. A programme of Christmas events and activities was also planned.

The recent LGBT+ coffee morning had not been well attended however additional marketing had been taking place to raise awareness of the sessions and it was hoped numbers would start to increase in time.

**Resolved:** *That the report be noted*

The Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed as a correct record:

Chairperson .....

Date .....

Clerk .....

Date .....

