

CORNSAY PARISH COUNCIL

At the Annual Meeting of Cornsay Parish Council held on Wednesday, 27th May, 2026, at 7.10pm, in Hamsteels Community Centre, Esh Winning.

Present: Councillor L McKendrick (in the Chair)
and Councillors R Makepeace, H Pegum and A Scott

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Resolved: *That Councillor D Robb be elected Chair of the Council for the forthcoming year.*

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Resolved: *That Councillor L McKendrick be elected Vice Chair of the Council for the forthcoming year.*

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Bottoms D Robb.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Councillor R Makepeace declared an interest in Minute No. 14.

5. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

There were no County Councillors present at the meeting.

6. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29th April, 2026, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

8. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The Council had previously appointed a Personnel Committee to deal with appointments and staffing matters however there had been no requirement for the Committee to meet in recent years.

Resolved: *That Members be appointed to the Committee if it is required to meet in future.*

9. FORWARD PLANNING & REVIEW OF ONGOING PROJECTS

Discussion also took place regarding priorities and projects for the forthcoming year.

Resolved: *That projects for the forthcoming year be identified during the course of the year.*

10. FINANCIAL REPORT

(a) Agreement was given for the payment of:

- (i) £334.48 in respect of Clerk's wages for the month of May
- (ii) £83.76 to HMRC in respect of PAYE for the month of May
- (iii) £to Makepeace Landscapes in respect grounds maintenance

(b) Cheques issued:

(i)	29 th Apr 2026	£	848.40	Makepeace Landscapes	No.1428
(ii)	29 th Apr 2026	£	334.48	Clerk's wages	No.1429
(iii)	29 th Apr 2026	£	83.76	HMRC	No.1430
(iv)	11 th May 2026	£	30,000	Transfer to new current account	No.1431

(c) Petty Cash

The petty cash balance was currently £4.82.

Resolved: *That the petty cash be replenished to £100.00.*

11. CORRESPONDENCE

Invitation received from Durham County Council to Local Network drop in session on 11th June, 2026, at Meadowfield Leisure Centre.

Resolved: *That the details be circulated and Members attend if they wished.*

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications for consideration.

13. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2025/2026

The Receipts and Payments accounts for the year 2025/2026 had been prepared by the Clerk, copies of which had been circulated.

Resolved: *That the accounts for the year 2025/2026 be approved.*

14. PLANTERS

Discussion took place around the planters at Cornsay Colliery where 2 had collapsed and a further 4 were in a poor state of repair and at Hamsteels where all were in very poor condition.

A quote had been obtained from Makepeace Landscapes in the sum of £475 plus VAT for the replacement of 6 planters at Cornsay Colliery.

No representations had been received from residents via the local residents' association regarding views on the replacement or otherwise of the damaged planters. While some of the planters were watered or looked after by residents, others were not.

Consideration was given to whether these planters should be replaced as they had been allowed to deteriorate and no residents had expressed a particular desire to maintain them. It was noted that the planters were appreciated and did brighten up the village and suggested that rather than replace all 6, the damaged planters be removed and replaced with 3 new ones.

In terms of the planters at Hamsteels, there were 2 situated outside the bungalows in Rowley Crescent, 4 outside the bungalows on Western Avenue and two at the entrance to the estate. All were in extremely poor condition, were many years old and had suffered extensive damage due to grass cutting operations as they were sited on grassed open spaces.

It was noted that there were less planters on the estate than in other villages, however the appropriateness of replacing them in their current locations where they were liable to be damaged by grass cutters was questioned.

Resolved: *(i) That the 6 damaged planters at Cornsay Colliery be removed and replaced with 3 new planters.*

(ii) That 2 replacement planters be provided in Rowley Crescent and a further 3 be sited around the Community Centre on Parish Council land, with others to be removed.

15. INSURANCE

The Council’s insurance policy was held with Clear Councils Insurance and due for renewal on 1st June, 2026. The premium quoted for the forthcoming year was £2,438.76.

Resolved: *That the insurance policy be renewed with Clear Councils Insurance.*

16. TRACC – REQUEST FOR FUNDING

A request had been received from TRACC for funding towards the cost of a face painter for the Village Summer Fair in June. It was felt that facepainting would be a very popular attraction for younger visitors and £150 was being requested to cover the facepainter’s fees.

The fair was open to and would be advertised in all 3 villages within the parish.

Resolved: *That a contribution of £100 towards the cost be made under s145 of the Local Government Act 1972.*

17. HAMSTEELS COMMUNITY CENTRE

The community centre was being well attended with regular groups continuing to meet regularly, although some were now beginning to break for the summer.

A film about the miners’ strike was being produced by Redhills and would be shown at the community centre later in the year.

The Meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signed as a correct record:

Chairperson Date

Clerk Date

