

CORNSAY PARISH COUNCIL

At a Meeting of Cornsay Parish Council held on Wednesday, 29th July, 2026, at 7.00pm, in Hamsteels Community Centre, Esh Winning.

Present: Councillor D Robb (in the Chair)
and Councillors D Bottoms, R Makepeace, L McKendrick, H Pegum and A Scott
and County Council A Neil

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Councillor L McKendrick declared an interest in Minute No. 40 and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item.

32. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor A Neil reported on the following:

- Speeding continued to be raised as a concern in Cornsay Colliery and he was working on finding potential solutions.
- Speedwatch volunteers had requested traffic sensors in order to record traffic speeds in the village which it was felt would provide useful evidence of the speeding issues.

33. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24th June, 2026, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

34. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

35. FINANCIAL REPORT

(a) Agreement was given for the payment of:

- (i) £334.48 in respect of Clerk's wages for the month of July
- (ii) £83.76 to HMRC in respect of PAYE for the month of July
- (iii) Makepeace Landscapes in respect grounds maintenance and planters
- (iv) £213.60 (including VAT of £35.60) to ROSPA in respect of play area inspections
- (v) £334.48 in respect of Clerk's wages for the month of August
- (vi) £83.76 to HMRC in respect of PAYE for the month of August

(b) Receipts & Payments

Details of receipts and payments for the financial year to-date together with account balances had been circulated.

36. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Information received from Durham County Council Planning Department regarding the outcome of enforcement action taken in relation to a site within the Parish.

Resolved: *That the information be noted.*

- (b) Information received from the Chair of Durham County Council's Standards Committee regarding the National Association of Local Councils Civility and Respect Campaign and Pledge.

Resolved: *That that matter be considered further at a future meeting.*

37. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications for consideration.

38. ANNUAL PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS

The annual play area inspections had now been carried out by ROSPA and their reports received.

The actions recommended were discussed. While most required monitoring, the repairs that had been highlighted would be checked for action.

Resolved: *That the report be noted and the recommended actions be undertaken.*

39. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

A request for financial support had been received from Building Better Community Partnerships which ran the local baby bank. A copy of the request had been circulated and the Clerk confirmed that supporting information including a bank statement, financial details and constitution had also been submitted alongside the request.

Resolved: *That £150 be donated to Building Better Community Partnerships under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972.*

40. HAMSTEELS COMMUNITY CENTRE – REPAIRS TO HOT WATER SYSTEM

The hot water system supplying the toilets and cleaner's cupboard had been problematic for some time and was no longer able to provide hot water to several of the toilets or the sink in the cleaner's cupboard.

The issue had been highlighted following routine legionella inspections as being in need of rectification as soon as possible.

Two quotations had been received, both recommending the replacement of the existing system with one water heater to supply the toilets and a second to supply the cleaner's cupboard.

Resolved: *That the quotation from BR-HVAC in the sum of £920 for the cleaner's cupboard and £1,790 for the toilet area (plus VAT) be accepted.*

41. GRANTS & DONATIONS POLICY

The Council regularly received requests for financial support from organisations within the Parish and further afield, while the number of applications received was also increasing.

The existing Grants & Donations Policy had been adopted by the Council in 2011 when fewer applications were being received but was now in need of updating to reflect the increased number of requests and wider range of organisations seeking support.

A draft policy had been prepared and circulated, together with an appendix providing guidance on information to be submitted with any request for support.

Resolved: *That the Grants & Donations Policy, as circulated, be approved and adopted.*

42. HAMSTEELS COMMUNITY CENTRE

While the Community Centre was quieter due to the summer, two sessions of children's activities had now taken place. The sessions had been excellent with really positive feedback and the Community Hall Association was very grateful to Councillor Pegum for her work arranging and delivering the sessions.

In August, a film about the miners' strike which had been made by Redhills would be coming to the community centre. Details of the event were being confirmed and would be shared in the forthcoming days.

The Meeting closed at 7.50pm

Signed as a correct record:

Chairperson Date

Clerk Date

