

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

At the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of the ELECTORS of CORNSAY PARISH held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.00pm in Hamsteels Community Centre, Western Avenue, Esh Winning.

## **Present:**

Councillor Duncan Robb (in the Chair)  
and Parish Councillors Dawn Bottoms, Rhoda Makepeace, Hilary Pegum and Ashley Scott

## **Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Linda McKendrick and County Councillors B Coult, D Nicholls and M Wilson

## **Opening Remarks:**

Councillor Duncan Robb welcomed those present to the meeting.

## **Minutes:**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council:**

Councillor Robb extended grateful thanks to all of the Parish Councillors for their time and commitment to Cornsay Parish Council over the last year and would like to wish Councillor Linda McKendrick a speedy recovery on behalf of everyone.

He also thanked all of the County Councillors who had provided reports and help but a special thanks to Councillor Bev Coult for attending so many meetings and supporting the issues for the Parish Council and the local community .

Councillor Robb also extended thanks to Davey Walker our Clerk who was always willing to go above and beyond his duties in service and support of the Parish Council

This year has given a few tricky decisions including the increase of the precept. There had been some projects which although seemed a little protracted and then turned out to be problematic in the extreme, namely the issue of the solar panels for the Community Centre.

Over the whole the year proved successful with the budget being used appropriately.

Hamsteels Community Centre was still proving to be a great asset to the local community. This is due to the commitment, diligence and selfless work by the Community Hall Association.

## **Reports from Other Organisations:**

### Cornsay Village Residents' Association

The Association's annual meeting had not yet taken place to provide a report.

### The Residents Association of Cornsay Colliery (TRACC)

TRACC's AGM was held in February.

During the year, funding had been secured from DCC AAP Neighbourhood budget and Hargreaves had sponsored the tree.

An Easter fish and chip lunch, fundraising Christmas Fayre, lighting of the Christmas tree and carol singing, Christmas lunch and two village litter picks have been among events that had taken place during the year.

A monthly chat leaflet and half yearly newsletters have been produced to keep residents informed while a village survey have been produced and delivered. The survey provided residents an opportunity to feedback on how TRACC could improve and enhance the village community. The survey results would be published in the next village survey in June.

TRACC's priorities going forward were to grow a wildflower in the Millennium Garden and refurbish the two benches. TRACC had also agreed to take over ownership of the DCC flower tubs in the village on the proviso that residents would take responsibility for their planting in future.

Thanks was also expressed to the Parish Council for their support and continued positive relationship.

#### Hamsteels Community Hall Association

It had been another productive year and the Association had been able to bring plenty of activities to the community.

New regular sessions included Time Together which was activities for pre-school children, monthly acoustic folk night and also Milonga Fridays which was a dance and social event.

Events during the year had included plays, films, Easter Disco, table top sale, Christmas dinner, Christmas wreath making, Summer disco, Eat Wise sessions and family fun day as well as celebrations to make the coronation of HM The King. A range of events had been offered to suit different people.

Thanks to a grant from CDCF, the community centre had also been able to offer a Welcome Space throughout the colder months, providing drinks and soup to people free of charge.

The new LED lighting which was installed during the year had made a difference and was completed by the parish council and Mid Durham AAP. The solar panels had recently been installed and were already generating a decent proportion of the community centre's electricity demand.

As always, it was important to highlight that all the work done was done by volunteers who gave so much time to help with the running of the centre and all the activities and events.

#### **Issues Raised by Electors:**

No issues were raised by electors.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm