

Minutes of the Meeting of West Allen Parish Council held on Thursday 3 December 2020 at 7.30 Electronic meeting using Zoom software

Present: Steve Agar, Helen Adams, Colin Horncastle, Alan Greaves, John Martin, Ian Reed and Barbara Ingman

- • Welcome. The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3 September 2020 were accepted as a true record.
- • Matters arising from previous meeting are discussed below
- • Correspondence:
 - • Parish Precepts 2021-22 – The precept has been set at £800 for many years and in view of rising costs. Our current spending is on insurance, NALC, clerk's wages and a donation to Great North Ambulance and the current precept does not quite cover this. It was agreed to request an increase to £850 for the financial year 2020-21.
 - • Great North Air Ambulance – it was agreed to donate £250
 - • Highways Department at NCC: an email has been received requesting that any requests for minor improvements, traffic regulation orders and road safety issues should be sent to: highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk
The Highways Department will be asked to arrange for the road to be swept in Ninebanks and the lonnen leading to the Blackpool Bridge. There is a problem with the road surface at the top of Leadgate Bank and potential flooding problem at the bottom. Glen Harrison and Andrew Olive will be asked to sort out the water on Mohope bank as they have already done some work on this.
 - • The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funded research project based at the University of Southampton are looking to recruit members of the public to take part in a large-scale survey on the preventative behaviours people are taking to avoid catching COVID-19 and the long-term effect of those that have suffered from COVID-19 during the pandemic. They asked if the Council could display a poster asking people to complete an online survey at: www.rtocovid19.com. The promotional poster is on the noticeboard in Ninebanks.
- • Banking – online banking has now been setup for the Parish accounts which are held with HSBC. Barbara is now able to make BACS payments and print statements. Ian Reed will also be able to use the online banking facility. Account number 53048209 which has a balance of £104 has now been closed and the balance transferred to the current account. The account with Lloyds has a balance of £5.66 and further attempts will be made to close this.
- • Planning – no correspondence
- • Any other business – Colin Horncastle mentioned that there have been quite a number of COVID cases in Haydon Bridge. He asked if we could let him know if we needed any more supplies of grit.
- • Date and times of next meetings – **Thursday 4 March 2021 at 7.00** at Middle, Ninebanks, Hexham, NE47 8DL