

**Minutes of the Meeting of Allendale Parish Council
(including minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee)
held by teleconference on Thursday 2nd April 2020 at 7pm**

On this occasion, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, members of the public could not participate

Present: Cllr Crellin (Chair), Councillors Dunn, Galley, Howard, Hill, Lee, Philipson, Quinn, Sandison, Simmonds and White
H Newsome (Clerk)

1) Apologies for absence

Cllrs Baxter and Henderson

2) Planning Sub-Committee

Planning applications

20/00617/FUL – Fell View cottage, Allendale

Cllr Dunn proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Crellin seconding it, as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 9: Extensions to Dwellings (bullet points one and two), and this was carried by eight members of the Council.

20/00679/REM - Field West Of Lea Hall, Splitty Lane, Catton

The Council discussed the application and was concerned that the development might add to the existing problems with both surface water and foul water drainage systems around Catton Methodist Chapel. Subject to these concerns being addressed, Cllr Howard proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Simmonds seconding it, and this was carried unanimously by the Council.

20/00773/FELTPO – The Cottage, The Heritage Centre, Allenheads

Cllr Crellin proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Philipson seconding it, and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

20/00935/FUL - 4 Batey Terrace, Catton

Cllr Dunn proposed **to object** the application with Cllr Simmonds seconding it, as it was not in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 9: Extensions to Dwellings (bullet point two), and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

3) Declarations of Interest

There were no changes; see APC's website for full list:

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/allendale/documents>

4) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 5th March 2020

Cllr Howard proposed, and Cllr White seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

5) Matters Arising

There were none.

6) County Councillor update

Co Cllr Horncastle was not present for the meeting.

7) Annual General Meeting (AGM) planning

The Council agreed to postpone making arrangements for the annual Parish Meeting and AGM and wait for further guidance from the Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC).

8) Allotments – update

The Council agreed to the proposal put forward to create five allotments instead of four now that the derelict area has been restored. The Clerk said that she had informed those residents on the waiting list who would shortly be taking on new tenancies.

9) Grass cutting in the Parish – future maintenance

The Council agreed to Cllr Crellin's proposal for Mel Robinson to be asked to cut the bowling green until such a time when more permanent arrangements could be decided. The Council agreed to meet the grass cutting costs in the coming weeks up to the value of £300 and whilst the Coronavirus pandemic prevented play. The Council also agreed to ask Mel Robinson to cut the grass at Allenfields and asked the Clerk to seek a contribution from Karbon Homes towards the costs.

10) Parish Council response to the Coronavirus situation

The Council discussed the community response to the Coronavirus pandemic, and acknowledged all the valuable work being done in the community by local businesses, and all those individuals that have rallied to help them. Cllr Quinn, a retired epidemiologist shared his knowledge with the Council on the evolving pandemic. He proposed a separate Zoom teleconference to prepare for any future support that might be needed and the Council agreed to this. Cllr Crellin said that it was important that volunteers didn't put themselves at risk and urged all volunteers to register with the Northumberland Communities Together team who were providing support to community groups. The Clerk said that West Allen Parish Council had been in touch with her and asked that Allendale Parish Council keep them informed and involved in any actions it takes.

11) Allendale Market Square

Isaac's Well

Cllr Lee said that HLF's Awards for All scheme had turned down the Council's application as it would have liked to have seen more community involvement in the design and delivery. Cllr Lee said others were welcome to take on the project to secure funding if they wished.

Northern Powergrid – installation of new underground electricity cables

Cllr Lee said that a) a meeting with Paul Roberts, Design Engineer (Street Lighting) and Peter Howarth had been postponed; b) Richard McKenzie of NCC's Technical Services had confirmed that funding is available for electric charging points and that he would work with Northern Powergrid to ensure that there would be sufficient power for the charging cables; and c) that he had identified possible locations to site the charging points on the Highway (on the Store Bank on the Post Office side, and outside The Forge).

Waste bins – The Clerk said that she had asked Neighbourhood Services for any information its drivers may have about the missing bin on the Bull Ring but not yet had a reply, although Geoff Cairns had said that they would try and fit a spare bin base they had if they could. If not, Cllr Lee agreed to ask Malcolm Aitchison to try and fit the bin base that was removed from the foot of Lonkley Terrace.

12) Climate Action Allendale

John Hill attended a meeting with VONNE (Voluntary Organisations Network North-East) on Monday 9th March. VONNE reported that their lottery bid for supporting a north-east wide climate action project had been shortlisted and representatives provided presentations on how they saw it being taken forward to the next stage. Before the meeting Jack Bloomer from Tyne Rivers Trust had convened a meeting with Transition Tynedale, Sustainable Allen Valleys, Plugging the Gaps, and the Fawside Foundation, to consider project ideas appropriate to the Tyne Rivers and Allen Valleys. The aim of this sub-group is to ensure that relevant, collective action is taken on a local level and this will be the challenge when we come out of the Coronavirus lockdown

13) Correspondence

Joyce Jewitt – The Council discussed Ms Jewitt's request for her uncle's name to be added to St Cuthbert's Lychgate War Memorial, and the steps that it would need to take prior to agreement and agreed: a) to postpone consideration of the request until the Coronavirus epidemic had passed, when it would be easier to follow the process recommended by the War Memorials Trust; b) to seek the permission of the Church and planning permission (listed building consent); c) to consult the community to ensure that the proposed addition did not compromise the original intentions of the community; d) agreed that the names of those local people who had lost their lives in both World Wars could, in principle, be commemorated on both parish war memorials (Allendale and Allenheads); e) to keep the costs of the work (including advertising) under review in order to determine how the work should be paid for; f) to ask Ms Jewitt to share information she has for her uncle and request a copy of her uncle's birth certificate to help establish his links to the parish.

Greg Gavin, Head of Neighbourhood Services, NCC – The Council discussed Mr Gavin's correspondence in which he: a) informed us that NCC would be putting up notices on all cemeteries to say that the Cemetery is closed to everyone other than those attending a funeral; and b) that we should ensure that Allendale Cemetery is locked as soon as possible. Some Councillors queried the decision taken as they felt that people should be able to continue to view graves as it would offer much needed comfort at a difficult time. As NCC were acting on new Coronavirus legislation that required it to close all cemeteries the Council agreed to lock the Cemetery gates and the Clerk was asked to inform the local clergy and ensure that notices of the closure were posted on noticeboards and social media. Cllr Crellin agreed to contact NCC about the legality of their proposed action, the need for a more compassionate approach (as instructed in the Covid19 bill) and lack of any instruction from government in the Covid19 bill on closure of cemeteries.

Post meeting note: NCC have since removed its signs and reopened all cemeteries whilst it seeks urgent clarification on the specific measures in the new legislation.

14) Accounts for payment

The Council authorised the Clerk to pay Melvin Robinson by BACS using telephone banking.

Cllr Howard proposed the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Galley.

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as at **30th March 2020 - £37,961.06**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balance as at **9th March 2020 - £ 5,234.24**

15) Matters for April 2020 agenda

There were none.

16) Confidential agenda item *(for Council only)*

There was one item.

17) Date of next Parish Council Zoom teleconference

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **7th May 2020** at 7pm.

The Clerk was asked to upgrade her free Zoom account and take out two months subscription at £11.99/month.

The meeting ended at 9:00 pm.