

**Minutes of the Meeting of Allendale Parish Council
held at Allendale Village Hall on Thursday 5th March 2020
(including minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee)**

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

1) Apologies for absence

Co Cllr Colin Horncastle, Cllrs Henderson, Philipson, Quinn and Sandison

2) Planning Sub-Committee

Planning applications

20/00242/FUL – Development at The Barn, Spartylea

The Council discussed the application and Cllr Howard proposed to support the application, with Cllr White seconding this. After further debate about the lack of detail about the proposed building materials to be used, and therefore concern about this, Cllr Simmonds proposed a subsequent motion for **no objections**, that was seconded by Cllr Lee, and after a vote this was carried by the Council.

20/00494/VARYCO - Land North of Meadow Gate, Catton

The Council discussed the application and there was some concern about increasing the number of entrances on a short stretch of road. Subject to Highways approval, Cllr Simmonds proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr Howard seconding it, and this was carried by the Council. Cllr Dunn abstained from the vote.

20/00454/FUL – High Shield, Spartylea

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

20/00552/FUL – Riding Hill C290 Common Bank to Thornley Gate

Cllr Howard proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Simmonds seconding it, and this was unanimously carried by the full Council.

3) Declarations of Interest

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

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

4) Public participation

There were two members of the public in attendance.

5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 6th February 2020

Cllr Simmonds proposed, and Cllr Baxter seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

6) Matters Arising

Allenfields Play Area

The Council agreed for Cllrs Howard and Philipson to go ahead and invite tenders from three local contractors to carry out drainage work at Allenfields.

Bowling Green

The Council discussed how best to support the bowling club in future, and whilst it could not justify meeting the ground maintenance costs it did not wish to see the club close. Cllr Crellin and Cllr Dunn would offer to meet with club representatives to discuss fund raising strategies and offer a grant donation in line with others provided.

Footpath closure

Cllr Lee said that the footpath from Allendale Sewerage Works downstream on the opposite side of the river to Isaac's Tea Trail had been closed following on from storm damage. The temporary closure order would be in place for up to six months until repairs were done.

Grass cutting

The Clerk said that David Hunt, Neighbourhood Services Area Manager (Tynedale) had agreed that Allendale Parish Council should recover the costs for cutting grass on land belonging to Northumberland County Council (Wentworth Park and St Cuthbert's Churchyard). Mr Hunt said that costs would be refunded for financial years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 in the first place, and that NCC and Allendale Parish Council would need to discuss suitable arrangements beyond these dates.

Horse chestnut trees, Recreation Ground

The Council wished to record how pleased it was with the quality of work provided by Matty Robson in taking down the two horse chestnut trees in the Recreation Ground. The Council agreed that it should continue to be very clear about how the dead wood is to be disposed of by agreeing this when contracting for the work, and that this is reflected in the price.

7) County Councillor update

Although Co Cllr Horncastle was not present for the meeting, he sent the following updates prior to the meeting:

Allendale First School

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he could still not yet provide any information on the sale of the school since it was commercially sensitive.

Allenfields land purchase

Co Cllr Horncastle confirmed that he had approached his colleagues and Karbon Homes for advice on the feasibility of Allendale Parish Council acquiring a small piece of land adjacent to the area that it was already acquiring.

Community speed gun

Co Cllr Horncastle said that as soon as two new volunteer recruits were trained to use the speed guns the monitoring of traffic in Allendale could go ahead.

8) Allendale Primary School

Allendale Primary School

Cllr Lee reported on the continued high standard of results achieved at the school since achieving the 'GOOD' rating by OFSTED in 2018. Since then the results of Key Stage 2 SATS taken by Year 6 pupils' children during the 2019 summer term, that are used as a key measure of success to rate schools, were again very successful. Using the DfE comparison, Allendale Primary was placed second overall in the whole of Northumberland. In addition to its academic achievements the school was also recently awarded the Arts Mark Gold to add to the Sports Mark Gold and Music Mark; and was Regional winner of the Mode Shift award for sustainable transport initiatives. The Council expressed how pleased it was with the excellent standards at the school and the Chair agreed to send a letter of congratulation to the school.

9) Allenfields land purchase

The Council agreed that the Clerk should go ahead and complete the client information that had been requested by Gibson & Co Solicitors.

10) Looking ahead – creating an annual plan

The Council agreed to set up a small working group to set about creating an annual plan.

11) Allendale Market Square

Northern Powergrid – installation of new underground electricity cables

Cllr Lee reported on a pre-site visit hosted by Northern Powergrid that he attended to review the lighting in the Market Square prior to the installation of new underground electricity cables. Other attendees included: Chris Laws and Simon Ross of Northern Powergrid; Ian Towers, the Project Manager of Freedom Group, the electrical engineering company that would be carrying out the work; and David Coverdale representing North Pennines AONB. The purpose of the meeting was to walk the scheme and discuss/review the arrangements for public lighting and the planned undergrounding of the electric cables. Representatives of Broadband for Allen Valleys (B4AV) who have previously agreed to share the trenches to lay its optic cables, would be meeting separately with the project team the following week. Cllr Lee said that the village should be prepared for disruption over the next two years, but he emphasised that the project would be carried out in stages to minimise this as much as possible. Cllr Lee said that the community would be kept well informed with a public meeting, a drop-in and a noticeboard. The Clerk said that the parish council would be working closely with the project team to coordinate communications and timely messages would be communicated through social media. Cllr Lee also advised the parish council to identify suitable places in the village where electric cars could be charged.

Isaac's Well

Cllr Lee said that the outcome of the application to HLF's Awards for All scheme for £5k for interpretation and street furniture would be known by 18th May.

12) Climate Action Allendale

John Hill reported that he would be attending a meeting with VONNE (Voluntary Organisations Network North-East) on Monday 9th March. At this meeting VONNE will provide a progress up-date on their north east-wide climate action project.

John also said that Jack Bloomer from Tyne Rivers Trust is convening an earlier meeting on that day 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.

John then made a proposal: that the Parish Council Climate Change slot be open to contributions from climate change organisations, or individuals, in the Allen Valleys. With prior notification, an organisation or individual could use this slot to raise a relevant issue with the Council or use the Council as a means of helping promote relevant action/activities.

This proposal was agreed. Organisations or individuals wishing to use the agenda slot should contact John Hill directly johnalindsayhill@gmail.com

13) Correspondence

Andy Watt, local resident – Cllr Galley agreed to discuss with Allendale Health Centre how the parish council was best placed to help the community in the event of a Coronavirus outbreak, and how it could support its work including communicating important messages.

14) Accounts for payment

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

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as at **24th February 2020 - £38,486.99**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balance as at **10th February 2020 - £ 5,234.04**

15) Matters for April 2020 agenda

AGM planning

16) Confidential agenda item (for Council only)

There was one item.

17) Date of next Parish Council meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **2nd April 2020** at St Cuthbert's Church Hall at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 9:00 pm.