

Minutes of the Meeting of West Allen Parish Council Thursday 4 June 2020 at 7.30

Present: Helen Adams, Steve Agar, Alan Greaves, John Martin, Ian Reed, Barbara Ingman (Clerk)

- 1 Welcome. Due to the current corona virus restrictions the meeting was held electronically using Zoom software.
- 2 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5 March 2020 were accepted as a true record.
- 3 Matters arising from previous meeting – there has been no response to the request to the Council to cut back the overhanging trees between Carrshield and Ninebanks. Anything on the roadside of the wall should be cut back as the overhanging trees are forcing drivers to drive in the middle of the road. BI will ask for this to be done as soon as possible.

Correspondence:

- a) Lime kiln collapse - Miners Rest, Carrshield NE47 8AB – Lisa Beattie had a visit in March from NCC Building Conservation Officer, Val Robson, who inspected the kiln, took photographs and planned to try and confirm the landowner, speak to colleagues report back.
 - b) **Insurance** – renewed from 1 June at a cost of £233.45 (2019 - £235.33)
 - c) **NALC Annual Subscription** – £172.79 (2019 - £172.64)
 - d) **Adapt NE Hardship Funding** – email circulated to Parish Councillors outlining a scheme for households in Northumberland which are suffering hardship as a consequence of the Virus and the grants are designed to have direct and beneficial impact. A notice will be posted on the noticeboards in Carrshield and Ninebanks indicating how to apply to the fund.
 - e) **Citizens Advice Bureau** – a notice will be posted on the noticeboards in Carrshield and Ninebanks showing contact details.
 - f) **Barney Craig** – the Environment Agency sent a letter saying that contractors will be in this area for several months carrying out ecological and environmental surveys with a view to cleaning up the pollution caused by minewater discharge.
3. **Audit** – annual audit documents have now been received from PKF Littlejohn LLP who are the appointed auditors. The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements which have also been circulated to the Councillors. It was agreed to discuss raising the precept at the next meeting in December.
 4. **Planning** – No correspondence relating to planning.
 5. **Any other Business** – the roads leading to the Middle are much worse and with many hazardous potholes. Cattle grids on the Coalcleugh/Allenheads road are in need of repair.
 6. **Date and times of next meetings** – Thursday 3 September at 19:30 and Thursday 3 December at 19:30.