

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting
held on
Thursday 7th October 2021 at 7pm at Allendale Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Crellin (Chair), Councillors Galley, Graham, Henderson, Howard, Philipson & White
Co Cllr Horncastle and H Newsome (Clerk)

Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr Philipson talked a little about the work of Allendale Parish Council (APC) and being a parish councillor and encouraged people to consider putting themselves forward for one the vacancies: [Being a Parish Councillor | Allendale Parish Council \(northumberlandparishes.uk\)](#). The public were interested to know more about Allendale's Neighbourhood Development Plan and how it came about, and Cllr Crellin and Co Cllr Horncastle confirmed that:

a) Allendale Parish Council was a statutory consultee for planning applications and that it referred to policies in Allendale's Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) when formally commenting on or making recommendations on applications; b) Allendale's NDP had been the first to be developed in the county and that it was four and half years in the making with consultations with local people, schools, academics, civil servants in London and local young people represented on the working group; c) 30% of the local community took part in the referendum and of those 79% were in favour of the Plan; d) planning applications were referred to Tynedale Local Area Council Planning Committee only when APC supported an application, and the planning officer did not, and vice versa (only 6-7% of applications go to Committee); e) members of the public could best influence planning officer decisions by submitting their comments to Northumberland County Council's planning portal; and f) APC would be undertaking a review of Allendale's NDP and reviewing its objectives and policies as well making the content easy to refer to and understand.

1) Apologies for absence

Cllr Simmonds

2) Planning Committee – planning applications

21/03666/FUL – Green Shed, Bridge End, Allendale

Cllr Philipson proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Howard seconding this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

20/03576/FUL – Hawthorne Cottage, Highfield Farm, Catton

Cllr Howard proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr Graham seconding this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council

21/02707/FUL - Land at North East of High Sinderhope

Cllr Philipson declared an interest and left the room. Cllr Crellin proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Howard seconding this as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policies 1 & 4: General Development Principles and New Business Accommodation, and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

21/03672/FUL – Crown Inn, Catton

Cllr Philipson proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Howard seconding this as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policies 1 & 5: General Development Principles and New Build Tourism Accommodation, and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

3) Declarations of Interest

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

[Links | Allendale Parish Council \(northumberlandparishes.uk\)](#)

4) Public participation

There were many members of the public in attendance.

Crown Inn, Catton

On behalf of the Catton residents, that looked for Allendale Parish Council's support for registering the Crown Inn as an Asset of Community Value, Brian Donnelly appealed to Allendale Parish Council as representatives of the people of Allen Valley **not to support** the Crown Inn planning application (21/03672/FUL). Brian Donnelly said that Catton residents had set up a community steering group with a view to buying the Crown but after being told by the former owner that the new buyers would be re-opening the pub the community backed out. He said that Catton residents observed that changes to the Crown had already been made without planning permission and they remained concerned about the pub's future. Co Cllr Horncastle said that planning officers assess planning applications against policy only and that retrospective planning applications were common. In answer to questions relating to the status of retrospective planning applications he confirmed that there were no laws being broken and that whilst retrospective planning applications were not illegal there was some risk that people might have to undo what they have done. Cllr Crellin said that APC saw retrospective planning applications regularly and whilst he said that it did seem unusual the Council could not take punitive action and must treat those applications as it would any other. The new owners of the Crown said they were very disappointed to be the subject of a community attack and set out their plans for the Crown as described in their planning application, for change of use from public house with staff accommodation to mixed use including public house, bed and breakfast and podiatry business. Cllrs Philipson and Howard who had both recently viewed the new layout of the Crown said that the new owners had invested a lot of resources in stabilising the structure of the building and had come up with some practical solutions for their future business, and they supported the application. Cllr Galley said that it was a really hard time for pubs and that he supported publicans diversifying but questioned whether having a second podiatry practice was sustainable. He also queried whether there was sufficient WCs in the new layout. One of the current owners said that she was a practicing podiatrist with her own clients and intended to use the premises for continuing her business that offered a different service to that provided in Allendale. The other owner said that there *were* adequate WCs and that he would check that they were shown accurately on the new floor layout. Brian Donnelly said that the community had now applied to Northumberland County Council to register the Crown Inn as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) and asked Allendale Parish Council to support their application (see 8) below).

Speed bumps

Residents of the Denelands estate attended the meeting to request that the rumble strips were not reinstated alongside their estate. They said that the noise and vibration caused by the rumble strips was damaging to both their houses and lives causing them considerable stress. The residents said that the strips had *not* slowed down traffic and asked whether any monitoring had been carried out on their effectiveness. Co Cllr Horncastle said that the new traffic calming measures had come about after many years of discussion with Allendale Primary School, Allendale Village Hall, and Allendale Parish Council and that the final scheme had been decided by highways professionals at Northumberland County Council. He said that as much as he did not want the strips to be put back that until an alternative traffic calming plan was agreed to, they would have to go back for the safety of the school children. The residents and councillors discussed possible alternatives to the rumble strips, including solar-powered speed warning signs and chicanes, favoured by some of the residents, and the councillors acknowledged that the rumble strips *were* far from ideal, and they would continue to work with highways to find an alternative solution.

5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 2nd September 2021

Cllr Galley proposed, and Cllr White seconded that the minutes of the planning meetings held on 2nd September 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

6) Matters Arising

Community Governance Review – Allendale Parish

The Council agreed to make a formal request for a community governance review in view of the difficulty in finding candidates at election time and because of the disproportionate number of councillors required (thirteen, the highest in the county) for the size of the parish (around 2,000 people).

Repairs to paved area outside the Post Office and Arnison Terrace

The Clerk to ask for an estimate from Dodwell Brothers to reinstate a) the pavement at Arnison Terrace and b) the pavement outside the Post Office, including the area in front of the Cashpoint machine, with a date when they could do this by.

Request to support installing bollards in front of the Co-op Shop

The Council agreed to seek guidance from Northumberland County Council's Planning Department on the process and procedure for installing bollards in front of the Co-op Shop.

7) County Councillor and Northumberland County Council update

Afghanistan refugees

Co Cllr Horncastle said that Northumberland County Council was continuing to support the Afghanistan resettlement programme with a further 27 people (10 adults and 17 children) moving into the southeast of the county where they were close to support services and other Afghan refugees. He said that there were still only a third of local authorities that had offered to support the programme.

Catton driving and parking conditions

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he was working with his NCC colleagues to try and resolve the highway problems in Catton. He said that the police were taking seriously the hazard caused by parked vehicles around the Catton triangle, and that they would start and issue tickets to drivers that continue to park there.

Local Transport Plan priorities for 2022/2023

Co Cllr Horncastle proposed that the two top highway and transport priorities for Allendale Parish Council should be a) traffic safety past Allendale Primary School and b) driving and parking conditions in Catton and the Council unanimously agreed.

8) Crown in Catton discussion on registering it as an Asset of Community Value

On behalf of Catton residents Brian Donnelly asked Allendale Parish Council to support their community application to register the Crown Inn as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), and the Council unanimously agreed to this and write a letter of support to Northumberland County Council.

9) Cemetery Committee

Landscape plan

The Council agreed to invite Mick Hall to its November 2021 meeting so that he could put forward his ideas for a long-term landscape plan for the Cemetery including the woodland burial area, and his estimate for producing a plan.

Tree Survey

The Council agreed to put out to tender tree remedial work in the Cemetery as specified in Gavin Reichert's baseline survey carried out on 27th and 30th July 2021.

Urgent tree works

Cllr Howard said that Gavin Reichert had now removed the conifer next to the Chapel of Rest, and that he had also removed branches over the highway. The Council agreed for Gavin Reichert to remove the large lateral stem with a crack from another tree (T39) that needed urgent attention.

10) Rights of Way & Access Committee

There was no new information to report this month.

11) Towns & Villages Committee

There was no new information to report this month.

12) Correspondence

Ginny Swaile, Plugging the Gaps

The Council agreed to keep the Peth mown until the benefits of the re-wilding area on the village green were seen. Cllr Henderson would continue to be Ginny Swaile's parish council contact for the Wild Planting Scheme and arrange to meet with her.

Iain Hedley, Community Regeneration Officer, Northumberland County Council

Allendale Parish Council agreed to declare a climate emergency and would request the support of Northumberland County Council to get more electric vehicle charging points installed throughout the parish.

Shirley Brown, Churchwarden, St Cuthbert's Church, Allendale

The Council would discuss repairs to the Lychgate at its meeting on 4th November 2021.

13) Finance Committee

Grant application - Allendale Youth

The Council considered the grant application from Allendale Youth unanimously agreed to award **£1,000** towards the cost of air purifiers for its basement venue.

Estimate for Catton turning bay

The Council agreed to Coulson Construction's estimate for Tarmacadam resurfacing of Catton turning bay, an approximate area of 50M2. The Clerk to ask Ernie Coulson to go ahead with the work at the earliest opportunity.

Accounts for payment

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

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as of **15 September 2021 - £ 44,125.09**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balances as of **9 September 2021 - £ 23,401.08**

14) Matters for 7th October 2021 agenda

Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan

Cemetery Landscape Plan

Lych Gate

Recruitment of new councillors

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

There were none.

16) Date of next Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting would take place on **4th November 2021** at 7pm.

[The meeting ended at 21:20](#)