

**Minutes of Allendale Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on**  
**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7pm at St Cuthbert's Church Hall**

**Present:** Cllr Simmonds (Vice Chair), Councillors Graham, Howard, Philipson & White  
H Newsome (Clerk)

**1) Apologies for absence from Cllr Henderson**

It was with great sadness that Cllr Simmonds announced the resignation, due to poor health, of Cllr Crellin. She said that he would be a big miss and she wanted to thank him for the great service that he had given as both as a councillor and Chair. Cllr Simmonds said that Cllr Crellin had strived to make the running of the Council more efficient and effective and that he had given a generous amount of his time in looking at Rights of Way and Access issues in the parish, and that the work of the Council, including planning processes were more professional because of his efforts. The Council also acknowledged how supportive and generous he had been giving his time to both local people who were struggling with their planning issues, but also when he worked for the British Cattle Movement Service during the foot and mouth crisis. Everyone sent their very best wishes to David.

In the short-term Cllr Howard proposed, and Cllr Graham seconded, that Cllr Simmonds take on the Chair position, and Cllr Philipson take on the Vice Chair position, and this was unanimously carried. The Council would formally appoint a Chair and Vice Chair as usual at the Annual Meeting in May 2022.

**2) Planning Committee – planning applications**

**21/02902/VARYCO Swinhope Row Allendale**

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

**22/00059/FUL Wooley Park Farm Allendale**

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

**21/04405/FUL Allendale Brewery Allen Mill**

Cllr Graham proposed **to support** the application with Cllr White seconding this as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 1: General Development Principles, and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

**21/04804/FUL Keenley Thorn Allendale**

Cllr Philipson proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Howard seconding this as it is in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 10: Small Scale Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Schemes, 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 \(northumberlandparishes.uk\)](http://northumberlandparishes.uk)

**4) Public participation**

There was one member of the public in attendance.

**Precept**

Mike Kirk asked a range of questions relating to the precept and asked why the Council had not published in advance, information relating to setting the precept to allow for local people to comment beforehand. He said it would be helpful if the Council were open about setting the budget and precept, and that the Council should explain to taxpayers details of the costs and benefits, so they had the opportunity to

contribute to the process. The Council agreed with Mike that it would be helpful to provide an opportunity for the public to contribute to the precept discussion and that it would include an item on the Annual Parish meeting (held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June) agenda, 'Your views on how the parish council spends money'. It would also bring forward its discussion of setting the new precept to allow for public participation and discussion in December. The Council also confirmed that it held financial reserves, £16.5k of which were ring fenced for maintaining a play area at Denefields, and, that it was usual for parish councils to hold between three- and twelve-months reserves.

#### **5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021**

Cllr Howard proposed, and Cllr Graham seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

#### **6) Matters Arising**

##### **Repairs to paved area outside the Post Office and Arnison Terrace**

Jason Telford had confirmed that he was in touch with Hexham Holiday Homes and that he would do the work at an agreed time when the holiday let was vacant.

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

Richard Mackenzie from Highways had suggested that the easiest way to progress the installation of bollards outside the shop would be for the Co-op to agree to the NCC doing the design work, although there would be a cost for this. The Clerk to inform the Co-op and suggest that it asks for an estimate of these costs before discussing how to fund it.

##### **Cobble setts in the Market Place**

The Council discussed the remedial work that Ernie Coulson of Coulson Construction Ltd had accepted was needed following on from test results confirming that the cement mixture had been laid too dry. The Council was increasingly concerned about the continuing deterioration of the mix that had loosened the cobbles and was becoming a hazard. The Clerk to request a site meeting with both the principal contractor, Ernie Coulson, and the sub-contractor Mike Cook within the next two weeks, and before the next parish council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, to agree a programme of corrective work.

#### **7) County Councillor and Northumberland County Council update**

Co Cllr was not present for the meeting.

#### **8) Councillor recruitment**

The Council adopted the co-option recruitment process and agreed a timeline for the co-option of up to six councillor vacancies. The Council would advertise the vacancy created by Cllr Crellin's resignation as a casual vacancy, and if there was no request for an election then the Council would be free to fill that vacancy by co-option too. The Clerk to put a schedule together and advertise the vacancies and recruitment process by 28<sup>th</sup> January and invite prospective councillors to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March meeting.

#### **9) Correspondence**

##### **Anna Stonehouse, Natural Beauty premises**

The Council discussed the poor access to the premises for people using wheelchairs because of the narrow footpath and cars parking close to the kerb, and what it could do about it. There was agreement that this was a problem and a concern, and that random parking in the square was proving problematic for the local bus service too and the Council agreed the need for a designated bus stop. Before the Council agreed to any works it proposed to invite local business users to its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April to discuss improving the existing parking arrangements in the square.

##### **Susan Robson, former First School**

Co Cllr Horncastle had confirmed that Northumberland County Council had now sold the former First School but details about the sale remained confidential.

## **10) Finance Committee**

### **Precept 2022/2023**

The Finance (Precept) Committee had met on 4<sup>th</sup> January and produced a budget for financial year 2022/2023 and recommended the precept be set at £49,200. The Council recognised that the Clerk/RFO's workload was greater than the 10 hours/week contracted so it recommended to increase her hours from ten hours a week to twelve. Cllr Philipson proposed that the Council accept the proposed precept and Cllr Howard seconded this, and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

### **Accounts for payment**

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

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as of **30 December 2021 - £ 44,949.95**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balances as of **30 December 2021 - £ 16,438.24**

### **Banking signatory**

The Clerk would arrange for Lloyd's bank to add Cllr Graham as a signatory to the account.

## **11) Matters for 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 agenda**

There were none yet.

## **12) Confidential agenda item *(for Council only)***

There was one.

## **13) Date of next Parish Council**

The next Parish Council meeting would take place on **3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022** at 7pm.

[The meeting ended at 21:30](#)