

**Minutes of the Zoom Meeting of Allendale Parish Council  
(including minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee)  
held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7pm**

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

**1) Apologies for absence**

Cllr Galley and Co Cllr Horncastle

**2) Planning Sub-Committee**

**Planning applications**

**21/00209/OUT – Land East Of Catton Lane Foot Methodist Church**

Cllr Philipson proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr Dunn seconding this as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 2: Scale of Housing Development, paras (a), (b) and (c) and the motion was unanimously carried by all those councillors present for the discussion (Cllr Henderson arrived late for the meeting).

**21/00245/FUL – Vine House, Main Street, Catton on B6295**

Cllr Crellin proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Howard seconding it and the motion was unanimously carried by all those councillors present for the discussion (Cllr Henderson arrived late for the meeting).

**21/00258/FUL – Land North Of Meadow Gate, Catton**

Cllr Crellin proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr Howard seconding this and the motion was carried by a majority of the Council. Cllr Lee abstained.

**21/00409/FUL – Burnside, Shilburn Road, Allendale**

Cllr Philipson proposed to support the application with Cllr Howard seconding this as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 9: Extension to Dwellings, bullet points one and two, and the motion was carried by a majority of the Council. Cllr Quinn abstained.

**21/00381/FUL – Land Adjacent To Allenheads Water Treatment Works, Allenheads**

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

**20/04248/FUL – 43 Wentworth Park, Allendale**

The Council had unanimously supported the application at its February 2021 meeting and there was no change to its position.

**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 general public in attendance. Paul Barber was also present for the Electrical Vehicle Charging item; and Neil Snowdon, NCC Highways Department, attended for the Proposed signage improvements (the Bullring) item.

**5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Cllr Sandison proposed, and Cllr Hill seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

**6) Matters Arising**

Cllr Lee gave an update on the issues affecting footpaths in the parish after hearing from the Footpaths Officer, Duncan Lovett:

**Footpath where the bank erosion is close to the Blackett Level entrance (502/141)**

Duncan Lovett had recently met with Tyne Rivers Trust representatives and was advised that river bank protection would not resolve the issues around the eroded section of river bank at this location. Duncan Lovett was proposing to move the walked path away from the river bank by constructing a short length of fence and removing three or four small trees on the other side of the existing walked path. Northumbrian Water had agreed to make a site visit to check the main village sewage works in this location.

**Footpath to the west of the Holms Linn mine workings (502/074)**

Duncan Lovett said that discussions with the Estate agents had resumed with a view to diverting the public footpath onto an alternative route on higher ground.

**Footpath on Isaacs's Trail close to the entrance to the wood from the Mill Bridge (502/023)**

Duncan Lovett had detected a foul smell around the Allen Mill complex entrance that did not seem to be associated with the path erosion on the Tommy Stout side of the road. Northumbrian Water had confirmed that whilst it had no assets in that area and that its nearest asset was on the other side of the East Allen. Duncan Lovett had said that his team may use a contractor to carry a small-scale stone and timber revetment repair later in the year, when the river had dried up a bit.

**Footpath at Bridge Eal where the footpath goes through the garden (502/023)**

Duncan Lovett was in touch with the landowner at Bridge Eal and had previously discussed the process of diverting the footpath at his location away from the owners' garden. He had offered advice about notices and access during the COVID pandemic and would be visiting the site to discuss the issues when he was next in the area.

**Grant applications**

The Council considered an application for grant funding from St Cuthbert's Church that had been inadvertently missed when applications were discussed at its meeting in February 2021. Cllr Dunn proposed that the Council make an award of £200 in keeping with the other supported applicants and this was seconded by Cllr Philipson. Cllrs Crellin and Simmonds declared an interest.

**Resurfacing of parking area adjacent to The Forge**

The Council agreed to the new dates (late April/early May 2021) for the work to Tarmac the parking area adjacent to The Forge that Coulson Construction Ltd had proposed. The Clerk was asked to invite Ernie Coulson to the Village so that he could mark out the four areas where the work is to be carried out.

**7) County Councillor update**

Co Cllr Horncastle sent his apologies to the meeting as he would be attending the West Allen Parish Council meeting. However, he did send an update on the following:

**Allendale First School**

Co Cllr Horncastle shared an update on the sale of the First School. Much of the delay was due to the Department for Education needing to approve the sale (and a County Council Education project which the capital receipt would be spent on) that unfortunately took until 2020. He said that now that the legal documentation was with the purchaser's solicitor the sale was expected to be completed soon.

**Catton driving and parking conditions**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he still had not heard from Robin McCartney, NCC Highways Infrastructure Manager, following on from their meeting in Catton on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 at which he agreed to propose measures to improve the driving and parking conditions in Catton.

**Repair to roads**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that the wet weather and freezing conditions had presented serious problems on the highways and that the Highways Team had to prioritise the thousands of potholes reported. He said that the Team had responded quickly to the more serious potholes for example on the Paise Dyke but some of the repairs had been quick fixes and would require more substantial repairs. However, he said that the Team had done a reasonable job in the circumstances.

### **8) Coronavirus matters**

The Council supported Cllr Crellin's suggestion to send a supportive letter to NCC to accompany Linda and Tony Becks application for a business loan as a response to COVID-19.

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Business/Grants/Grants-Funding.aspx>

### **9) Electrical Vehicle Charging**

Cllr Crellin thanked the Working Group for all its work putting together the paper on **Suggested charging point locations in the parish** and Paul Barber acknowledged Cllr Lee's work in pulling all the information together. The Council reviewed the paper and agreed to the following actions: a) to engage with National Powergrid to install charging points where there was already an adequate power supply; b) to enlist the support of Richard McKenzie of NCC's Technical Services team to help progress the development of EV charging in the parish; c) Cllrs Philipson and White to identify suitable locations for charging points in Allenheads; d) to aim to incorporate additional parking for the residents of Allenfields at the proposed site for EV charging; e) Cllr Crellin to write to Guy Opperman MP to raise his awareness of the parish's EV charging plans and to enlist his support further down the line; and, f) the Clerk to circulate a document on the basics of EV charging including some myth busting that Paul Barber had recommended.

### **10) Policy on Reserves**

The Council agreed to Cllr Philipson's proposal that the Council set out separately, monies that have been ring fenced such as the £25k for the play area at Denefields, and any monies earmarked for specific purposes, for example, Isaac's Well and the Chapel of Rest. The Clerk agreed to use the Business Bank Instant Account for this purpose and transfer these monies at the end of the financial year.

### **11) Proposed signage improvements (the Bull Ring)**

Neil Snowdon attended the meeting to give an update on the proposed improvements to the signage around the Bullring that were previously discussed at the December 2020 meeting. After discussion, Neil agreed not to put up new signage outside Hotspur House and to use finger posts in the two locations on the Bull Ring to replace those signs already there: at the end facing the Peth; and, at the opposite end facing Westhoe House. It was agreed that the Council may consider using double yellow lines on the side of the Bullring adjacent to Heatherlea if parked vehicles (for example camper vans) obscured the signage.

### **12) Bowling Green**

The Council discussed how it could best support the Bowling Club to help maintain its Green that required a cut three times a week. The Council considered the Club's request to part-fund the cutting of the Green but not wishing to set a precedent it agreed that the Club should be supported in looking for a more sustainable way of meeting these costs. After further discussion, and because the Bowling Club has sufficient funds to do the work for one season, it agreed that Cllr Dunn share information about sources of funding available through, for example, Sport England's Return to Play scheme, and that the Club be advised to apply for grant funding from the Council at its February and/or September meetings using the online application.

### **13) Towns & Villages Sub-Committee**

#### **Cemetery**

Cllr Howard confirmed that work would shortly be carried out to repair sunken graves at the Cemetery.

#### **Isaac's Well**

Cllr Dunn said that she was still waiting to hear if her application for Community Chest Funding had been successful.

### **Tree planting scheme**

Cllr Dunn said that: a) five trees had now been purchased under the new tree planting scheme: an English Oak, an English Beech, a Copper Beech, a Mountain Ash and a Lime tree (to replace the one on the Lloyds Bank Green); and b) locations had been agreed for planting fruit trees on Allenfields and the Recreation Ground but not yet for the bankside adjacent to the school. The Council agreed for Ginny Swaile to be invited to the April 2021 meeting to talk about her wildflower planting scheme.

### **14) Climate Action Allendale**

There was no new information to report this month.

### **15) Correspondence**

There were no actions.

### **16) Accounts for payment**

Cllr Simmonds proposed the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Philipson.

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as at **15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - £ 62,426.30**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balance as at **9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - £ 5,235.55**

### **17) Matters for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 agenda**

Long Term Plan

Refurbishment of Historical Monuments (including Isaac's Well)

Revised Policy on Grant Funding

Wild Planting Scheme

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

There was one.

### **19) Date of next Parish Council Zoom teleconference**

The next Parish Council meeting would take place on **1<sup>st</sup> April 2021** at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 20:50