

Minutes of Allendale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Thursday 2nd September 2021 at 7pm at Allendale Village Hall

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

1) Apologies for absence

Cllr Henderson

2) Planning Committee – planning applications

21/03075/REM – Land West of Lea Hall Cottage, Splitty Lane

The Council had previously agreed to **no objections** to the application (3rd October 2019) as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policies 1 & 2, and it unanimously declared no change to its former position.

20/03541/FUL – Planning Appeal Notification Land South Of Catton Pumping Station

The Council had previously agreed **to object** to the application (3rd December 2020 meeting) as it was not in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policies 1: General Development Principles, paragraphs one and two (bullet point one); and 5: New Build Tourism Accommodation, paragraphs two and four, and it unanimously declared **no change to its former position**. In response to a resident's request to communicate to the inspectorate a strong objection to the appeal, Cllr Crellin reiterated the Council's previous decision that he said the Inspectorate was duty bound to look at.

Haydon Bridge Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Council agreed to comment on Haydon Bridge's Neighbourhood Development Plan once it had been prepared for submission rather than comment on the pre-submission draft.

Tynedale Local Area Council Planning Committee

Co Cllr Horncastle (and Cllr Crellin) reminded everyone that he could not take part in Parish Council discussions on planning applications since he was a member of the Tynedale Local Area Council Planning Committee that looks at planning application appeals.

3) Declarations of Interest

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

[Links | Allendale Parish Council \(northumberlandparishes.uk\)](https://www.northumberlandparishes.uk)

4) Public participation

There were 43 members of the public in attendance.

On behalf of 88 residents of Catton that had attended a meeting (on 26th August) to discuss the potential loss of the Crown in Catton pub, Bryan Donnelly addressed the meeting with its concerns that the intentions of the new owners appeared to be to open as a licensed café and podiatry practice rather than re-open the Crown in Catton as the village pub. He, and other members of the community expressed the importance of retaining the village pub as a place where villagers could meet, and they did not accept that pubs could not be profitable in the right hands and said that there were countless examples of pubs succeeding in much smaller communities where atmosphere, beer and good food were what mattered most. They said they were especially concerned: **a)** that changes were being made to the building that were more in line with it becoming a house rather than a public house all without planning permission; **b)** about plans to build in the public house car park; **c)** that if the changes made to the pub go too far it would be hard to put it back to the way it was; **d)** about a recent planning application for a Clubhouse being based on the Crown being closed and that the community wanted a pub not a Clubhouse; **e)** that the new

owners had not asked the community what it wanted; and f) that Catton already had a licensed café and there already was a podiatrist at The Forge (and the health centre) and that the proposal would be diluting the existing businesses viability.

Bryan Donnelly said the community wanted to list the Crown as an asset of community value (ACV) and wishing to have the Parish Council's support, asked the Allendale Parish Council to apply and register the Crown as an asset on the community's behalf. Cllr Crellin said that the parish council would need to debate the proposal at a separate meeting if it wished to register the Crown as an ACV. This was because the parish council agenda must publish all items for discussion in a public place prior to the meeting giving *all* members of the community an opportunity to take part in the debate. He also said that the parish council would need to be informed by the facts of the matter (to prevent any injustices) and that he didn't think that it could act until a planning application was presented before it, as was the case when a previous publican had put in a planning application for change of use.

Bryan Donnelly said that they had come to the meeting to ask the Parish Council to list the pub as an ACV on the community's behalf and had asked it for support irrespective of what material changes were currently being made to the Crown in Catton. Cllr Crellin said that the Parish Council had objected to the Clubhouse that would have taken revenue from the pub owners but that the parish council did not regulate businesses and that there was no requirement to do so.

He said that the parish council would consider registering the pub as an ACV but that it would need to follow its processes step by step starting with a discussion at the next parish council meeting. He suggested that if the community wanted to act quickly it could register it themselves, and that the regulations stated that whoever completes the registration (parish council or community) that the authority must give equal weight to both.

Bryan Donnelly questioned whether Co Cllr Horncastle's should have declared a conflict of interest before entering the discussion about the intentions of the new owners of the Crown in Catton. Cllr Crellin said that all councillors were required to declare their interests at the start of parish council meetings, but that did not mean that councillors should not have a relationship with people or visit them or have a drink with them, but if they had a financial or pecuniary interest, then this would have to be declared.

Cllr Howard proposed to put registering the Crown at Catton as an ACV on the agenda for 7th October meeting and Cllr Simmonds seconded this. The Clerk confirmed that parish council agendas are published the Friday before the first Thursday of the month (except for August). She also apologised if she misled the community into thinking that a decision as to their request would be made that evening.

Cllr Crellin agreed to put it on the agenda for the 7th October meeting and that it would debate the proposal and that members of the public were welcome to attend. He also agreed to still include it on the agenda should the community pursue registering the pub as an ACV as a community group.

5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 1st, 15th, 29th July, and 19th August 2021

Cllr Simmonds proposed, and Cllr Galley seconded that the minutes of the planning meetings held on 15th and 29th July & 19th August 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Cllr Galley proposed, and Cllr Graham seconded that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 1st July 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

6) Matters Arising

Estimate for Catton turning bay

The Council agreed to Coulson Construction's estimate for Tarmacadam resurfacing of Catton turning bay, an approximate area of 60M2. The Clerk to ask Ernie Coulson to go ahead with the work at the earliest

opportunity.

7) County Councillor and Northumberland County Council update

Affordable housing

Co Cllr Horncastle said that it was a priority for Northumberland County Council to provide more affordable housing and that the last affordable housing scheme built in Allendale was around 10 years ago. Everyone acknowledged that developers were not required to make any of the dwellings 'affordable' if the number of dwellings was below the 10 homes threshold which was the case with the recently approved Lonkley Lodge housing development.

Afghanistan refugees

Co Cllr Horncastle said that Northumberland County Council was already supporting the Afghanistan resettlement programme with three families already here and another three expected shortly, and that the Council had indicated that it would take more. He said that so far only a third of local authorities had offered to support the programme.

Bus shelter for Catton

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he would defer making his contribution towards the new bus shelter in Catton until the next financial year (2022/2023) as other projects were taking priority this year.

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 traffic regulations were being flouted by drivers that continue to park around the Catton triangle and that would no longer be tolerated. He said that the parked vehicles reduced visibility at the junction and obscured the road signs creating a hazard for drivers.

Northumberland County Council efficiency savings

Co Cllr Horncastle said that the County Council were looking for £12 million in efficiency savings but there would be no compulsory redundancies, and that it was looking towards income generation.

Resurfacing of parking area adjacent to The Forge

Co Cllr Horncastle confirmed that he was **not** able to get the agreement from the Area Delivery Manager to reinstate the white on the newly surfaced parking area after all. However, he said that if the parish council marked out the position of the bus stop in Allendale market square the Highways team would reinstate those markings as well as any other pressure points in the market square.

Riverside footpath closed

Co Cllr Horncastle said that the popular footpath along the River East Allen (from the Peth to Allen Mill cottages) was closed due to its erosion, and that the river had now reached as far as the field.

The Tour of Britain 2021

Co Cllr Horncastle said that Northumberland County Council had very little notice of the cycle race and the route through the county taking place on 10th September, and that roads were being repaired to ensure a safe passage with no extra funding allocated. He confirmed that the speed bumps, removed for resurfacing, would be put back after the race, but possibly in a new location. Co Cllr Horncastle also said that he was discussing with his highway's colleagues' additional road safety measures for the stretch of the road past the school.

8) Cemetery Committee

Tree Survey

Cllrs Howard and Philipson to ask Gavin Reichert to remove the conifer that he recommended should be removed as a priority and ask him to also remove the overhanging branches that cross the road next to the cemetery.

Landscape plan

Discussion was postponed until the October meeting.

New benches

The Council agreed to install two new benches in the cemetery. Cllr Howard to source a supplier for these as well as the new bench agreed to for Allenheads Woods (see Correspondence below).

9) Rights of Way & Access Committee

Cllrs Howard and Philipson to invite Jason Telford to survey the river footpath with them (from the Peth to Allen Mill cottages) with a view to putting in an application for funding from North Pennines AONB under its **Farming in Protected Landscapes** scheme.

10) Towns & Villages Committee

Bus stop in Allendale

The Council agreed to consider what other areas of the market square might benefit from white markings in addition to it marking out the position of the bus stop in Allendale market square in preparation for the Highways team reinstating these with white lines.

11) Correspondence

Ken Hodcroft, Allenheads resident

The Council agreed to Ken Hodcroft's suggestion to provide a new bench for Allenheads Woods in time for Spring 2022.

Neville Pringle, General Manager on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Co-op Shop

Cllr Galley to talk to Neville Pringle about how best the parish council can support his request to install bollards in front of the Co-op Shop.

Alison Chappell, Catton resident

The Clerk to ask Glen Harrison of Highways to see to the overgrown bushes over the path on the blind bend leading out of Catton village, near the Methodist chapel that are a hazard to pedestrians.

June Mason

The Council agreed to remove the kerbing on June Mason's father's grave to help with its future maintenance. The Clerk to ask June to arrange to take away the removed kerbing.

12) Finance Committee

External audit report 2020/2021

The Clerk said that she had now received the Audit Report from PKF Littlejohn LLP and that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was in accordance with proper practices. The Clerk would now prepare a 'Notice of conclusion of audit' and publish this on the website.

Grant applications

The Council considered applications from four organisations and unanimously agreed that the awards be granted as shown below:

Allen Valleys Bowling Club	£500
Allendale Lions Under 12	£250
Higher Ground	£500
Sport Tynedale	£250

Accounts for payment

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

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as of **27 August 2021 - £ 25,821.46**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balances as of **9 August 2021 - £ 23,400.88**

13) Annual Parish Meeting planning

Cllr Philipson agreed to put together information on becoming a Parish Councillor in preparation for the October meeting when the Council would be inviting to the meeting, anyone interested in joining Allendale Parish Council.

14) Matters for 7th October 2021 agenda

Annual Parish Meeting

Crown in Catton

Local Transport Plan 2021/2022 feedback and priorities for 2022/2023 (postponed from September meeting).

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 **7th October 2021** at 7pm.

[The meeting ended at 22:00](#)