

Minutes of the Meeting of Allendale Parish Council held in Allendale Village Hall on Thursday 7th December 2017

Present: Councillors Philipson (Chair), Crellin (Vice Chair), Baxter, Dunn, Galley, Henderson, Howard, Lee, Quinn, Sandison, Simmonds & White
County Councillor Colin Horncastle
Newsome (Clerk)
One member of the public

Planning applications discussion and review

In preparation for a general discussion about how the Parish Council reviews planning applications and the suggestion of Cllr Dunn to review/revise Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan and set up a Planning Sub-Committee, the Chair read out correspondence from John Boardman of Northumberland County Council's Planning Services Department.

Mr Boardman described the processes for modifying the Plan under current regulations. He explained that only minor modifications could be made, for example, those to correct errors and those that would not materially affect planning permissions granted. Other more significant modifications would require adherence to the procedures for producing a new plan.

Cllr Dunn said that there was not any direct policy in the Plan on how to deal with some of the planning applications such as the Land West of Westburnhope Moor and dealing with listed buildings. She suggested that a Planning Sub-Committee of three people could study the details of planning applications and make a presentation to the rest of the Council and that membership could rotate so that everyone took their turn. This way she said councillors could acquaint themselves better with the regulations, and she thought there would also be a more consistent and rigorous approach to planning recommendations.

Cllr Simmonds said that the Parish had gone through an extensive process in drawing up the Neighbourhood Development Plan and that no significant changes could be made without going through the whole process again. She said that it is not for the parish councillors to decide what happens in a designated area rather the planning regulations that are defined in national policy. Cllr Simmonds confirmed that the applicant in the Land West of Westburnhope Moor case has had to apply for separate planning permission for the tracks across moorland, and that North Pennines AONB should be signing off their guidance on moorland tracks for non-agricultural moorland use in the next week. She would bring this to the Parish Council once it's been signed off as a useful document for the Council to refer to.

There was a general discussion about the role of the Planning Officers at Northumberland County Council who interpret the planning regulations, and take on board those of the relevant authorities including Natural England and AONB, and the role of Parish Councillors who are not expected to go into the same level of detail.

The Chair said that all councillors should be equally involved in the process of reviewing planning applications as everyone's views are important. He explained that the reason the planning part of the meeting refers to a sub-committee is that the Council do not need to be quorate for the planning review item, as often decisions have to be made within a tight timeframe. The Chair said that it was the responsibility of each Councillor to prepare for planning discussions whether this was looking at the hard copies of planning applications or going on-line to view these.

Cllr Crellin reminded everyone that the Parish Council are not expert planners and that whilst there is a morass of documentation that anyone can download and refer to, it is the planning specialists that

interpret regulations and the Parish Council is not expected to go into that level of detail. He said that Allendale's Neighbourhood Plan required extensive consultation that took years to develop, and that it was the community that drew together *their* plan and that it had to be pro-development. Cllr Crellin said that whilst councillors are free to download supporting documents and do their own background research he cautioned against getting involved in discussions that are beyond the remit of the Council.

County Councillor Horncastle said that County Council have their own policies and that conservation officers have a huge input into the planning process alongside planning officers who take on board AONB policies. He said that Allendale's Neighbourhood Plan had only been in place for 17 months, since July 2016, and that everyone had a chance to input into it and that it was the people of the parish that had proposed it and that it may not cover all that the councillors want. Cllr Horncastle said that everyone should be proud of the Plan that involved working with the Senior Policy Advisor, the statutory authorities, Newcastle University, local and local young people and that it was being used as a blueprint by the rest of the country. He said it was a 20-year document and the property of the County Council that there wasn't a mechanism for altering yet.

Cllr Howard warned councillors to be careful when using AONB guidelines as in places paragraphs are contradictory and open to interpretation and so it was better to embrace the document as a whole.

The Clerk agreed to set about collating information on past planning applications in order for the Council to review the nature and outcome of planning applications submitted as recommended in the Neighbourhood Plan (page 4, para 1.25 refers).

17/00956/FUL and 17/01825/FUL – 2 Oakey Dene, Allendale – the Parish Council reviewed their previous recommendation made on 5th April and upheld on 1st June 2017, in light of the applicant's appeal to the Secretary of State against the decision of Northumberland County Council to refuse planning permission. The Parish Council have no grounds for objection.

Previous Applications

17/03476/LBC – Wooley Farm, Allendale – application granted permission by NCC

Clerk to send Cllr Dunn a copy of the final version Neighbourhood Development Plan.

1) Apologies for absence

Cllr Walter

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr Baxter declared an interest in the Allendale Agricultural Society

Cllr Crellin declared an interest in the Dale Singers, Allendale Folk Festival & Allen Valleys Promotions Ltd

Cllr Dunn declared an interest in Allendale Primary School, Allendale Sports Club & Allendale Golf Club

Cllr Henderson declared an interest in the Allendale Agricultural Society, Allendale Horticulture Society and Allendale Baby & Toddler Group

Cllr Lee declared an interest in Allendale Primary School, Arnison Jubilee Almshouses & Health Walks

Cllr Philipson declared an interest in High Forest Community Association, Allenheads Trust, Allen Valleys Landscape Partnership Board & Natural Ability

Cllr Quinn declared an interest in Allendale Film Club

Cllr Sandison declared an interest in Allendale Film Club

Cllr Simmonds declared an interest in St Cuthbert's Church, North Pennines AONB Heritage Project Board & Allen Valleys Landscape Partnership Board

3) Public Participation

There was one member of the public in attendance.

County Cllr Horncastle confirmed that the temporary camera sensor situated in a tree outside the Primary School is designed to capture potential parking problems in that area, in response to a query about its purpose.

County Cllr Horncastle agreed to take up concerns about the lack of drainage for the surface water that collects, and freezes, on the footpath at Denefields, and which has been a hazard to pedestrians for the past two years.

Clerk to write to Duncan Lovett, County Footpaths Officer, to ask if he would review the condition of Public Footpath No 141 between The Peth and Mill Cottages in view of a concern that it is in a bad state of repair, and especially as it is part of the historic Isaac's Tea Trail.

Parish Council agreed to a request to use the Parish Council noticeboards to display the Parish Council minutes.

4) Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd November 2017

Cllr Galley proposed and Cllr Simmonds seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November be agreed and signed as a correct record.

5) Matters Arising

Cemetery

Cllr Dunn said that the Foster family would inform the Parish Council in advance of work they intend to do in the Spring to mend their family's sinking graves.

Cllr Howard is arranging for John Harding to survey the trees and over-hanging branches in preparation for work to make safe the trees.

Clerk to email Cemetery Sub-Committee with a view to find soonest date when they can meet at the Cemetery.

Allendale Market Square

The Council agreed to meet Cllr Howard's material costs of filling the large potholes near the Dale Hotel with hogging to avoid them filling with water and freezing.

It was confirmed that Malcolm Aitchison is now booked to start the 'tidying up' in the village early and for him to make more flower tubs next year.

The Clerk confirmed that she has raised the items on signage with NCC and should hear from the officer who has been allocated the job shortly (Steve Lowes).

Allen Valleys Local History Group (AVLHG)

The Council agreed to consider AVLHG's concerns to secure suitable storage arrangements for their archive should the current arrangements with the Library ever fall through.

6) County Councillor update

County Cllr Horncastle updated the Parish Council on the following matters:

Forstersteads – is to be re-surfaced in the next financial year, starting in April 2018.

New, improved energy efficient street lighting – is to be fitted in Allendale next year.

Pothole scheme – has been made available to fund and fix the worst potholes before Christmas. The Council advised County Cllr Horncastle of some of the worst including the road to the Golf Club, the A686 to the Cart's Bog, road from Allen Mill to Thornley Gate, Garrett's Hill Bank, Lonkley, from St Peter's School to Coalcleugh Road Junction.

Haydon Bridge High School

There was a discussion on Haydon Bridge High School and the Parish Council sought reassurances on the transparency of the process.

Salt for Recreation Ground

County Cllr Horncastle agreed to check what provision is made for salt for the Recreation Ground and whether there is a charge for it.

Road sweeping

County Cllr Horncastle to check what arrangements are in place for sweeping the pavements around Allendale following the recent breakdown of the road sweeper.

7) Allendale Market Square

The Council agreed to defer discussion of this item until the January meeting.

8) Maintenance of footpaths

The Council agreed to invite Practical Landscapes to meet with the Chair to discuss their approach for keeping the footpaths clear of weeds and leaves. The Council would like to know how they operate with parked cars with a view to inviting them to provide a quote. Clerk to find out when they are available for a meeting. The Council agreed to the following areas that should be included in the work:

Noah's Ark, The Haining, Station Road, Catton Chapel, New line, Deneholme corner and The Peth to Allen Mills. The Council to arrange for Allenheads to make their own local arrangements using the fund made available for this.

9) Correspondence

Maggie Keyte's letter concerning the Haydon Bridge High School consultation

Clerk to forward letter to all Parish Councillors.

Clerk to write to Maggie Keyte requesting that she responds to the consultation directly rather than through the Parish Council that has no remit for education. Councillors to encourage the Parish to address their individual concerns directly to the County Council.

John Boardman, Planning Services, Northumberland County Council

Letter outlining the procedure for modifying Neighbourhood Plans and offering to attend a Parish Council meeting to explain and discuss this.

Iain Hedley, Community Regeneration Office on behalf of Director Of Public Health

Letter inviting views on whether there are health needs which could be met by services commissioned from community pharmacies. The consultation will run from 29th November to 31st January 2018. Clerk to forward to Council so that they can respond directly if they wish to.

Stephen Rickitt, Chief Officer of Northumberland Association of Local Council (NALC), on behalf of Steve Bucknall, Highways Development Manager

Request for comments on forthcoming tendering process for NEW interactive speed indicator signs (to include maintenance). Clerk to forward to Council.

Stephen Rickitt, Chief Officer of Northumberland Association of Local Council (NALC)

Letter to inform us of the 2018/2019 charge for using the Northumberland.uk website is £75. The cost covers hosting, maintenance and advice. Clerk to arrange subscription.

Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd

The Council have been notified of the external auditor appointment for financial year 2017/2018. This will be PKF Littlejohn LLP.

Allendale Youth Ambition

Letter from Margaret Stonehouse informing us that Allendale Youth Project has now achieved full charitable status and is now known as Allendale Youth Ambition.

Creative Fuse North East

The Directors of Creative Fuse North East have written to the Parish Council offering a fully funded training opportunity for creative businesses and registered sole traders, a pair of day long courses in Hexham on 6th and 27th February 2018.

Clerk to forward to Yellow Cherry Design and The Forge asking if it would circulate the information to interested parties.

Allendale Village Hall & Recreation Ground (AVH&RG)

Cllr Sandison will represent the Parish Council in place Margaret Stonehouse at AVH&RG Meetings.

Meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month. Clerk to inform Christina at the Fawside Office.

10) Accounts for Payment

Allendale Village Hall (room hire)	£25
Glasdon UK Ltd (waste bins)	£284.88
Hexham Courant (Remembrance Sunday)	£47.28
PPC of Allendale (room hire)	£40.00
Allendale Estates U Fund	£5
Chris Howard (Noticeboard repair)	£65
SH Newsome	£400
Howard Dockray & Son (Cemetery grass cutting)	£3000
R Ford (Village Keeper)	£55
Northumberland County Council (PC loan)	£1, 456.80
Howard Dockray & Son (labour and machine hire)	£468
Geoff Lee	£18.32

Income

Howard Dockray & Son (insurance refund) £150

Bank balances as at 29th November 2017

Treasurer's Account - **£54,856.65**

Business 30 Day Notice Account - **£5,228.13**

11) Matters for next month's agenda

Finance (Precept)

The meeting ended at 9.09pm