

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

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

1) Apologies for absence

Cllr Crellin

2) Planning Committee – planning applications

21/04257/FUL – 1 Ropehaugh Cottages, Allenheads

Cllr Howard proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Graham seconding this as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policies 1 & 2: General Development Principles and Scale of Housing Development, and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

21/04416/FUL & LBC – Bishopside, Colliery Lane, Catton

Cllr Graham proposed **no objections** 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.

21/04526/FUL – Dene Croft, The Dene, Allendale

Cllr Howard proposed **no objections** the application with Cllr Simmonds 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.

21/02910/COU – Deneholme, Allendale

Allendale Parish Council had previously proposed **to support** the application when it was discussed at its meeting in August 2021, and it proposed no change to its original recommendation.

21/04584/FUL & LBC – Hotspur House, Arnison Terrace, Allendale

After looking at the application again at a Zoom meeting, Cllr Howard proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr Philipson seconding this as it is in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 9: Extensions to Dwellings, and the motion was carried by the Council.

3) Declarations of Interest

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

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

4) Public participation

There was one member of the public in attendance.

Alleged byway No 5 contest

Professor Julie-Marie Strange asked the parish council for support in contesting the alleged byway no. 5. She presented historical information that proved that the byway was legally stopped up on the grounds that it was unsafe, and that it was rerouted to become what was now Common Bank. She said that the original byway was subsequently redesignated as a footway by the same legal process. Prof Strange had obtained an extension to the deadline (1st October 2021) for the return of information until 1st January 2022. The Council agreed to support the alleged byway based on the evidence provided. The Clerk was asked to write to Alex Bell at NCC to say that since it first supported the application in May 2021 evidence had come to light that not all interests of the parish had been represented in making that decision and that it wished to instead support the contesting of the byway no. 5. Prof Strange would send the evidence presented at the meeting electronically to the Council.

5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 4th November 2021

Cllr Howard proposed, and Cllr Philipson seconded that the minutes of the planning meetings held on 4th November 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

6) Matters Arising

Allocation of housing in Allendale

The Clerk had received a statement on housing allocation in the parish for the last two years from Susan Ogle, Housing Operations Manager, who had attended Allendale Parish Council's meeting in November 2019. She reminded us that Allendale was covered by the Rural Allocation Policy which meant that although all properties were advertised on Homefinder, any applicant could bid, and those with a connection to Allendale would be considered first for re-housing no matter what their banding was. If, after two rounds of advertising there were no applicants with a rural connection, then the property would be allocated to the person in greatest housing need outside of the area. In the last two years 14 properties have been allocated (eight by NCC and six by Karbon Homes). Out of the 14, 10 were allocated to applicants with a rural connection and four to those without. Six of those with a rural connection were in Band 3, which indicated they did not have a housing need but were successful because they had the rural connection. The only reason that a property would have been allocated to an applicant from outside the area would be because no one from Allendale or with a rural connection applied. Susan Ogle said that regarding Arnison Close, they had struggled to let several vacancies and that if anyone in Allendale was interested in moving in, they should contact Susan Ogle directly on 01670 622909.

Parking of camper vans in Allendale square

The Council had received a reply from Stephen Rickitt and would be following up on his advice to discuss the legal route to regulating parking with NCC. He said that consultation on any proposed changes to the existing arrangements would be key.

Recruitment of Councillors

The Council agreed to authorise a *draft* councillor application form at its January meeting and invite applications for the councillor vacancies by its February 2021 meeting.

Repairs to paved area outside the Post Office and Arnison Terrace

Jason Telford had confirmed that he would be carrying out the work during week beginning 6th December.

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

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

Village Green footpath, Catton

In response to Lesley Campbell's query the parish council had consulted Stephen Rickitt of NALC for advice on the re-instatement of the historic footpath from the main road to the front door of the Chapel. He advised that as the parish council had a management scheme in place under the Commons Act 1989, it *may* have the power to re-instate a path, and that any such action would need to be based on thorough historic research and in full consultation with the community and relevant authorities.

7) County Councillor and Northumberland County Council update

Storm Arwen

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he and his county council colleagues were dealing with the aftermath of Storm Arwen with Northumberland being one of the worse hit regions. He said that the coast had been worst hit with Blyth and Ashington being described as a war zone and shopping centres having to close because of structural damage to the buildings. In the north of the county, in Rothbury and Wooler, people were being re-housed from one care home to another because of the loss of power, and in Blanchland there was no power at all. He said that there were still whole areas of Northumberland still without power and that Northumberland County Council (NCC) were doing everything humanely possible to provide help and resources and that emergency staff were working long hours to deal with the aftermath including:

- a) NCC's Cabinet meeting (virtually) with the emergency services and Guy Opperman MP every day.

- b) Meeting regularly with representatives of Northern Powergrid (NP) who had faced massive criticism as it had clearly not been prepared for an event so big, however it had drafted 145 people in from Yorkshire to help.
- c) the Local Resilience Forum being ready and prepared to help communities as much as possible and making it easy for vulnerable people to find alternative accommodation.
- d) the Communities Together Team working hard getting in regular touch with all vulnerable people either directly or through their carers to ensure that they got the support they needed.
- e) staff being taken off their regular jobs to respond as front-line service officers.
- f) setting up community hubs at various places where people could go and get information and help.
- g) sharing a leaflet: Getting ready for winter, with contact details of where to go for help.
- h) The number of dwellings without power down from 11,00 to 3,900.

Cllr Henderson wanted to know why Allendale Village Hall had not been put forward as a community hub, and she was angry that communication was so poor. She asked why Allendale parish wasn't getting the same kind of support as other parts of the county, including enlisting the support of the army, and why NCC had not put more pressure on NP to provide more information.

Co Cllr Horncastle said that it was decided that the Sports Club would be a more suitable hub as it had showers, although in the event it was only used on request; that it was NP that made decisions about who was prioritised for re-connection and that it simply did not have the capability of providing more sophisticated communication; and he defended NCC saying that the Local Resilience Forum decision making that had decided there was no need to call the army in.

The Council agreed that the major issue was the poor communication, and that some people without power (and water) or a phone signal had no means of finding out what was happening, and that the inaccuracy of the timescales being given out by NP had made people angry. Cllr Howard and the Council commended Cllr Henderson for everything she had done to share essential information with the community.

Cllr White said that the major issue was the poor communication and people not knowing what was happening. He suggested a leaflet drop for vulnerable people who had no access to emergency services and Co Cllr Horncastle agreed to put forward his suggestion to his colleagues.

The Council further discussed how to be better prepared in future and agreed to put in place a community plan for emergencies that would address all the issues that had proved unsatisfactory, including establishing a community hub, and the plan would be reviewed each year. Co Cllr Horncastle said he would source a community plan that could be modified for that purpose.

8) Cemetery Committee

Tree remedial work in Allendale cemetery

The Council agreed to appoint Gavin Reichert to carry out the remedial tree works in Allendale Cemetery.

9) Rights of Way & Access Committee

The Clerk to inform Allendale Estates of the tree that had fallen across the riverside footpath during Storm Arwen 300/400 metres past the Blackett Level towards Catton on the side of Low Mill land.

See Public Participation for Alleged byway No 5 contest

10) Towns & Villages Committee

Allendale War Memorial, Lychgate

The Clerk had started the process of seeking financial assistance from the War Memorials Trust and sent the estimate to carry out the work to the Church Wardens at St Cuthbert's Church for their consideration.

11) Correspondence

Jonny Burns – the use of skips outside the Golden Lion

The Council agreed for the two skips to be placed on the cobbles outside the pub whilst the refurbishment of the first floor takes place.

Julie-Marie Strange – the contesting of Alleged Restricted Byway No 5 (see Public Participation)

To request support from us in contesting Alleged Restricted Byway No 5.

12) Finance Committee

Accounts for payment

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

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as of **18 November 2021 - £ 39,067.88**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balances as of **9 November 2021 - £ 23,401.48**

Precept meeting

The Council agreed to meet on Thursday, 16th December at 6pm in St Cuthbert's Church Hall (subsequently re-arranged as a Zoom meeting on 4th January 2022 at 6pm).

13) Matters for 6th January 2022 agenda

Setting the precept

Councillor recruitment

Community planning for emergencies

Discuss improving the access arrangements outside Natural Beauty, Allendale

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

There were none.

15) Date of next Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting would take place on **6th January 2022** at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 21:30