

**Minutes of the Meeting of Allendale Parish Council
held at Allendale Village Hall on Thursday 7th November 2019
(including minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee)**

Present: Cllr Crellin (Chair), Councillors Baxter, Dunn, Galley, Henderson, Howard, Lee, Philipson, Quinn, Sandison & White

County Councillor Horncastle

H Newsome (Clerk)

Councillor Simmonds arrived late for the meeting (due to unforeseen circumstances).

Planning applications

19/03983/VARYCO – Plot 1, Land South of 32 Forstersteads, Allendale – Cllr Lee proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Howard seconding this, and this was unanimously carried by all those Councillors who were present for the discussion.

19/02202/FUL – Holmwood, Shilburn Road, Allendale – Cllr Philipson proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr Howard seconding this, and this was unanimously carried by all those Councillors who were present for the discussion.

19/04126/TREECA – Allendale Library, Dawson Place, Allendale – Cllr Crellin proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Howard seconding this, and this was unanimously carried by all those Councillors who were present for the discussion.

18/03651/FUL - 1 Oakey Dene, Allendale – The Council expressed some concern about current work being carried out on the windows and a potential variation to the approved planning application. Cllr Sandison to investigate.

18/02127/FUL - Dryside Farm Allendale Hexham – The Council expressed some concern about the prominence of the glamping pods at Dryside Farm. Cllr Dunn to investigate.

Hearings

19/01401/FUL - Land North Of Braeside Cottage, The Peth, Allendale – 12 November at 4pm

Decision notices

19/02680/FUL - Swinhope Row Allendale – GRANTED

1) Apologies for absence

Cllr Hill

2) Declarations of Interest

Councillors Crellin and Quinn declared an interest in Broadband for the Allen Valleys (B4AV), see APC's website for full list: <https://northumberlandparishes.uk/allendale/documents>

3) Public participation

There were two members of the public in attendance. Bill Edgar, Reporter from the Hexham Courant was also present for the meeting. Matty Robson offered to provide services to carry out work on trees in the parish including long-term planning; regular inspections; and maintenance such as pruning and removing dead wood. Mr Robson invited Council members to join him in carrying out an inspection of the trees and so that he could show them the poor condition of some of the trees and what needs to be done. The Council welcomed Mr Robson's offer of help and agreed that any contracted services that he provides should be paid for. The Clerk to check on the maximum value allowed for contracted services before the Council was obligated to go out to tender.

4) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 3rd October 2019

Cllr Quinn proposed, and Cllr White seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

5) Matters Arising

Allen House

The Environment Enforcement Officer at Northumberland County Council (NCC) could not shed any more light on the ownership of the land directly around the property and suggested that Allendale Parish Council contact Allendale Estates. He said that he could not uplift the off the road vehicles without the owner's permission. The Clerk to review the historic documents of the Market Place that Cllr Dunn holds.

Allenfields

The Clerk had put in a claim to retrieve the costs from British Telecom for the damage that began when one of its stays had penetrated a drain pipe and caused drainage problems in the field. The Clerk had not yet had a response.

Batey Terrace, Catton

Neil Snowdon of NCC's Highways Department had confirmed that his team were looking at suitable solutions for the concealed entrance at Batey Terrace although he said that a sign is not possible as there are so many such entrances across the county. Mr Snowdon would be happy to meet on site to discuss the proposals once he had the details. **POST MEETING NOTE.**

Catton Village bus stop

The Clerk confirmed that NCC's Economic & Inclusion Policy Team (Neil Easton) would consider a request to display bus timetable information in Catton Village (as is already provided at Allen View). Neil Easton said that if the infrastructure was already in place (post/pole/display case) then the timetable information could be provided quite quickly. If it wasn't then he said there was no quick fix as there was currently more demand for new poles than there was money, and that each request would be prioritised according to its pressing need. The Clerk had sent photos of the partial infrastructure that is in place and is awaiting a response.

Drop kerbs

The Clerk confirmed that she had written to NCC's Highways Department (Neil Snowdon) for an update on earlier plans to install drop kerbs in the Market Place including access to the Co-op (the Golden Lion end) but that she had not yet received a response.

Isaac's Well

Cllr Dunn to forward information on the proposed replacement metal grid so that the Clerk could check its suitability with NCC's Planning Department in view of the Well's Historic Monument status.

Japanese Knotweed

The Green Spaces Officer (West) at NCC (Ms Talbot) had confirmed that the sighting of Japanese Knotweed on Folly Lane was one of 21 managed sites that had been passed on to a contractor for long-term management. She emphasised that there was no easy or early resolution to eradicating the Knotweed and that the contractor would be treating it on a regular basis.

Rectory Field

The Clerk had written to NCC's Highways Department (Neil Snowdon) about the disused water tanks presenting a hazard to pedestrians and vehicles in winter when the water spilled out on the road and freezes. Neil had confirmed to the Clerk that he had referred the matter on to the Area Office to investigate.

Sycamore tree

The Clerk said that tree surgeon Bill Pierce had agreed to liaise with Allendale Primary School in providing a limb or two from the felled Sycamore tree for the school playground.

Waste bins

Cllr Lee confirmed that the waste bin on The Peth had been moved to the finger post. The Clerk confirmed that a new wheeled bin and locking station had now been installed at Ropehaugh as the post-mounted bin had proved inadequate for the volume of waste collected. The Council agreed for the post-mounted bin at Ropehaugh to be removed and installed at the foot of Lonkley to replace the broken bin there.

6) County Councillor update

Autumn leaf collection and footpaths – Co Cllr Horncastle said that he had requested a leaf collection as a matter of priority as there was a large build-up of leaves that were both wet and frozen and he was concerned about the safety of pedestrians. He said he had asked Local Services to pay particular attention to the footpaths **Catton – Allendale – Sinderhope** and **The Peth – Thornley Gate – Catton**, and that he would try and get a

second leaf collection at a later date. The Council asked Co Cllr Horncastle to arrange for the vegetation by the side of the road at Peckriding to be removed where there had been a build up over time and where young trees had even taken a hold in the tarmac.

Gullies and drains

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he had requested a massive gully cleaning exercise from Catton through to Allendale.

Northumberland Local Plan

Co Cllr Horncastle said that the new Northumberland Local Plan was out for public examination and that the new plan, with up to date policies should be in place by Christmas.

Road from Thornley Gate to Mill Cottages

Co Cllr Horncastle said that NCC's Highways Department had agreed to re-plane and re-surface the road between Thornley Gate and Mill Cottages in view of its very poor condition. The Council welcomed the news as it had received lots of complaints about the road in recent years.

Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP)

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he was concerned that NCC's Planning Department did not appear to be giving a lot of weight to the ANDP and that he would be taking up the issue directly with the Planning Department. He said that two issues that thrown up quite a lot of debate were the references to settlements, without the specific settlements being mentioned, and tourism that he said the Parish Council may want to strengthen in future. He recommended that Allendale Parish Council undertake an expert review of the Plan in the next few years now that it had been in place for 4/5 years, and a smaller project to look at how the Plan is implemented.

Hexham upheaval!

Co Cllr Horncastle warned the Council to expect a period of chaos in Hexham in the near future with new construction taking place in the following areas of town: Bridge End **roundabout** on the A69; a new **Lidl** store and a **Travelodge** on Hexham's bunker site; new flats approved on Hexham **swimming pool site**; and the construction of two **new school** buildings in Hexham (QE High School and Hexham Middle School).

7) Planning applications – protocol around site visits

The Council agreed to take advice on the circumstances in which Parish Councillors make visits to sites within the parish, and the process around this, following a planning application. The Chair said that NCC's Planning Committee adhere to a very strict protocol for site visits, and Co Cllr Horncastle warned Allendale Parish Council of the need to be impartial as a statutory consultee, otherwise it could be up for judicial review. The Council agreed to consult NCC's Solicitor, Stephen Rickitt as Chair of NALC and the Protocol for Planning Committee Site Visits guidance (in particular Paragraph 14) ready for a further discussion at December's meeting.

8) Recreation Ground – bowling green and hedge cutting

The Council discussed the future upkeep arrangements of the bowling green following on from George and John Little's correspondence confirming that they would not be able to continue cutting the grass due to other commitments. The Council agreed to defer making any decisions about the ongoing maintenance until it had further information about the current arrangements. The Clerk was asked to find these out including requesting a 'job description' from the Little Brothers.

The Council confirmed that the £500 annual ground maintenance paid to Allendale Village Hall should be used to pay for any hedge cutting needed at the Recreation Ground.

9) Allendale Market Square

BT Telephone Kiosk

In view of the current poor condition of the 'listed' telephone kiosk, Cllr Dunn recommended that the Council contact BT, in the first place, for advice on refurbishing it.

Footpath alongside the Allotments

Neighbourhood Services had now cleared the footpath alongside the Allotments. **POST MEETING NOTE.**

Isaac's Well

Cllrs Lee and Dunn were working on an Awards for All application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to secure funds for creating a social gathering point at Isaac's Well with seating and an interpretation board. They had secured

support for their application from both Roger Morris of Isaacs's Tea Trail and David Coverdale of North Pennines AONB. Cllr Lee said that additional funding would need to be sought for the repair of the cobbles around that area and the Council agreed to obtain three quotes from local contractors. Cllr Dunn proposed that the Council support the proposal with Cllr Howard seconding this, and this was unanimously carried by the full Council.

Tree planting scheme

The Council asked the Villages Sub-Committee to devise a tree planting scheme for the Village.

Triangle seating

Cllrs Howard and Philipson agreed to move the seating from the Bullring to the Chapel of Rest for storage over the winter.

10) Climate Action Allendale (including National Community Energy campaign)

Cllr Hill, who had sent his apologies to the meeting, had shared his brief Climate Action Allendale report with his fellow Councillors prior to the meeting, and Cllr Crellin read this out. Since the adoption of the Climate Change resolution at the previous meeting there had been a lot of positive feedback with local people coming forward to cooperate and develop the ideas first put forward. This included Yvonne Conchie from Sustainable Allen Valleys, Ginny Swale from Plugging the Gaps, the Fawside Foundation, bulk purchasing through the Co-op and a Refill Pop Up shop at the Forge. The Council discussed the need for an easily accessible electric car charging point in the parish and the Clerk was asked to find out the current status of the charging point at Allen Mills. The Council welcomed Ginny Swale's suggestion for a community leaf collection as recycling the leaves would save landfill space although Co Cllr Horncastle warned that dog excrement can present a hazard and advised that personal and protective equipment be used.

11) Looking ahead – creating an annual plan

The Council agreed to add this item to the January 2020 agenda.

12) Correspondence

Iain Hedley, Community Regeneration Officer, NCC – The Clerk to post a copy of the most recent Local Services joint Charter and Who's Who on the Parish Council website.

Steve Shaw, Director Power for People – The Council agreed to sign up to the campaign and passed a motion in support of the Local Electricity Bill.

13) Accounts for payment

Cllr Quinn proposed the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Howard.

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as at **25th October 2019 - £69,195.26**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balance as at **9th October 2019 - £ 5233.15**

14) Matters for December's agenda

Planning applications – protocol around site visits

Maintenance of bowling green

Overgrown ivy on the footpath up to Thornley Leazes (from Bridge End)

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

There were none.

16) Date of next Parish Council meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **5th December 2019** at St Cuthbert's Church Hall at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 9:20 pm.