

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

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

1) Apologies for absence

There were no absences

2) Planning Sub-Committee

Planning applications

20/04248/FUL – 43 Wentworth Park Allendale

Cllr Dunn 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, two and three, and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

20/04048/FUL – The Hawthorns Shilburn Road Allendale

Cllr Lee proposed **to object** to the application with Cllr Howard seconding this as it was not in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 2: Scale of Housing Development, para (b) as the double garage was larger than the footprint of the two houses together. The motion was carried by a majority of the Council.

Hearing – 20/00242/FUL – Development at The Barn Spartylea

The Council discussed the application and collectively agreed that a more liberal attitude towards the building materials used for such a dwelling, for example steel and glass, was both in keeping with North Pennines AONB guidelines and good architectural practice. Cllr Crellin agreed to represent the Parish Council and support the planning application at the Local Area Council (Planning) meeting on 9th February 2021 at 2pm when the application would be heard.

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 and Cees van der Land (for the Electrical Vehicle Charging item); and David English, NCC Planning Department, attended for the ANDP item.

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

Cllr Quinn proposed, and Cllr Howard seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th January 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

6) Matters Arising

Benches

Cllr Crellin proposed to approve the draft tender notice to be used to appoint a contractor to carry out the restoration and maintenance of memorial benches in the Parish, and this was seconded by Cllr Philipson and carried by the Council.

7) County Councillor update

Elections May 2021

Co Cllr Horncastle said that there was some uncertainty as to whether the scheduled elections would go ahead in May, and that they could still be delayed. He encouraged everyone to vote by post by completing the **application to vote by post** that had been sent to all those residents that were currently not registered to receive a postal ballot paper.

Northumberland County Council savings

Co Cllr Horncastle confirmed that NCC would be receiving an extra £23m (increasing the total budget from £780m to £803m) in the next financial year including an extra £5.4m allocated to adult social services, £10m for child services and £3.5 for highways. It would still need to make £8.1 million efficiency savings he said.

Repair to roads

Co Cllr Horncastle said that the wet weather and freezing conditions had presented serious problems on the highways and that the roads had deteriorated in the last few months. He congratulated the Highways Team for tackling urgent pothole repairs in the parish with speed, whilst acknowledging that they may not last long. He also confirmed that whilst there was not the funding for all repairs Highways had agreed to a brand-new repair at Deneholme corner where the road would be planed off and then resurfaced. He said that he had also requested for gully work to be carried out in the parish.

8) Coronavirus matters

Cllr Quinn publicly thanked Co Cllr Horncastle for standing up for the general public against 'Covid-19 deniers' and for his 'brave and extremely useful comments' that were recently reported in the Hexham Courant.

9) Allendale May Fair 2021

Cllr Hill said that arrangements were being made for a one-day event on Saturday 10th July with music by local performers and activities for young people. He said some of the usual activities such as music in the square, the climbing tower, woodland and pre-school activities were being planned for including the fell race and the provision of food and drink, but only from existing pubs and cafes. The event was intended as a local community event and would be promoted as such should it go ahead but the final decision would be made at a later date and be subject to government guidelines.

10) Electrical Vehicle Charging

Cllr Lee said that Richard McKenzie, a senior member of Northumberland County Council's Technical Services department was now providing support to the newly formed Electrical Vehicle Charging working group that comprised himself, Cllr Crellin, Paul Barber and Cees van der Land (with support from the Clerk). Cllr Lee said he welcomed the expertise and experience of Paul and Cees who were already using electrical vehicles and developed knowledge and expertise on this topic. Paul said that there was a need for: a) a longer term (20-year) plan which would set out how to achieve full electric vehicle charging capacity by 2035/2040 when the ban on petrol and diesel cars was to be introduced; and, b) a short-term fix to meet the needs of the current users of EVs and to be a bit ahead of demand. Cees van der Land said that he tried to charge his EV at the public facility at Allen Mill as often as possible but with irregular opening times there (the gates to the grounds are locked at night-time) he invariably charged his car on the street outside his home (at Mill Cottages) by way of an extension lead. Cees said that there weren't many charging points in the North Pennines and that it made sense to get ahead of the game to make staying in the area more attractive to visitors. The Council discussed which sites might be suitable for charging that included installing new parking bays close to the sub-stations at the newly acquired land at Allenfields and NCC land at Denefields, as well as acknowledging the need for a charger somewhere close to the Market Square. Paul agreed to take the lead and prepare a formal proposal for the Council to consider at its March 2021

meeting. Cllr Crellin thanked the working group for all the work that it was doing on behalf of the parish council.

11) Grant applications

The Council considered applications from ten organisations. Councillors declared their interests in Allendale School & Community Sports Hall (Cllrs Lee and Dunn), Allendale Football Club, Allendale Sports Club and Allendale Local History Group (Cllr Dunn) and did not take part in the discussion. One of the applicants was not eligible for a grant as they were a sole trader. The Council agreed to grant awards to all the other applicants as shown below. The Clerk would amend the online application to clarify the eligibility of applicants and also include space for the applicants' bank details so that payments could be made by BACS.

Age UK	£150	Citizens Advice Northumberland	£150
Allendale Football Club	£100	Great North Air Ambulance	£150
Allendale School & Community Sports Hall	£200	Miscreations Theatre Ltd	£200
Allendale Sports Club	£200	Tynedale Hospice at Home	£150
Allen Valleys Local History Group	£200		

12) Allendale's Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP)

Following on from the Council's agreement at January's meeting to undertake a formal review of ANDP, David English joined the meeting to hear where changes to the Plan might be considered. Prior to the meeting David had presented in writing three options for reviewing the neighbourhood plan that he presented again: **a) minor review** with very minor changes to the text that could be done without further community consultation; **b) material modifications** that do not change the nature of the plan and that would involve changes to the existing policies, and that would require community engagement, (eight weeks) consultation and an independent examination; and **c) material modifications** that change the nature of the plan and that would involve wholesale review with modification to existing policies and the addition of new policies, and that would involve community engagement and consultation, independent examination and referendum. David English invited the Council to consider: which bits of the Plan had been working and not working; which bits the planners had been using regularly and ignoring; if there was anything missing in the Plan; and, if the green spaces around schools needed to be protected. He said that his team was already looking at all the planning applications data since the ANDP had been introduced and that he would be able to provide a report. Cllr Horncastle agreed that the Council was right to review the Plan but recommended that this was started in three months' time once NCC's new Local Plan was in place. Co Cllr Horncastle, David English and the Council all agreed that the Planning Officers continued not to give proper weight to the ANDP given that it remained the most recently adopted plan, and they all agreed to continue to remind the Planning Officers of this point. Cllr Simmonds proposed that it would not be right for the current Council to make any decisions about the way forward, but rather for the newly elected Council (in May) to draw up recommendations and agree to what would inevitably be a time-consuming process.

13) Land Registry Survey for Local Councils

The Council agreed to the Clerk's draft submission for the Land Registry online survey with a few tweaks. The Clerk to enquire about papers held in the safety deposit box at Lloyds Bank.

14) Towns & Villages Sub-Committee

Footpath near Blakett Level tunnel

Cllr Lee said that Duncan Lovett, NCC's Footpaths Officer would be meeting with the Rivers Trust to address the problems of the erosion of the river bank. He would also be involving Northumbrian Water as the erosion was getting closer to the village sewage works.

Footpath at Holms Linn (502/074)

Cllr Lee said that he hoped to have an update from Duncan Lovett at the March 2021 meeting on any plans to repair the footpath at Holms Linn where Cllr Sandison said it was in very poor condition.

Tree planting scheme

The Council agreed to refund Matty Robson for five trees purchased under the new tree planting scheme. Cllr Dunn would liaise with Matty to recover the money from those members of the community who had agreed to donate trees.

15) Climate Action Allendale

Cllr Hill passed on information about the forthcoming Tynedale Transformed and St Cuthbert's Eco events:

Tynedale Transformed

Climate Crisis: Young People's Perspectives on Their Future on Saturday, 6th February 2021 (Hexham Debates) - Current Tynedale school students and recent students will articulate their feelings, hopes and fears for the future of the planet and what needs to change.

Climate Day: "What can we do in our communities about climate change?"

Sunday, 14th February 2021 - Panel discussion: 4.30pm - 6pm

Panellists: **Helen Forbes**, St Cuthbert's Ecochurch, Allendale, **Yvonne Conchie**, Sustainable Allen Valleys, Alison Smith, Matthias Winter Hexham and Rhona Craddock, Unison N Region, Climate Change Lead

<https://www.tynedaletransformed.org/events/>

St Cuthbert's Eco Church events:

Earth Hour – Saturday March 27th 8:30pm <https://www.earthhour.org/>

Climate Sunday – <https://www.climatesunday.org/>

Churchyard – <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/>

16) Correspondence

Phil Walter and Ivan Robson

The Council acknowledged the request to look at the possibility of using an area of the newly acquired land at Allenfields for additional parking, and agreed to keep this request in abeyance pending consideration of providing electric vehicle charging points in the parish.

17) Accounts for payment

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

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as at **19th January 2021 - £ 63,242.37**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balance as at **11th January 2021 - £ 5,235.51**

18) Matters for 4th March 2021 agenda

Policy on Reserves

19) Confidential agenda item (for Council only)

There were two.

20) Date of next Parish Council Zoom teleconference

The next Parish Council meeting would take place on **4th March 2021** at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 21:30