

**Minutes of the Meeting of Allendale Parish Council
held in Allendale Village Hall on Thursday 5th April 2018
(including minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee)**

Present: Councillors Philipson (Chair), Crellin, Dunn, Galley, Lee, Quinn, Sandison, White
County Councillor Horncastle
H Newsome (Clerk)

There were no planning applications to review. The Chair informed the meeting of the following three decision notices:

18/00431/FELTPO	Tree Preservation Order application	PERMIT GRANTED
17/01273/FUL	Land West Of Westburnhope Moor	GRANTED
17/04672/FUL	Land North Of Meadow Gate, Catton	WITHDRAWN

1) Apologies for absence

Cllrs: Baxter, Henderson, Howard & Simmonds

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr Crellin declared an interest in the Dale Singers, Allendale Folk Festival & Allen Valleys Promotions Ltd and St Cuthbert's Church

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

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 & Natural Ability

Cllr Quinn declared an interest in Natural Ability

Cllr Sandison declared an interest in Allendale Film Club

3) Public Participation

There were two members of the public in attendance.

County Cllr Horncastle agreed with the public concern about the lack of drainage for surface water that collects and freezes on the footpath at Denefields, that was reported at the Parish Council meeting in December 2017 and that remains as a hazard to pedestrians. Cllr Horncastle confirmed that the issue was being addressed by Northumberland County Council as a matter of priority.

County Cllr Horncastle agreed to take up the public concerns about the increasing erosion of the public footpath between The Peth and Mill Cottages that is part of Isaac's Tea Trail. Cllr Lee said that Duncan Lovatt, the Footpaths Officer was aware of the problem and had planned a further visit over Easter to review the footpath. The Chair mentioned the mailbox that the Parish Council

is encouraging folks to use to report footpath concerns which is allendaleparishcouncil@outlook.com

The Chair confirmed that the Council has been unable to locate the bench that was bought in memory of the local teacher, Helen Alison (also known by her married names Henderson and Makepeace) and that the Council has no record of the seat ever being given.

The Clerk agreed to a request from the public to include the date of the next meeting at the end of minutes.

One member of the public wished to discuss the West of Northumberland school consultation (see the discussion notes at 7 below).

4) Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th March 2018

Cllr Quinn proposed, and Cllr White seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2018 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

5) Matters Arising

Dog waste bins for Allenheads

County Cllr Horncastle agreed to arrange for Northumberland County Council to replace the lower part of the dog waste bin that was removed last year and not returned. Clerk to confirm that bagged dog waste can be put in any council waste bin that includes the bin in front of the Engine House at Allenheads.

Reporting dog waste problems

Clerk to use social media to get messages out about how folks should report concerns about dog waste.

Condition of pathways in Allendale and Catton

The Vice Chair agreed to walk the footpaths around Catton and report back in view of public concerns about the poor condition of the surfaces.

County Cllr Horncastle to follow up on the public concerns about the condition of the footpaths around the Village Hall that is causing people using the venue some concern.

Salt bin for Recreation Ground

The Clerk to find out from Northumberland County Council on what terms a salt bin could be installed at the Recreation Ground for use around the entrance to the Village Hall.

Shrubs for pruning

Cllr Dunn to work with Practical Landscapes and make arrangements for the shrubs to be pruned along Arnison Terrace. Clerk to put Cllr Dunn in touch with Neil McLaughlin once a date has been arranged for his first visit.

Great British Spring Clean Week

Cllr Dunn proposed that the Council get involved with the Great British Spring Clean Week in 2019 and involve the local schools.

6) County Councillor update

County Cllr Horncastle said that the alternating frost and thaw conditions this winter had caused so much damage to the roads that Northumberland County Council were struggling to keep on top of repairs to potholes. The Council questioned the approach and methods used to repair the potholes and asked if resources could be directed more towards prevention. Cllr Horncastle said that Highways is very aware that repair work needs to be made more permanent and acknowledged the drainage issues that could be tackled to prevent the flooding and damage to the roads, for example, near the race course road. He said that NCC had received more government money to pay for road repairs, on top of what has already been set aside, and that the more permanent road repairs would be done once the weather improves.

County Cllr Horncastle said that since Northumberland County Council withdrew the Northumberland Core Strategy in July 2017 the Council has been preparing a new county-wide Local Plan. He said that most of the work on the Plan was complete and that the Council is currently inviting views on preferred housing and employment development locations. Following on from this he said the public consultation on the new draft Local Plan would take place in summer 2018. Cllr Horncastle said that the new Local Plan would be in place only 2/3 months later than the original plan that was withdrawn.

County Cllr Horncastle agreed to a request by Cllr Lee to find out the status of the old First School building that was sold in 2017. Cllr Dunn requested that the notices in the windows are removed as they are no longer pertinent.

Cllr Quinn informed County Cllr Horncastle that he has made a formal complaint to Northumberland County Council about information presented in the Council Tax bills for 2018-19 that is misleading. When investigating the overall 3% increase in the 2018/2019 bill he noticed that the figure in the column *% change from 2017/18* for Adult Social Care is shown as 2% rather than 42.6% which he has calculated it to be. Cllr Quinn emphasised that his complaint concerns the misrepresentation of the information, rather than the total amount of the Council tax bill or the very large percentage increase to the Adult Social Care precept.

7) Education in the West of Northumberland consultation

Vice Chair, Cllr Crellin chaired this part of the meeting on behalf of Chair, Cllr Philipson's because of his declared interest.

Maggie Keyte attended the meeting to hear the Council's discussion and how it intended to respond to the consultation. Ms Keyte brought attention to recent developments that included: correspondence from 12 headteachers and governors sent to Wayne Daley and the Chief Executive of NCC asking for a deferment to the closing date of the consultation; the recent Ofsted inspection of Haydon Bridge High School (results not known until 8th May); and correspondence sent to NCC from local educationalists questioning the need for a 'super school'.

Vice Chair, Cllr Crellin invited people to put forward their views on the *informal* consultation, both personal and those of the organisations that they represent. Cllr Dunn said that the governing body of Allendale Primary School had already responded to the consultation and put forward their favoured option (b), although Cllr Lee said he did not fully agree and said there should be parental choice. County Cllr Horncastle reminded the Council that the consultation document is an informal

document and consultees are being asked to consider the three options proposed by NCC and come up with any other model that is viable. He also confirmed that the voice of the Parish Council does carry weight, but he couldn't confirm whether a *formal* consultation would follow. Cllr Galley proposed, and Cllr Sandison seconded, that the Parish Council **should not** respond to the informal consultation as it did not have enough information and facts linked to the students in the Parish, and how this would affect them. The proposal was amended with the Clerk being asked to inform NCC why Allendale Parish Council would not be responding to the consultation. The revised proposal was carried by the remaining Cllrs with the exception of Cllr Dunn who was against the proposal. The Clerk was asked to submit the response on behalf of the Council.

8) Allendale Market Square

Planters

Cllr Lee informed the meeting that the new flower planter is now in place and that he would take on its maintenance if someone could be found to do the watering. He said that the planter was positioned to cover up an uneven footpath that was deemed a trip hazard.

Street lighting modernisation project

The Clerk to arrange for Northumberland County Council to adjust the new street light near the hearse house to reduce the glare caused to motorists.

Re-cobbling of Market Place

The Council unanimously agreed to go ahead with the re-cobbling of the Market Place and ensure that the conduits are put in place ready for the undergrounding of the electric cables. Clerk to contact Coulson Construction Ltd and check if the company are happy to stand by the original quote or submit a revised estimate.

Street bin outside Tea Rooms

Clerk to contact Northumberland County Council and arrange for a replacement metal sleeve to be fitted in the street bin outside the Tea Rooms so that the waste can be collected and emptied once again.

Benches for 'the Island'

Cllr Dunn to make arrangements for installing the refurbished benches on the Island.

9) Allotments Agreement

Clerk to circulate the revised allotment agreement to all Councillors for comment.

10) Correspondence

- a) Clerk to circulate the list of correspondence to all Councillors in advance of the monthly Parish Council meeting.
- b) The Council had no objections to the proposed correction to the Commons Register in relation to Clayhole, Spartylea, Allendale, NE47 9UR.
- c) The Clerk to retain the details of Smailes Construction Ltd on a future tendering list for construction and civil projects.

Sharon Spurling, Carers Northumberland

Clerk to circulate information received from Carers Northumberland and use social media to help raise awareness of their services directed at unpaid carers in the community.

Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC) 2018 Briefing & Training Programme

The Chair proposed, and Cllr Galley seconded to:

- a) pay the £20 fees required for the Clerk to attend two briefing sessions on Audit & Finance and Data Protection & Freedom of Information (FOI)
- b) meet the Clerk's travel costs to the venues at HMRC's approved mileage rate which is 45pence/mile

The Chair proposed that the Council discuss whether it should switch to internet banking at the Parish Council and Annual General Meeting (AGM) meeting in May 2018. He said that any change to the financial arrangements would require the standing orders to be amended which could be done at the AGM.

12) Social Media

The Clerk confirmed that the new Facebook page for Allendale Parish Council was set up although this was not yet live. The Council agreed to postpone making a decision as to whether to opt for a 'group' type account or a 'page' type account until the next meeting when Cllrs Baxter and Henderson are likely to be present.

13) Accounts for Payment

R Ford (Village Keeper)	£ 55
Broadband for Allen Valleys (Donation)	£ 500
Allendale Youth Ambition (Donation)	£ 500
NCC (Annual Rate Bill for Cemetery)	£ 367.33
PCC of Allendale (room hire on 8 th March)	£ 25
Allendale Village Hall (room hire on 15 th March)	£ 25
G Lee (plants for new planter)	£18.95
Lloyds Ltd (new hand mower)	£ 378

Income:

Northern Electric (Wayleave 71144)	£ 1.15
Cemetery	£ 100
Cemetery	£ 150
Cemetery	£ 100

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

Bank balances as at **28th March 2018**

Treasurer's Account - **£45,165.44**

Business 30 Day Notice Account - **£5,228.99**

14) Matters for next month's agenda

There were none

15) Date of next Parish Council meeting and Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The next Parish Council meeting and the Annual General Meeting will take place in Allendale Village Hall on **Thursday, 3rd May at 7pm.**

The meeting ended at 9.31pm