

**Minutes of Allendale Parish Council Meeting  
held on  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 at 7.30pm at Allendale Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr Simmonds (Chair), Councillors Beck, Coulson, Graham, Halliday, Kirk, Philipson, Swaile, Villiers-Stuart, White and H Newsome (Clerk)

**1) Apologies for absence**

Cllr Stevenson and Co Cllr Horncastle

**2) Declarations of interest**

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

[Declarations of Interest \(new council 2022\) 0.pdf \(northumberlandparishes.uk\)](#)

**3) Planning Committee – planning applications**

**22/01583/FUL - Low Rigg High Shield Bank Allenheads**

Cllr Philipson proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr Beck seconding this, and the Council unanimously carried the motion.

**22/01541/VARYCO - River View Lodge The Peth Allendale** – The application had been **withdrawn** shortly before the date of the meeting.

**22/02172/VARYCO - River View Lodge The Peth Allendale**

Allendale Parish Council had previously agreed it had **no objections** to the application when it was discussed at its meeting in July 2022, and it proposed no change to its original recommendation. Cllr Beck declared an interest and abstained.

**4) Public participation**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**

Cllr Philipson agreed, and Cllr Graham seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**6) Matters Arising**

**Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Review**

The Council agreed that the first initial meeting to review the ANDP should be a face-to-face meeting in mid-January (avoiding any school holidays), with a preference for 10<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January if at all possible, and with a fall back on-line meeting plan should the weather conditions be poor.

**Community Orchard**

The Council discussed and agreed to Cllr Beck's proposal to work with young people in the parish and create an orchard in the village. The Council confirmed that it would consider an application for S137 funding if Cllr Beck could not secure money from NCC's Tree Council's Branching Out Fund. Cllr Beck to discuss a suitable site within the Recreation Ground directly with Catherine Stirling-Hill.

**Old Man Bottoms stile**

Cllr Philipson confirmed that he and Natural Ability's Handyperson's Team had now fixed the stile at Old Man's Bottom.

**Proposed bollards in front of the Co-op Shop**

The Council said it was extremely concerned about the lack of progress being made with the design work for installing bollards outside the Co-op Shop, especially considering the recent near miss. The Clerk was asked to write to Northumberland County Council's Technical Services Team to find out the reason for the

delay and to ask for a timescale for the work as they remained concerned about the safety of the Co-op's customers.

#### **Public toilets**

Cllrs Philipson and White to consult Allenheads Trust with the aim of finding a local person who might be willing to maintain the public toilets in Allenheads throughout the winter.

#### **Damaged pavement outside Post Office cash point machine, loose flagstones outside Bunkhouse and loose cobbles outside the Golden Lion**

Cllr Beck confirmed that local contractor Dave Greenwood had agreed to fix the pavement outside the Post Office cash point machine and the loose flagstones outside the Bunkhouse in the next few weeks. Dave would also fix the cobbles and Cllr Graham agreed to meet him to discuss the extent of the works both outside the Post Office and the cobbles.

### **7) County Councillor and Northumberland County Council update**

Co Cllr Horncastle sent his apologies ahead of the meeting.

#### **Bus shelters for Allendale and Catton**

Cllr Graham said that he and Cllr Stevenson would hold a consultation with Catton residents to discuss a suitable design for the proposed new bus shelter in Catton. The Clerk reminded the Council that Co Cllr Horncastle had previously confirmed that he would meet the installation costs in the current financial year, and that she would put the request in writing to Co Cllr Horncastle as soon as the Catton residents had agreed on a suitable design and an estimate of the costs would be known.

#### **Bus shelter for Allendale**

The Clerk would shortly be arranging a date for Cllrs Graham and Stevenson to meet with **Chris Curtis** Of Northumberland County Council's Strategic Transport and Employability Team to discuss the Council's proposal for a new location for the bus stop that was away from the Market Square.

### **8) Allotments Committee**

The Clerk confirmed that she had now written to the tenants of the allotments to ask for confirmation of continuity of tenancy, as well as those on the waiting list to check if they wished to remain of the list.

Cllr Coulson said that work to re-draw the allotment boundaries would resume when the owner of the adjacent property, who lived outside the parish, next visited.

### **9) Cemetery Committee**

Cllr Graham confirmed that Peter Dodd would carry out the drainage work at the cemetery as soon as he was available. The Council discussed the pros and cons of installing either a robust wooden shed or a steel lock up to store Jonah Maurice's equipment used for burials. The Cemetery Committee agreed to look at options available at Henderson's at Acomb and Northern Sheds and put forward its final costings at the January 2023 meeting.

### **10) Rights of Way & Access Committee**

The Council discussed John Rooke's suggestion that Allendale Parish Council might wish to put itself forward for a pilot scheme that Northumberland County Council was considering introducing that would require landowners to maintain or replace Rights of Way structures. The Council agreed to discuss this further once a) NCC had completed its research on how other county councils manage RoW, b) the Clerk had received a response from Paul Jones on the ongoing deterioration of the 150 RoW in the parish, and c) Cllr Swaile had found out from Andy Lees of North Pennines AONB whether there was funding available for a community project to help fix the footpaths (as there was for Devon AONB).

### **11) Towns & Villages Committee**

#### **Parking on Allendale Village Green**

The Council discussed the legalities of parking in the Village Square and what action it could take when vehicles had been abandoned. Whilst the Parish Council could and should follow government guidance and report abandoned vehicles that were either not roadworthy or registered as off the road (SORN) as it was an offence, it could not do this for abandoned vehicles off the highway and on private land. The Clerk would consult the parish clerk in Corbridge to understand the process it went through to better manage parking in the village.

#### **RoSPA play safety inspection reports**

Cllr Graham confirmed that Mark Armstrong had now repaired the steps up to the play frame at Denefields.

### **12) Correspondence**

#### **Johnny Burns, The Golden Lion**

See Matters Arising above

#### **Geoff Lee, Catton resident**

The Council agreed to install a wheelie bin and locking station at Allen Mill to replace the post-mounted bin one that had gone missing.

#### **John Colley, Tar'barl Committee**

Cllr Villiers-Stuart agreed to advise the Allen Valleys Folk Festival team to take advice from the Tar'barl Committee on how to prevent damage to the tarmac when it holds its annual wolf burning event in the Market Square.

#### **Communications Team, NCC**

The Council discussed what it could do to improve community resilience in the event of weather events and loss of power and agreed to find out and publish information on what local community groups were doing to support people. Cllr Swaile agreed to co-ordinate the work on behalf of the Council.

#### **Laura, old Lloyds Bank**

Cllr Kirk and Andrew Docchar had investigated the water leak outside Emma's Coffee Shop and discovered that the source of the leak was a faulty stopcock and that the water had been seeping over the grass down to the path. The Clerk had reported the leak, and NWL had raised a job for repair on 2 December 2022 (later re-confirmed for 6<sup>th</sup> December).

#### **Amelia Robson, Hedley Planning Services Ltd**

Cllr Simmonds confirmed that the Council would discuss the proposal to install a wind turbine at Benfoot, Allenheds when it had all the details and when it had received the formal planning application. The Clerk to draw Hedley Planning Services' attention to Allendale's Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 10: Small Scale Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Schemes and North Pennines AONB Planning Guidelines.

### **13) Finance Committee**

#### **Accounts for payment**

Cllr Kirk proposed that the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Swaile.

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as of **30 November 2022 - £ 62,147.47**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balances as of **9 November 2022 - £ 16,442.96**

#### **Precept setting meeting**

The Finance Committee had met on 22 November and set the draft Precept at £41,000. After discussion Cllr Swaile supported the proposal, with Cllr Halliday seconding this, and the Council unanimously carried the motion. On behalf of the Council Cllr Halliday thanked Cllr Kirk for his clear presentation of the financial information.

### **14) Matters for 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 agenda**

#### **Precept setting**

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

There was one.

**16) Date of next Parish Council**

The next Parish Council meeting would take place on **5<sup>th</sup> January 2023** at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 21:45