

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Allendale Parish Council held in Allendale Village Hall on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018**

**Present:** Councillors Philipson (Chair), Crellin (Vice Chair), Baxter, Galley, Howard, Lee, Quinn, Sandison, Simmonds & White  
H Newsome (Clerk)

### **1) Apologies for absence**

County Councillor Horncastle  
Cllrs: Dunn, Henderson & Walter

### **2) Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Baxter declared an interest in the Allendale Agricultural Society  
Cllr Crellin declared an interest in the Dale Singers, Allendale Folk Festival & Allen Valleys Promotions Ltd  
Cllr Dunn declared an interest in Allendale Primary School, Allendale Sports Club & Allendale Golf Club  
Cllr Henderson declared an interest in the Allendale Agricultural Society, Allendale Horticulture Society and Allendale Baby & Toddler Group  
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  
Cllr Simmonds declared an interest in St Cuthbert's Church, North Pennines AONB Partnership Board & Allen Valleys Landscape Partnership Board

### **3) Public Participation**

There was one member of the public in attendance.

#### **Interpretation in the Allen Valleys**

Fiona Knox of North Pennines AONB gave a presentation on interpretation boards that describe the area's industrial heritage that will be going up in the next few weeks (once all the permissions are in place). She said that great care had been taken to ensure the narrative on the panels is accurate by consulting widely. Fiona requested that the Parish Council adopt these as a legacy from Allen Valleys Landscape Partnership Scheme (AVLPS) that ends in the autumn 2018. The materials used for four of the panels (Holmes Linn, Blackett level, Frolar Meadows and Cleugh Head) is robust and zinc-etched and has been designed to require either minimal or no maintenance. A durable and tough type of Formica will be used for the more traditional fifth panel to be positioned on Dryburn Moor.

The Council agreed unanimously to adopt the panels and Fiona agreed to check and confirm the precise position of the Blackett level panel, the durability and life expectancy of all the panels,

especially the Dryburn Moor panel given its high position and exposure to all weather conditions, and, the value of the panels for insurance purposes.

#### **4) Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Cllr Lee proposed and Cllr Galley seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

#### **5) Matters Arising**

##### **Road signage**

Following on from a visit on 17 January to look at road signage, Neil Snowden and Stephen Lowes are looking to improve the direction signs in the village. The Council considered and agreed to Neil's proposals for reducing traffic speeds near the school, with the proviso that the afternoon timings for the single yellow lines is adjusted from 14:30 – 16:00 to 15:00 to 16:00. Councillors said that this adjustment would be less disruptive for lunchtime users of the Village Hall and would therefore be better supported. Clerk to request Neil and his team to re-do the white lines by the drop kerbs in the Market Place when they come to fix the markings at the school.

##### **Practical Landscapes**

The Chair informed the Council of his meeting on 10 January with Neil McLaughlin to discuss his company's approach to keeping the footpaths clear of leaves and weeds. After discussing the likely costs to the Parish, the Council agreed to Neil's proposal for leaf collection to start as early as possible. Clerk to check the service level agreement that the Parish has with Northumberland County Council, with a view to understanding better and improving the service provided. Following on from this the Council agreed to review what additional work is likely to be required from Practical Landscapes at their next meeting.

##### **Abandoned car in Village**

Vice Chair/Clerk to inform the DVLA of the car, parked on the highway that has not been taxed or insured since 2015.

##### **Garden allotments**

Chair to put formal agreements in place with terms for each allotment holder.

##### **Speed warning signs in Catton**

The Council discussed and agreed to the terms of the 12-month maintenance/service contract provided by SWARCO. Clerk to arrange for the contract to start on the anniversary of the date they were installed, following on from the 12-month warranty. Clerk to also check the terms of the insurance arrangements.

##### **Northumberland Parishes website**

The Clerk said that she was getting together material ready for the site with help from Cllrs Baxter and Henderson who have sourced images from local photographers. Cllrs Baxter and Henderson to meet with Clerk on 7<sup>th</sup> February to discuss what use of social media is going to be appropriate for helping to get Parish Council messages across. Cllr Sandison reminded everyone of the Facebook account set up by Yvonne Conchie, 'Allendale Area Notices' that is providing a great local information service and has over 500 followers.

#### **6) County Councillor update**

County Cllr Horncastle was not in attendance.

## **7) Haydon Bridge High School consultation**

Vice Chair, David Crellin conveyed information passed on from Maggie Keyte concerning Northumberland County Council's forthcoming consultation looking at education in the west of Northumberland. This included the revised dates for Phase 2 of the consultation which are 19<sup>th</sup> February to 9<sup>th</sup> April that were also published in the Hexham Courant. Councillors agreed to defer this item until their next meeting when they should have the information Parish Councils are being consulted on as part of Phase 2 of the consultation. Clerk to obtain this information as soon as it has been published.

## **8) Allendale Market Square**

### **Benches**

The Council agreed for Malcolm Howard to clean up the benches around the Village. Everyone to use whatever information they have to try and locate the bench that was bought in memory of a local teacher.

### **Planters**

The Council agreed for Malcolm Aitchison to provide two additional planters for the Village. The Chair and Cllr Lee to discuss the design of the planter that will cover the area where a tree once grew. Chair/Clerk to write to local groups asking if they would be interested in providing funds to sponsor a planter.

## **9) Footpaths**

### **Footpath in woods west of the Holms Linn lead mine**

Cllr Quinn reported on his recent experience of a section of this footpath through woodland, where the boggy conditions had caused the boardwalk to move, making the footpath hazardous. Cllr Quinn suggested a diversion around the woodland might be a better option and Cllr Howard said that the tenant farmer was also keen to see the footpath moved. Fiona Knox said that whilst there may be lengthy procedures to bring about a formal diversion, that she would let Duncan Lovatt, the Footpaths Officer know, since there was a general desire for this.

### **Footpath at Pry Hill from Rowantree Stob**

Duncan Lovatt has already been notified of the stretch of the path where it is sliding away and Duncan has confirmed that he is happy to make sure the issues are addressed in order to make improvements.

### **Footpath near Steelhead Cottage, near Woolley**

Cllr Simmonds reported that this popular route, featured in walking books, is not passable as it is shown on the map. The route takes walkers over a barbed wire fence into a quagmire with no indication of which way to come out of it. Cllr Simmonds suggested a diversion to the left of the property would provide a safe and acceptable alternative route. Both Cllr Simmonds and Cllr Lee have already notified Duncan Lovatt of the issues.

## **10) Correspondence**

### **Gordon Allan, Talking Matters**

The Council has received information on the Being Active Matters Project that aims to improve mental health in the County by linking sports/activity communities together. Clerk to suggest that Mr Allan make a direct approach to the local organisations that are best placed to advise on how the project could work with the local community and sports providers.

**Iain Hedley, Community Regeneration Officer, Northumberland County Council (NCC)**

NCC is consulting on the future funding for support services for the Voluntary and Community Sector. Clerk to forward correspondence to Councillors so that they can respond directly if they wish. The consultation is open from 8<sup>th</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.

**Stephen Rickitt, Chief Officer, Northumberland County Council (NALC)**

- Information from the Committee on Standards in Public Life that is reviewing Local Government Ethical Standards. Stephen would welcome views by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018.
- Offer of bespoke training for Clerk and Councillors. Clerk to suggest 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**Dog bin request for junction off main road towards Allendale Golf Club** – Clerk to take the matter up with Northumberland County Council.

### **11) Funding requests**

The following grant funding was awarded:

**Great North Air Ambulance**

Cllr White proposed, Cllr Lee seconded £400 – seven Councillors agreed  
Cllr Simmonds proposed that the remaining £950 should be split equally between the other three applicants and this was unanimously agreed to.

<b>Sport Tynedale</b>	£316.67
<b>Tynedale Hospice at Home</b>	£316.67
<b>Allen Valleys Folk Festival</b>	£316.66

### **12) Accounts for Payment**

R Ford (Village Keeper)	£ 55
Allendale Village Hall (room hire)	£ 25
Allendale Estates U Fund (Way leave for 2017)	£ 5
P A Rutherford (mole clearance)	£100

**Income:**

Cemetery	£300
Allotments	£ 10

Bank balances as at **23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018**

Treasurer's Account - **£49,471.89**

Business 30 Day Notice Account - **£5,228.57**

### **13) Matters for next month's agenda**

Haydon Bridge High School consultation  
Maintenance of footpaths

The meeting ended at 9.32pm