

**Minutes: Allendale Parish Council Meeting
5 December 2024 at 7pm
at Allendale Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Gray, Coulson, Kirk, Beck, Swaile (Chair), Philipson, Simmonds, Johnson, K Naylor (Clerk)

1 Welcome and councillor news

The Chair opened the meeting at 7pm.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllrs Bron, White and Armstrong.

3 Declarations of interest

No new interests were declared. A full list of interests is at

[https://northumberlandparishes.uk/allendale/documents?search=interest&type=All&year\[value\]\[year\]=](https://northumberlandparishes.uk/allendale/documents?search=interest&type=All&year[value][year]=)

4 Planning Committee – planning applications

24/03384/LBC Listed Building Consent: Replacement at Meeting House Cottage Bridge End NE47 9AA

This related to a replacement chimney with the same or very similar materials. Cllr Kirk proposed no objection, Cllr Johnson seconded this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

24/03868/FUL Internal remodelling at Thorn Green Allenheads NE47 9JQ

The extension proposed would use very similar materials to the existing structure. Cllr Johnson proposed the motion no objection, Cllr Philipson seconded this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

APP/P2935/W/24/3355458 [Appeal] Installation of 1no.6kW wind turbine at Lonkley Head Farm NE47 9DF

Cllr Gray declared an interest. There was no need to respond as there was nothing new to add to our original objection.

24/04006/FUL Provision of side extension to provide additional residential accommodation at Spinney Burnlaw Whitfield NE47 8HF

The proposed side extension was believed to be in keeping with the existing building. Cllr Kirk proposed the motion no objection, Cllr Philipson seconded this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

24/04098/LBC Listed Building Consent to replace rotten first floor to west bastle at Sinderhope Shield Sinderhope, NE47 9SB

Cllr Philipson declared an interest. Rotten floor boards had been revealed when straw had been taken up. Cllr Swaile proposed the motion no objection, Cllr Simmonds seconded this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council

24/04104/FUL Steel portal framed general purpose agricultural building for mixed uses at Knockburn Farm Black Way Sinderhope NE47 9SW

This was thought to be for stabling for horses and further storage. Some concerns were expressed about the proportionality of the extension. Cllr Kirk proposed the motion no objection Cllr Coulson seconded this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council

24/04081/FUL Works to cottage including re-pointing stone walls, re-roofing and reinstate cast iron guttering, demolition of byre walls and erection of 2 storey extension on footprint, erection of detached garage and formation of patio areas at Ellershope Cottage Sparty Lea Hexham Northumberland NE47 9UE

The extension proposed lies on the existing footprint with the garage and patio outside it. The design/materials were similar to other local properties. Cllr Beck proposed the motion no objection, Cllr Johnson seconded this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

24/04082/LBC Listed Building Consent for works to cottage including re-pointing stone walls, re-roofing and reinstate cast iron guttering, demolition of byre walls and erection of 2 storey extension on footprint, erection of detached garage and formation of patio areas at Ellershope Cottage Sparty Lea Hexham Northumberland NE47 9UE

Cllr Beck proposed the motion no objection, Cllr Johnson seconded this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council

5 Public participation

There was one member of the public in attendance.

6 Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2024

The minutes were approved

Proposed Cllr Swaile; Seconded Cllr Coulson. Agreed.

7 Matters arising

Replacement planters – Cllr Bron had circulated information about the existing planters and suggested two opposite the pharmacy. Cllr Gray noted that there was also a question of two at Isaac's well. Planters should ideally be frost-proof, impact resistant, and environmentally friendly. Cllr Kirk suggested we defer a discussion about Isaac's Well until after the improvement works have been undertaken. The planters for opposite the pharmacy to be priced by Villages.

Bullring information board – Cllr Gray was supportive of the Allen Valleys History Group placing an information board in the Bullring, the Council agreed that permission be given in principle. Any funding applications to be dealt with via the established scheme.

Patient forum Cllr Johnson reported that this is back in action, meeting every six months with the next meeting being in January, Cllr Johnson to continue as representative.

8 County Councillor and Northumberland County Council update

Co Cllr Horncastle was not present and there was no update.

9 Council General

Councillor vacancies Two councillor vacancies remain open for co-option. It was agreed that the rolling time frame for Expressions of Interest being submitted by the last Friday of the month for consideration at the next meeting was acceptable.

Clerk training It was agreed that the Clerk could do the ILCA course and the council would pay the fee of £120 +VAT. Cllr Swaile proposed; Cllr Coulson seconded. Agreed.

Council Facebook – after a discussion about engagement with the wider community and the need to exclude business endorsements and political affiliations, it was agreed that it was acceptable to include events that are notified to the Clerk and were of interest to local people. In other circumstances these could be directed to the Allendale area notices Facebook page.

10 Allotments Committee

Nothing to report.

11 Cemetery Committee

Quotations for repointing cemetery shed – item to be carried over.

Equipment for gravediggers – Cllr Kirk reported that the gravedigger had indicated that, more useful than a new shed, would be some equipment to help refill the graves, e.g. a mini-skip, also astro turf and new shuttering. Costings had been requested. In the past, the Parish Council had provided shuttering and astro-turf. Mr Foster, who was present at the meeting, indicated that shuttering and skips are usually

provided by cemeteries. There were questions as to availability of the equipment. More information to be obtained from the gravedigger.

Cemetery committee and interested members to visit the woodland area to look at replanting [Sunday 12 January 2025, 2pm].

12 **Rights of Way & Access Committee**

The consultation on the bridle way is next year.

13 **Environment & Climate Change Committee**

Cllr Swaile had applied for some free trees which will be arriving within two weeks including guards and stakes.

14 **Towns and Villages Committee**

Bus shelter update - the site has been measured and a quotation for the base (to be covered with a ramp of earth) of £2730 has been received. Cllr Kirk proposed to accept the quote. Cllr Beck seconded. Agreed. Clerk to write. The earliest the work would commence was likely to be January and is contingent upon permission from DEFRA.

Two responses had been received via the Planning Inspectorate. The response from Natural England was favourable. There had been an objection from the Open Spaces Society. Cllr Philipson had circulated a draft response and this was agreed in content with additional reference to pharmacy access (being crucial primary care in a rural area) and that highways has determined the position of the bus stop. Cllrs Kirk and Philipson to amend the draft and respond.

Mower servicing

Cllr Gray noted that the existing mowing equipment needs to be serviced. The two Iseki tractor mowers seemed not to have been serviced since 2021. Service quotes for just over £600 each (labour and parts, including new blades for the cutting deck) had been obtained and two other mechanics had been approached to no avail. Further quotations to be obtained.

Grass cutting tender

Cllr Gray reported that he and Cllr Johnson were putting together a mowing scheme and tender document. A draft tender document will be circulated together with the Environment & CC committee's Green Spaces document.

Christmas lights

There was a discussion about lights. Clerk to thank Mandy Charlton and suggest that she brings this to the Lions as they may be able to fundraise or source funding for them.

Scotch Hall waste bin

In May 2023 a dog waste bin had been agreed for Splitty Lane and this was installed April 2024. The Scotch Hall bin had been agreed at the same time but not installed. Budget for bins for this year is £300 and £464 has been spent on Splitty Lane bin. This will need to go into next year for budgetary reasons and a re-costing would be needed. The possibility of providing our own bin and mount was raised. Cllr Gray to investigate.

15 **Correspondence**

Correspondence received was noted.

Michael Youngman - the Parish Council has no powers to enforce no-fouling regulations. Correspondent to be advised to contact the Environmental Enforcement Officer who may be able to act on information received.

THF publications - it was noted that the Parish Council cannot endorse any particular business, and that we suggest that the editor puts out a notice on Allendale area notices or Allendale business Facebook pages to gauge interest from local businesses.

Alleyway between Kenilworth Cottage and Forge – Cllr Kirk noted that as this is Village Green there is no provision for a right of way, however, a right of access may exist through prescription (established use). It was believed that the responsibility for maintenance and repair lay with the businesses and residents that lie along the alleyway. In terms of the strimming of the steps, the Parish Council is addressing this in its revised villages maintenance plan.

Forestry Commission - no response had been received from GCS Grays. However, as the Forestry Commission had delegated their responsibilities to them, from the Commission's perspective this matter could be closed.

Brian Bell - Cllr Johnson to contact NCC via Colin Hardcastle. Clerk to write to Mr Bell to note our ongoing discussions with NCC.

Bruce Moir - grit bins are the responsibility of NCC. However, NCC now appear to be using a points system to allocate bins. Cllr Philipson to speak to Mr Moir.

Caravans - the Parish Council believes these to belong to local residents and to be unoccupied.

16 **Finance Committee**

The listed payments were approved. Proposed Cllr Kirk; Seconded Cllr Swaile. Agreed.

Treasurer's account balance as of 30 November 2024: £2595.45

Business 30-Day Notice account balance as of 30 November 2024: £4963.14

Public Sector Deposit Fund of CCLA balance as of 30 November 2024: £60000.00

Draft budget and precept – Cllr Kirk had circulated the draft budget in the advance of the meeting. There were some changes to the draft which were outlined at the meeting. The increase in staff costs re the NALC pay award and increased NI contributions was noted. It was agreed to add cemetery equipment (£1000) and mower servicing (£1200) for 25/26. A precept of £46,000 was proposed.

Cllr Kirk proposed the draft budget with changes mentioned be accepted by the Parish Council (to be published for public comment). Cllr Gray seconded. Agreed.

Allotment reserve to be changed to play equipment reserve. Proposed Cllr Gray. Seconded Cllr Beck. Agreed.

Cllr Swaile to take over the Down to Earth account. Clerk to inform of them (and of the change in Clerk).

17 **Matters for January 2025 Agenda**

Planters pricing and information

Cemetery shed repointing quotes

Scotch Hall waste bin pricing and information

S.137 (or February agenda)

Dropped kerbs and parking

18 **Confidential item(s)**

There were two items.

19 **Date of next Parish Council Meeting**

7pm on 9 January 2025 at Allendale Village Hall

The meeting ended at 9.55pm

Signed:

On: