

**Minutes of the Zoom Meeting of Allendale Parish Council  
(including minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee)  
held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 at 7pm**

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

**1) Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Baxter and Simmonds

**2) Planning Sub-Committee**

**Planning applications**

**20/02807/FUL - Old Brewery B6295 Allendale Town To Catton Allendale**

Cllr Dunn proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Galley seconding this as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 9: Extensions to Dwellings and this was carried by the Council, with the exception of Cllr Henderson who abstained.

**20/02759/FUL - Steelwood Cottage 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: Extensions to Dwellings (bullet points one and two) and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

**20/02417/FUL - Land North Of Lonkley Lodge Lonkley Head Allendale**

Councillors and members of the public expressed concern that they were being consulted again on the Lonkley development planning application: 20/02417/FUL. Members of the public present for the meeting were unconvinced about the drainage plan, especially now that the levels of the dwellings were shown. They were also most concerned about the extensive earthworks that would be required, that could also undermine an existing old retaining wall for a dwelling on Lonkley. Other concerns included the close proximity (eight metres) to existing dwellings, and an increase in the number of cars using Lonkley Terrace, especially opposite Jubilee buildings. One member of the public noted that a further nine papers had been uploaded on the portal after the original 7<sup>th</sup> September deadline, and when all public objections had already been received, with a new later date (15<sup>th</sup> October) for further consultation. In this respect the Clerk was asked to find out why the flood risk assessment and proposed drainage strategy document, dated 24<sup>th</sup> July, had not been uploaded in the first place. Cllr Crellin also expressed dismay about the time and resources required by both councils having to revisit an application which was originally submitted with insufficient documentation, and requested to know the circumstances in which this was allowed to happen. He acknowledged the dismay of those attending the 1<sup>st</sup> October meeting who had to spend time and energy revisiting a poorly drafted application.

Cllr Philipson noted that there was no reference to the existing springs and protecting the source of water supply to Isaacs Well, and asked that attention was drawn to the listed status of the well, and the need for listed building consent. Cllr Quinn proposed to strongly **object** to the application for all the same reasons as set out at the September meeting, with Cllr Howard seconding this, and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

**20/02585/LBC - 2 Brides Hill Cottages Allendale**

Cllr Howard proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Galley seconding this and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

**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 six members of the general public in attendance.

#### **5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020**

Cllr Howard proposed, and Cllr White seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

#### **6) Matters Arising**

##### **Allen View, Catton parking**

Northumberland County Council's Planning Department had confirmed that the creation of driveways on the two sites mentioned falls within the conditions and limitations of Schedule 2, Part 1, Class F of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development\*) Order 1995, as amended. This was because the surfaces were made of porous material.

*\*Permitted Development is that which does not require formal planning approval from the Local Planning Authority.*

##### **Annual Plan**

Cllrs Dunn, Philipson and Galley had met to discuss the plan of works for the parish and would circulate their ideas prior to the November meeting at which they would be discussed.

##### **Blackett Level Tunnel**

Cllr Lee said that Allendale Estates were waiting for consent from Historic England to carry out repair works to the footpath close to Blackett Level Tunnel. In the meantime, they had agreed to remove the plastic (sand) bags that had become dislodged and become an eyesore, and replace these with sandbags.

##### **Joyce Jewitt request for her uncle's name to be added to the Lychgate War Memorial**

The Council again discussed how to move forward with Ms Jewitt's request as it was keen to seek a resolution on the matter, but agreed that Cllr Simmonds (who had sent her apologies to the meeting) should continue with the researching process.

##### **Northern Powergrid – installation of new underground electricity cables**

Cllr Crellin and the Clerk to write to Northern Powergrid to request that it increases the power supply to Allendale Village to allow for the on-street charging of electric vehicles.

##### **Waste bins**

The Council agreed to Cllr Lee's proposal for the Towns & Villages Sub-Committee to review what was best in terms of where new waste bins were installed in Catton, and consider providing a shelter on the site of the old telephone kiosk for those waiting for buses. Cllrs Crellin, Henderson, Lee and Sandison to meet on site at 10.30 am on 2<sup>nd</sup> October to discuss options (making sure to follow social distancing guidance).

#### **7) County Councillor update**

##### **Area Planning Committee**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he expected the Area Planning Committee to be up and running (virtually) again soon.

##### **Catton driving and parking conditions**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he was worried about the lack of consideration shown by people who were putting others at risk because of their speeding as well as those that park dangerously, and said that he had witnessed three near misses locally. He drew attention to the following problems: a) the lack of parking provision on the highway through Catton was leading people to park on both sides of the road causing obstruction, and visibility was poor especially around the bus stop area; b) Catton triangle was rapidly becoming a car park with up to seven cars parked reducing the visibility at the junction and obscuring the road signs; c) parking illegally within 15 metres of the junction adjacent to Catton Methodist Church made it impossible to drive up the lane; and, d) the very poor visibility at the Allendale side of Allen View junction.

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he would arrange to meet Neil Snowdon's line manager on site to work out what could be done, including: reducing the speed limit through Catton to 20 mph, replacing the mirror at Batey Terrace and providing one at the Allendale side exit of Allen View. The Council also discussed other highway

concerns including cars parking on pavements obstructing access and forcing pedestrians on to the road and the need for drop kerbs in the Allendale Market Square.

#### **Catton Village Hall**

Co Cllr Horncastle confirmed that he had provided a large grant from NCC funds to help with the upgrading costs of Catton Village Hall.

#### **Community Speed Gun**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he was still looking to get the scheme up and running and start monitoring the traffic in Allendale.

#### **New Leader of Northumberland County Council removed from office**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that there had been a vast improvement in the atmosphere at the County Council since the new leader, Glen Sanderson, had been appointed, and that it was back to business as usual.

#### **Road from Thornley Gate to Mill Cottages**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he had talked to Glen Harrison of NCC's Highway Maintenance Team and that some re-planing and re-surfacing work would be carried out, in addition to patching as mentioned in the recent traffic regulation order. The work was scheduled for early November 2020.

### **8) Coronavirus matters**

The Clerk said that she had re-instated this item in view of the ever-changing situation. She said that it would give the chair and councillors an opportunity to raise any issues caused by the global pandemic that are affecting the parish and its people and would benefit council discussion. Co Cllr Horncastle said that Covid business grants were being administered by Northumberland County Council – more information here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-coronavirus-local-authority-discretionary-grants-fund>

The Council discussed Richard Price of the Golden Lion's request to provide temporary covered outdoor seating facilities (free-standing marquees/shelters) on the cobbles so that customers could dine outside while observing social distancing measures. The Council agreed to the request provided that the cost of any repairs to any damage to the cobbles caused by the installation of the shelters would be met by the Golden Lion.

### **9) Towns & Villages Sub-Committee**

#### **Allendale to Peckriding roadside kerb and pavements**

The Council expressed its sadness on hearing that Nigel Coates had recently passed away, and agreed to Cllr Philipson's suggestion to get a working group together to continue his good work in clearing the roadside kerb and pavements from Allendale to Peckriding, and keeping the gullies clear.

#### **Tree planting**

The Council agreed to Cllr Lee's suggestion to re-name the standard agenda item 'Market Square' to 'Towns & Villages Sub-Committee' to reflect the work carried out in all areas of the parish. The Council agreed to provide a letter of support to Fawside in its bid for Heritage Lottery funding for its Wild Allen Dales project, and also welcomed the planting of fruit trees on green spaces such as Allenfields and the Recreation Ground. Cllr Crellin said that the parish council had a remit to enhance biodiversity in the parish to mitigate against climate change.

#### **Waste bins and flower tubs**

The Council agreed to Cllr Dunn's suggestion for Malcolm Aitchison to remove the damaged litter bin on the Bullring. Cllr Lee said that: a) two further waste bins were to be installed along Station Road once the sites and fittings were sorted; b) John Colley could provide reinforced (with bolts) ex-tar barrels to replace the damaged ones including the one on the Bullring; and, c) suggested a rolling programme of updating the parish benches as many needed updating including some at the Cemetery. The Clerk was asked to send letters of thanks to those local people that help maintain the parish including the flower tubs.

## **10) Climate Action Allendale**

Cllr Hill informed everyone of Tynedale Transformed's virtual festival that was being held at the weekend from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> October. Higher Ground and B4AV would be taking part in the Sunday early evening session 5.00-6.30, Community Organising and Initiatives. Zoom tickets were free and could be booked at Eventbrite or at [www.tynedaletransformed.org](http://www.tynedaletransformed.org)

## **11) Allendale Play Areas**

### **Allenfields Play Area**

The Council unanimously agreed to Cllr Hill's suggestion to buy two new, unused picnic tables from Allendale Village Hall for £200 for installation in the new play area at Allenfields so that parents and child minders have somewhere to sit whilst the children play.

Cllr Sandison and the Clerk had met with Micky Macgregor of Gibson & Co's Solicitors who had presented the draft conveyancing agreement for the transfer of land at Allenfields to Allendale Parish Council. Mr Macgregor suggested that the Council consider taking out environmental insurance as a precaution.

### **Denefields Play Area**

Cllr Philipson and Cllr Dunn had visited Denefields play area in light of the recent inspection that had drawn attention to some maintenance issues requiring some attention. After consulting local residents, they proposed that the Council use the money that had been ring fenced for such maintenance, to provide an alternative structure to replace the existing one that would be more popular with children and easier to maintain. After discussion the Council agreed to the dismantling of the poles and the installation of a Playdale climbing frame suitable for children aged 3 – 12 years (the same as the one at Allenheads) and a suitable surface. The Council also agreed to Cllr Howard's suggestion for Natural Ability's Handyperson Service to carry out maintenance work to the damaged steps.

## **12) Allendale Bowling Green**

Members of the Council said they were unaware of the current status of the bowling green, and acknowledged that the arrangements put in place in April, for Mel Robinson to cut the grass at the bowling green, were still in place. The Clerk was asked to contact the bowling club and ask for an update on its current situation and if there were plans to re-open.

## **13) Planning for the Future Consultation**

The Council agreed for this item to be postponed until the November 2020 meeting.

## **14) Local Transport Plan 2020/2021 feedback and priorities for 2021/2022**

The Council discussed what should be included as its top three highways and transport priority issues in the parish for inclusion in the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme for 2021/22 and agreed the following:

- a) Reducing the speed limit to 30-mph along Station Road
- b) Extending the 30-mph speed limit from Catton triangle down past Station Garage, Allendale Sports Club and Allen Mill Cottages right up to Thornley Gate and left to The Peth and up to the village

## **15) Correspondence**

The Council agreed to Trevor Newman's request to install a memorial bench close to where his parents have been laid to rest at the Cemetery. Cllr Howard kindly agreed to agree a suitable position for the bench.

## **16) Accounts for payment**

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

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as at **September 2020 - £ 63,531.35**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balance as at **September 2020 - £ 5,235.34**

**17) Matters for 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 agenda**

**Annual Plan**

**Planning for the Future consultation**

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

There were none.

**19) Date of next Parish Council Zoom teleconference**

The next Parish Council meeting would take place on **5<sup>th</sup> November 2020** at 7pm. The meeting ended at 21:17