

**Minutes of the Meeting of West Allen Parish Council**  
**Thursday 8 March 2018 at 7.30 in Ninebanks Church Hall**

**Present:** Steve Agar (Chairman), Alan Greaves, John Martin, Ian Reed, Barbara Ingman (Clerk)

1 Matters arising from previous meeting:

It was agreed to make another request for the road to be repaired between the Blackpool Bridge and Ouston Turn and to ask NCC to let us know what they have planned for repairing the outstanding items. Various individuals have also reported problems and often seem to get a better response than the local Council.

2 **Correspondence:**

- (a) Jennifer Brown sent written notice resigning as Parish Councillor and it was agreed to invite Helen Adams to take her place. It was agreed to write and thank Jennifer for her efforts over many years. Helen Adams would also be informed about a Councillor training courses.
- (b) The Council received a request for a donation of £250 towards the cost of restoring the Rolls of Honour in St Marks Church and it was agreed to give £50.
- (c) **Post-16 Transport Policy:** The County Council is carrying out a consultation on some significant changes to its Post-16 Transport Policy, which would make free travel to their local school or college available for most 16-19 year-olds who live more than three miles away from that local school or college. The proposals which are set out in the consultation document are available to view at [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk). It was agreed to write to the council to support the idea of free travel.
- (d) **Education in the West of Northumberland:** proposals in the consultation document are available to view at [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk). These proposals relate to the possibility of closing the school at Haydon Bridge. The Council want to support the school in Haydon Bridge and it was agreed to respond saying the council feels it is very important to maintain a secondary school in Haydon Bridge.
- (e) Letters of thanks from Air Ambulance and Natural Ability

3. **Planning**

**The following applications have been granted:**

High Turney Shield – construction of porch

Old Post Office – listed building consent for rear extension to ground floor

**Observations are invited from NCC for the following planning applications:**

- (i) Proposed construction of an ancillary building (garage, stable and guest bedroom suite) on land at north east of Mohope Head – planning ref 18/00629/FUL. It was agreed to respond stating our concerns about possible future use as a house. No information about drainage. The Council felt that this building would have a detrimental effect on the landscape as it is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and because of its proximity to the Mohope Lead Mines and Blacksmith's shop, structures which are Grade II Listed Buildings.
- (ii) Construction of two storey extension to the north side of Chapel Cottage, Mohope – no observations to make.

4. **External Audit:** the new external auditors are PKF Littlejohn. Guidance is available at:

[https://www.pkf-littlejohn.com/sites/default/files/media/documents/annual\\_return\\_part\\_2.pdf](https://www.pkf-littlejohn.com/sites/default/files/media/documents/annual_return_part_2.pdf)

5. **Data Protection:** NALC have produced a toolkit for Local Councils to assist with implementing General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

6. **Any other Business** – Alan Greaves agreed to be a bank signatory. The Clerk's wages were agreed at £250pa.

Jim Brown, Clerk to the Trustees of the Charles Arnison Jubilee Almshouses, Allendale, informed the Council that Steve Agar has agreed to represent the West Allen Parish as a Trustee for a term of 4 years as per the Almshouse Scheme. The Council thanked Steve for his 7 years service as a Trustee.

7. **Date and times of next meetings** – Thursday 7 June 2018, 7.30, Ninebanks Church Hall  
Thursday 13 September, 7.30 Ninebanks Church Hall.